THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GODSTONE

(Public Health Department)

ANNUAL REPORT
1950.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
OXTED, SURREY.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

THOMAS H. BINGHAM, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

ARTHUR H. SEWELL, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Cert. Sanitary Science.

Sanitary Inspector:

HERBERT J. ROGERS, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J.B.

Clerk:

ROY DUNNETT.

Rat Officer:

JOHN LUCK.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GODSTONE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Godstone Rural District in the year 1950.

The report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and is confined to a brief statement of the work performed by the Public Health Department in the year under review. For ease of reference, the required information is presented mainly in tabular form.

The population of the Rural District, as estimated by the Registrar General at mid-year 1950, was 32,210, an advance of 700 on the corresponding figure for 1949, of which 60 is attributable to natural increase, or excess of live births over deaths. The Registrar General's figure is based generally on the number of ration books issued at the annual exchange, an allowance being made for inmates of institutions, who are not included in the ration book figure. The estimate may, therefore, be accepted as a reasonably accurate one, and the various rates for the year which are calculated thereon would, in consequence, fairly represent the morbidity and mortality actually experienced in the area.

The most noteworthy events of the year, from the public health point of view, were a fairly localised outbreak of infantile paralysis in Oxted and Limpsfield in the early autumn, when the disease was unusually prevalent in neighbouring sanitary districts, and the occurrence of a group of cases of glandular tuberculosis amongst children in the Lingfield district. The incidence of other infectious disease was, on the whole, below the average, being especially so in the case of measles

and whooping cough, which were almost epidemic elsewhere, and diphtheria, of which, for the first time on record, no case was reported in the Rural District.

The vital statistics for the year compare very favourably with those for districts of comparable size and with those for the country on the whole. The birth rate of 13.1 per thousand of the population represents a further decline from the high levels reached during the war, but is not appreciably below the average for the immediate pre-war years. The fall in the birth rate was partly offset by the very striking reduction in mortality amongst new-born babies to the lowest level yet attained, namely 18.8 per thousand live births. With one exception, the infant deaths occurred in hospital, were of babies under the age of four weeks and were ascribed to prematurity, congenital abnormalities and other non-preventable causes.

The general death rate of 11.3 per thousand of the population is not excessive. When adjusted, by the application of a comparability factor, to allow for the adverse influence of unfavourable age and sex distribution on the mortality experienced in the area, the rate is reduced to 9.8, which is considerably lower than that for England and Wales, which was 11.6. The fact that roughly two-thirds of the total deaths were of persons of advanced age and were attributed to degenerative and other conditions occurring in association with senility, may possibly be of greater significance than the actual rate recorded.

The numbers of deaths assigned to specified causes do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause, or significant connection with special conditions of occupation or environment. Cancer and malignant disease, pneumonis, and diseases of the heart and circulatory system, including degenerative conditions of the blood vessels of the brain, made slightly more than their usual contribution to the death rate. On the other hand, the mortality ascribed to what are generally classified as preventable causes, including the commoner infectious

diseases, was relatively low. It is gratifying to record that the death rate for tuberculosis of the lungs and, as already mentioned, for infants in their first year, established new low records. The proportions of the total deaths assigned to other specified causes do not differ greatly from those observed in the past.

Vital statistics, however useful they may be as a rough guide and for purposes of comparison, do not afford much information with regard to the general standard of health and nutrition of the community, or the prevalence or otherwise of minor degrees of ill-health and lowered vitality which, not being notifiable and not usually proving fatal, are not reflected in returns of morbidity and mortality. Information on these matters can most readily be obtained, at least so far as the recognised priority groups are concerned, from the findings of the School Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and other personal health services; as these usually provide for the routine and regular examination of the normal as well as the abnormal, they offer a very valuable means of estimating, by personal observation, the general standard attained, any significant deviation from the normal and the relative incidence of minor defects and disabilities. In his capacity as Divisional County Medical Officer, responsible for the day to day supervision of personal health services administered on a divisional basis, the Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District has early and first-hand information, which would not otherwise be available to him, of any serious deterioration in the general state of health of the community for which he acts. The information so obtained in regard to the Rural District in the year under review does not indicate any significant deviation from the standards previously attained.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the consideration they have extended to me throughout the year. My sincere thanks are due also to Mr. A. H. Sewell, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and to the medical practitioners in the area for their ready assistance and close co-operation in all matters of mutual concern.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

6th September, 1951.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Land and Inland Water) in acres	52,507
Population at Census, 1931	25,866
Registrar-General's estimate of resident civilian population at Mid-year, 1950	32,210
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950, according to the Rate Books	9,049
Rateable Value (1950)	£328,015
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,305

TABLE I.

The area and population at the 1931 Census of the various Parishes comprising the Rural District, and the rateable value of each Parish at the end of 1950, are as follows:-

PARISHES	AREA IN ACRES	RATEABLE VALUE AT END OF 1950	CENSUS POPULATION OF PARISHES - 1931.
Bletchingley	5,813	27,368	2,461
Burstow	4,750	24,599	1,905
Chelsham	2,703	10,612	1,209
Crowhurst	2,119	2,124	303
Godstone	5,670	38,533	3,102
Horne	3,932	9,544	852
Limpsfield	4,673	49,582	3,167
Lingfield	9,239	54,993	5,214
Nutfield	3,390	23,215	2,030
Oxted	3,658	68,255	3,799
Tandridge	3,267	8,212	736
Tatsfield	1,304	9,271	925
Titsey	1,989	1,707	163
TOTALS	52,507	328,015	25,866

TABLE 2.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:-						
Legitimate	Males	191	Females	216	Total	407
Illegitimate	"	9	"	9	"	18
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:-						13.1
Do. 1949						14.8
Do. for the five years 1945 to 1949						16.1
Still Births:-						
Legitimate	Males	9	Females	4	Total	13
Illegitimate	"	0	"	0	"	0
Rate per 1,000 total births:-						29.6
Do. 1949						14.7
Deaths (Nett) :-						
	Males	180	Females	185	Total	365
Do. 1949	"	187	"	184	"	371
Death Rate per 1,000 population:-						11.3
Do. 1949						11.7
Do. for the five years 1945 to 1949						11.3
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions:-						41.2
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-						
Puerperal sepsis						Nil
Other maternal causes						Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year:-						
All infants per 1,000 live births						18.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births						19.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						Nil
Deaths from:-						
Cancer						55
Measles						Nil
Whooping Cough						Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)						1

TABLE 3.

Births rates, Civilian Death Rates

and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1950.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. & Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Godstone Rural District
Rate per 1,000 population					
Births:-					
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8	13.1
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36	0.40
Deaths:-					
All causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	11.3
Typhoid & Para-typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39	0.09
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48	0.74
Rate per 1,000 Live Births					
Total Deaths under 1 year	29.8	33.8	29.4	26.3.	18.8
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.0

TABLE 4.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE GODSTONE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1950.

	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	2	2
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	0	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	2	0	2
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7. Acute polio-myelitis	1	0	1
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2	9
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	16	33
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2
16. Diabetes	2	4	6
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	33	53
18. Coronary disease, angina	27	18	45
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	7	10
20. Other heart disease	24	29	53
21. Other circulatory disease	6	13	19
22. Influenza	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia	8	16	24
24. Bronchitis	9	4	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	5	0	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	7	0	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	18	42
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34. All other accidents	1	3	4
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Totals	180	185	365

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

It is the duty of the Regional Hospital Board to provide hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious illness. In spite of formal objection by the Rural District Council and other interested Authorities, the resources available locally for the purpose were seriously depleted in the early part of the year, when the Reigate Infectious Diseases Hospital was adapted for the reception of tropical diseases, including leprosy, and thereafter ceased to be used for its original purpose. The District Council had drawn attention to the possible effect of this on the availability, in future, of hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease occurring in their area, and had represented that, consequent on the loss of accommodation at Reigate, the scale of provision would, in their view, be totally insufficient to meet the anticipated needs of the area, unless substantially augmented by resources available elsewhere in the Hospital Region. An assurance was given, on behalf of the Minister of Health, that the hospital accommodation available locally is adequate to meet the normal needs of the area and that exceptional demands could effectively be satisfied by the resources available in the neighbouring hospital groups. Although the number of patients requiring admission to infectious diseases hospitals during the year could not in any sense be regarded as exceptional, comparatively few were accommodated in hospitals reasonably near their homes.

There were very few reports of difficulty or delay in securing the admission of infectious persons to hospital. Uncomplicated cases of the commoner acute infections, such as measles and whooping cough, which are not normally accepted, were admitted on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, usually on the grounds of unsatisfactory home circumstances or inadequate facilities for home isolation. It is a serious failing of the existing system that the Medical Officer of Health is not in every case notified of the admission and discharge of patients from his area, or of

the ultimate diagnosis made in cases admitted to hospital on suspicion. Such information is indispensable for the application of appropriate measures of prevention and control, which remains the responsibility of the local Sanitary Authority. This matter has been brought to the notice of senior administrative officers of the Regional Hospital Board, who are considering the means by which deficiencies in these respects may be corrected.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Table 5 shows the numbers of the various notifiable infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. Comparative statistics are given in Table 6.

The most serious epidemiological event of the year was an outbreak of infantile paralysis. This was practically confined to the Oxted and Limpsfield districts, which had entirely escaped infection in 1947, when fourteen cases of the disease were reported elsewhere in the Rural District. There was reason to believe that the infection in 1950 was very much more prevalent than the number of reported cases would suggest, and it was, accordingly, considered to be advisable to impose far-reaching precautionary restrictions. Noteworthy features of the outbreak were the unusually large proportion of cases of the non-paralytic type and the relatively small number of fatal cases.

The occurrence of a case of typhoid fever is always a matter of grave concern, particularly in a rural district. In the present instance however, it could clearly be established that the patient was not infected locally. He had recently arrived in this country from abroad, where he had received protective inoculations, and in the two or three weeks immediately preceding the onset of his illness he had travelled extensively in Scotland, where the infection had undoubtedly been contracted.

The information supplied by the Chief Medical Officer of Scotland with regard to the distribution and type of enteric fever in the localities visited by the patient did not point to a known source of infection.

The reported case of food poisoning was of moderate severity and was traced to the consumption of duck eggs infected with salmonella organisms. Appropriate action was taken to prevent further infection from this source.

On the whole, the incidence of and mortality from other acute infectious diseases did not exceed the average for the Rural District in recent years and was, in general, appreciably lower than that recorded for the country as a whole. The unusually low prevalence of measles, whooping cough, puerperal pyrexia and pneumonia and the complete freedom from diphtheria are especially noteworthy. With regard to pneumonia, it may be observed that the deaths ascribed to the disease far out-number the cases notified; this is explained by the fact that the deaths include many due to non-notifiable forms of the disease, so that the mortality is not truly represented by the ratio of deaths to notified cases.

TABLE 5.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED IN THE GODSTONE RURAL DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	CASES NOTIFIED IN AGE PERIODS												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	1	5	30	2	1	-	1	-	1	44	25	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	2	6	2	24*
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	6	4	-	-	16	16	1
Infective Encephalitis	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Measles	-	7	5	10	10	46	7	-	1	-	-	-	86	3	-
Whooping Cough	2	4	4	5	7	16	3	-	-	-	-	-	41	12	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	3	13	13	16	22	96	13	5	8	6	4	3	202	63	27
TOTALS 1949	5	12	25	11	27	138	19	4	9	7	4	3	264	7	21

* All forms.

TABLE 6

CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950

	RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION											Rates per 1,000 Total (i.e. Live & Still births)
	Typhoid Fever	Para Typhoid Fever	Meningo-coccal Infection	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph-theria	Acute Poliomyelitis & Policencephalitis		Measles	Pneu-monia	Food pois-oning	Puerperal Pyrexia
							Paralytic	Non Paralytic				
England and Wales	0.00	0.01	0.03	1.50	3.60	0.02	0.13	0.05	8.39	0.70	0.17	5.81
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	0.00	0.01	0.03	1.56	3.97	0.03	0.12	0.05	8.76	0.77	0.16	7.43
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 35,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	0.00	0.01	0.02	1.61	3.15	0.02	0.11	0.06	8.36	0.61	0.14	4.33
London Administrative County	0.01	0.01	0.03	1.23	3.21	0.03	0.08	0.05	6.57	0.50	0.25	6.03
Godstone Rural District	0.03	0.00	0.03	1.36	1.27	0.00	0.12	0.37	2.67	0.18	0.03	0.00

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination against smallpox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the area. Particulars of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	0 - 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	Over 15 years	Total
Primary Vaccination	115	108	11	12	246
Re-Vaccination	-	3	21	107	131

The foregoing figures represent an all-round and substantial increase on those recorded in 1949, more particularly in regard to the primary vaccination of infants under the age of one year. The acceptance rate for the latter was equivalent to roughly 27 per cent of the live births accredited to the Rural District, as compared with 20 per cent in the previous year. Gratifying though this may be as an indication that infant vaccination is gaining in popular favour, attention should again be drawn to the fact that the present rate of acceptance is totally inadequate to offer an effective barrier against widespread infection in the unfortunate event of virulent smallpox being introduced into the district. Propaganda on the subject by the Medical Officers and Health Visitors working in the area has not been without effect, though it is probable that the outbreaks of smallpox reported from time to time in different parts of the country have focused public attention on the danger and on the importance of seeking protection.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The numbers of children artificially immunised against diphtheria during the year are as follows:-

Under 5 years	437
5 - 15 years	331
Total	768

In addition, re-inforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 396 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

From the records available in the Public Health Department, it is estimated that not less than 52.0 per cent of children under the age of five years, and 55.0 per cent of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. These proportions, and particularly the latter, represent a very substantial advance on those computed for the year 1949, possibly in consequence of the extensive propaganda conducted in the meantime and the special immunisation sessions arranged at the various schools for the initial or subsequent treatment, where appropriate, of school children who were found to be inadequately protected.

The records are, however, incomplete in as far as they relate to children immunised by their own doctors prior to the 5th July, 1948, and it is probable, therefore, that the proportion of immunised children in each group is somewhat greater than that estimated.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST OTHER DISEASES

Measles serum has not been extensively used for the prevention or attenuation of measles. No request has been made to the Public Health Department for the supply of immune serum for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts, possibly because of the mildness of the prevailing type of infection.

Vaccination against whooping cough is not at present offered at the County Council's Clinics in the area, but is being increasingly practised, usually in conjunction with diphtheria prophylaxis, by private medical practitioners. Artificial immunisation against whooping cough is still, to some extent, in the experimental stage, and the materials hitherto available for the purpose did not confer the measure of protection known to be attainable against certain other infectious diseases. For that reason it was considered to be inadvisable to introduce whooping cough vaccination as a public service, lest its failure to produce immunity in a substantial proportion of cases might raise doubt in the public mind with regard to the efficacy of other immunisation procedures and so, in time, discourage the acceptance of protection against smallpox and diphtheria. This view has been altered somewhat by the recent introduction of whooping cough vaccines of high immunising value, and the advisability of making whooping cough vaccination available, on request, at the County Council's Clinics in the area is at present under consideration.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table 7, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from the disease during the same period. The new cases include 36 notified for the first time and 13 reported by the County Medical Officer on transference from other districts in which they had already been notified.

The number of cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, including those coming into the district after notification elsewhere, is equivalent to a case rate of 0.77 per thousand of the population. This is appreciably lower than the rate recorded in 1949 and is somewhat below the annual average for recent years. The reduction in prevalence was practically confined to males of middle age, the sex and age group distribution being otherwise roughly similar to that observed in the past.

The incidence of non-respiratory tuberculosis, on the other hand, was the highest ever recorded in the district. This was attributable to the occurrence of a group of cases in the Lingfield area, where 11 children between the ages of two and eight years were reported almost simultaneously to be suffering from tuberculous infection of the glands of the neck. The children affected gave a positive reaction to the tuberculin test, and the diagnosis of tuberculosis was confirmed in each case by the Chest Physician.

It was specially significant that the only circumstance common to all the cases was the consumption of raw milk from a farm in the area, and there was a very strong presumption that the infection had been derived from that source. The producer concerned was, accordingly, given formal notice that all milk produced at the farm must be subjected to efficient heat treatment pending the outcome of further investigation. The Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture was requested to make a clinical examination of the herd and to take samples of milk for biological testing; arrangements were also made for clinical and X-ray examination of everyone at the farm who took any part in the production and handling of milk; the results in each case were reported to be negative for tuberculosis.

Outbreaks of tuberculosis of bovine origin have been reported from time to time in differenct parts of the country, and have been traced with reasonable certainty to the consumption of milk from infected animals. The only absolute means of prevention is the sterilization or efficient pasteurization of all grades of milk, including tuberculin tested. Until this is obligatory, there is the less effective alternative of regular veterinary inspection of dairy herds and the frequent biological examination of raw milk, to assist the early detection and elimination of infected animals. Under existing arrangements, the routine veterinary examinations of dairy herds are too infrequent to give confidence in the degree of safeguard they provide and it is, accordingly, necessary to rely more on biological testing. With these considerations in mind, the Rural District Council have recently approved an extension of the present sampling arrangements, to provide for more frequent biological examination of raw milk that will not subsequently be subjected to heat treatment.

The mortality ascribed to tuberculosis is especially noteworthy in one respect, namely, that the death rate for respiratory forms of the disease was by far the lowest ever recorded in the Rural District. Deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis were also somewhat below the average.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

The mass radiography service for the area is organised by the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and generally concentrates on the larger centres of the population, where a good response can reasonably be expected and where the necessary specialised type of accommodation is likely to be available.

The Director of the service was requested to arrange a survey, to include senior school children, in the Oxted, Godstone and Lingfield districts, and was supplied with all relevant particulars regarding premises that might be suitable for the purpose. The matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

TABLE 7.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, AND ALL DEATHS FROM THE DISEASE IN THE AREA DURING 1950
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF DISEASE.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	5	4	2	1	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
65 and upwards	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	15	10	9	15	-	2	-	1
Totals 1949	18	10	5	7	4	3	-	-

WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of the Parish of Tatsfield, which obtains its supply from the Metropolitan Water Board, the whole of the Rural District is supplied by the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk, and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals, was invariably reported to be satisfactory. No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted monthly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition samples of the treated water are examined chemically and bacteriologically about forty times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company: samples are taken in each district at stated times, and the Analyst's reports are circulated to all the districts concerned.

The estimated number of dwellinghouses in each Parish supplied from the public water mains (direct to houses and by means of stand-pipes), wells and rain-water tanks are set out in Table 8. The population supplied under each heading is shown in brackets.

TABLE 8.

	DIRECT TO HOUSES	STAND PIPES	WELLS	RAIN WATER TANKS
Bletchingley	810 (2700)	16 (64)	6 (24)	
Burstow	786 (2520		7 (28)	
Chelsham	77 (269)	1 (4)		
Crowhurst	95 (332)	4 (16)		
Godstone	1235 (4550)	12 (48)	11 (44)	
Horne	389 (1255)	6 (24)	6 (24)	
Limpsfield	1019 (3710)		2 (8)	
Lingfield	1663 (6250)	10 (40)	7 (28)	
Nutfield	560 (1932)	17 (68)		
Oxted	1638 (6055)		3 (12)	
Tandridge	256 (866)	4 (16)	2 (5)	
Tatsfield	291 (880)			70 (280)
Titsey	44 (150)		2 (8)	
TOTALS	8863 (31469)	70 (280)	46 (181)	70 (280)

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During 1950 the main sewer was extended to the following districts:

Millers Lane, Outwood, Burstow.
Tylers Close, Godstone.
Pollards Oak, Oxted.

The total number of houses connected thereto was 92.

SECTION II

(SANITARY INSPECTION)

ANNUAL REPORT OF MR. A.H.SEWELL, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

General Inspections		1,314
Re-inspections		1,150
Inspections under Housing Acts		353
Re-inspections		641
Drainage inspections		329
Inspections of Slaughter Houses		29
Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds		47
Milk Samples (Farms)		
(a) No. of samples satisfied Meth. Blue and B.Coli exam.	19	
(b) " " " failed " " " " "	Nil	
(c) " " " passed biological exam.	16	
(d) " " " failed " "	Nil	
Total number of farm milk samples taken.		19
Milk samples (Dairies)		
(a) No. of samples satisfied Phosphatase test	4	
(b) " " " " Meth.Blue and B.Coli exam.	3	
Total number of dairy milk samples taken.		7
Milk Samples (School)		
(a) No. of samples satisfied Meth. Blue and B.Coli exam.	23	
(b) " " " failed " " " " "	2	
(c) " " " passed biological exam.	25	
(d) " " " failed " "	Nil	
(e) " " " satisfied Phosphatase test (pasteurised)	41	
(f) " " " failed " "	4	
Total number of school milk samples taken		70
Inspections of Bakehouses		36
Inspections of Food Premises		256
Inspections of Factories and Workshops		45
Inspections of Tents, Vans etc.		137
Inspections under Petroleum Acts and Regulations		24
Drains Water tested		82
Notices served:-		
(a) Informal		297
(b) Statutory		34
Complaints investigated		288
Samples of Water tested		4
Samples of drinking water submitted for Bacterial and/or Chemical Analysis		30
Number of Cesspools cleansed		1,000
Number of loads removed from cesspools		1,618
Disinfection of premises		56
Complaints of Rat infestations received and investigated		194
Rat Infestations dealt with by Public Health Department		183

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS.

Carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Department during the year 1950 as a result of notices served.

TABLE 9.

Internal repairs to plaster etc. carried out	57
Defective window frames repaired	30
Dampness in walls remedied	41
Dampness in solid floors remedied	9
Defective roofs repaired	28
Light and ventilation improved	1
Fire grates repaired	6
Cooking ranges repaired	7
Cooking range flue pipes repaired	3
Sinks repaired or renewed	6
Sink waste pipes repaired	5
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	20
Rain water downspouts repaired or renewed	11
Wooden floors repaired	29
Dry rot remedied	7
Staircases repaired	1
Defective chimneys repaired	10
Defective doors repaired or renewed	11
Walls and ceilings redecorated	63
Sashcords renewed	5
Window arches repaired	1
Glazing made good	2
Window fastener provided	4
Window putties renewed	15
Fire bricks fitted	4
Fireplace surrounds made good	4
Ballastrade railings provided	2
Ventilated foodstores provided	6
Defective coppers repaired	2
Flushing cisterns to W.C.'s repaired	6
Ventilation to W.C.'s	1
W.C.pans provided	4
W.C. structures repaired	4
Pail closet structures repaired	2
W.C. seats provided	4
Water service pipes repaired	2
Water service laid on	3
Defective external walls repaired	13
Draining boards provided	1
Yard paving repaired	3
Dustbins provided	12
Drains cleared or repaired	7
Connections to main sewer	10
Filter beds rapaired or overhauled	3
Inspection covers provided	2
Overflow from cesspools cut off	8
Cesspools provided	14
Wells covered or filled in	1
F.A.I.'s provided	2
Ditches cleared	4
Gully surrounds repaired	3
Refuse removed or covered	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	29
Rat infestations dealt with	183

Dairies and cowsheds.

Yards improved	1
Accumulations of manure removed	5

Piggeries.

New and improved drainage	1
New sties constructed	1
Accumulations of manure removed	2

SECTION III

H O U S I N G

TABLE 10

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year 1950

(i) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	391
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	647
(ii) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (i) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932).	81
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose.	185
(iii)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	9
(iv)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	153

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.	73

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

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

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	25
(ii) Number of dwellinghouse which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	15
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	4

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act:

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	6
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	1

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

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4

(ii) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 4

(iii) Number of undertakings not to relet. 5

6,7 & 8, Burnells Cottages Godstone (3)
Cottage, High Street, Dormansland (1)
2, Rowplatt Lane, Felbridge (1)

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

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

E. Proceedings under Section 2 of the Housing Act, 1949.

Upon the application of the Rural District Council of Godstone to the Redhill County Court on the 21st November, 1950, an order was made that the demolition orders issued on the 13th day of March 1936 under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930 in respect of the dwellinghouses known as Nos. 5 and 6 Long Row, Bletchingley in the County of Surrey be quashed.

4. Houses erected by Private Enterprise.

Number of houses completed in 1950	44
Houses replaced as the result of war damage	4
Total	48

5. Rural Housing Survey.

The results of the Survey completed in 1949 were not available for inclusion in the Annual Report of that year and the following table sets out the provisional classification of the premises inspected.

The survey divided the houses inspected into five main groups or catergories.

Catergory 1 - Satisfactory in all respects.

Catergory 2 - Minor defects.

Catergory 3 - Requiring repairs, structural alterations or improvement.

Catergory 4 - Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers Acts).

Catergory 5 - Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Parish	Total Inspected	Provisional Classification				
		1	2	3	4	5
Bletchingley	431	80	75	186	37	53
Burstow	473	229	56	143	24	21
Chelsham	51	8	5	9	19	10
Crowhurst	73	32	8	23	9	1
Godstone	726	267	150	240	21	48
Horne	261	144	26	50	26	15
Limpsfield	375	161	25	137	22	30
Lingfield	977	290	212	371	17	87
Nutfield	349	83	107	118	29	12
Oxted	668	334	144	168	1	21
Tandridge	170	42	25	58	18	27
Tatsfield	212	44	87	58	15	8
Titsey	35	7	1	11	9	7
TOTALS	4801	1721	921	1572	247	340
% of TOTAL		36%	19%	33%	5%	7%

SECTION IV.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The factories on the Register of the Local Authority are as follows:-

TABLE II

	Mechanical Power	Non-Mechanical Power	Total
Agricultural Engineers	3	0	3
Aircraft Repairs	1	0	1
Bakeries	13	5	18
Bandage Manufacturers	1	0	1
Boot Repairing	2	1	3
Brass Finishing	1	0	1
Brick Making	6	0	6
Builders	2	11	13
Cabinet Makers	1	1	2
Chemical Manufacturers	1	0	1
Cigarette Factory	1	0	1
Cleaners and Dyers	1	0	1
Coach Builders	0	1	1
Corn Provenders	1	0	1
Cycle Repairers	0	1	1
Dressmaking	0	2	2
Electrical Engineering	0	3	3
Fire Extinguishers	1	0	1
Firewood Cutting	1	0	1
Flour Milling	4	0	4
Fullers Earth Works	2	0	2
French Chalk Grinders	1	0	1
Gas Works	3	0	3
Grass Drying	1	0	1
Jewellers	0	3	3
Joinery	4	2	6
Launderies	1	5	6
Light Engineering Works	6	0	6
Motor Repairers	17	5	22
Plumbers	0	1	1
Printers	3	0	3
Projection Room	1	0	1
Saddlery	0	4	4
Sawmills	3	0	3
Scrap Metal and Breakers Yard	1	0	1
Stonemason	1	1	2
Smithies	1	1	2
Tile and Concrete	1	0	1
Tailoring	0	4	4
Upholstery	1	1	2
Van Builders	0	1	1
Wax Modelling	0	1	1
Wheelwrights	1	0	1
	88	54	142

The following Table indicating the work carried out during the year 1950 in connection with the inspection of Factories, is submitted in accordance with Section 128 of the Act:-

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	58	33	5	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1, to which Section 7 applies (a) subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement Order 1938) (b) Others.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	58	33	5	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	referred to H.M. Inspector	referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	"	"	"	"	"
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	"	1	"
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	"	Nil	"
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	"	"	"
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	"	"	"
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	"	"	"
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork).	1	1	"	1	"
TOTAL	5	5	Nil	3	Nil

OUTWORK (Section 110 and 111)

Three lists of outworkers were received and referred to ten premises situated within the Godstone Rural District. Of these ten premises, nine were occupied by people engaged on the manufacture of lamp-shades and one referred to the occupant who was employed on tailoring. In each case the premises were quite satisfactory and no exception was taken to the conditions under which the work was being carried out.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS (Section 34)

During the year 1950 no further Fire Precaution Certificates were issued.

The Certificates already granted cover all the factories within the Godstone Rural District coming under the definition as laid down in Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Routine inspections have been carried out during the year and a number of improvements have been effected particularly in regard to the provision of better washing facilities for the staff, and in the improvement of existing sanitary accommodation.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The refuse collection service was maintained at a reasonably satisfactory level throughout the year. There were difficulties at times however arising from temporary shortage of staff through illness and men leaving to take up other employment.

In July a new 10 cu. yard Dennis refuse collection vehicle was put into service and this not only enabled a worn out lorry to be scrapped but has also provided much more reliable refuse collection service in that part of the area previously served by the old lorry

The refuse tip situated at Taylors Hill Sandpit, Godstone, continues to provide a very satisfactory site for the disposal of the refuse and in July a Sub-Committee was appointed by the Public Health Committee to consider the advisability of providing some form of mechanised assistance at the tip for the proper levelling and covering of the refuse.

The Sub-Committee duly reported back to the Public Health Committee and a recommendation was made in October to the Council that a ½ yard mechanical shovel and spreader should be purchased.

The vehicle was placed on order and has now been delivered.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

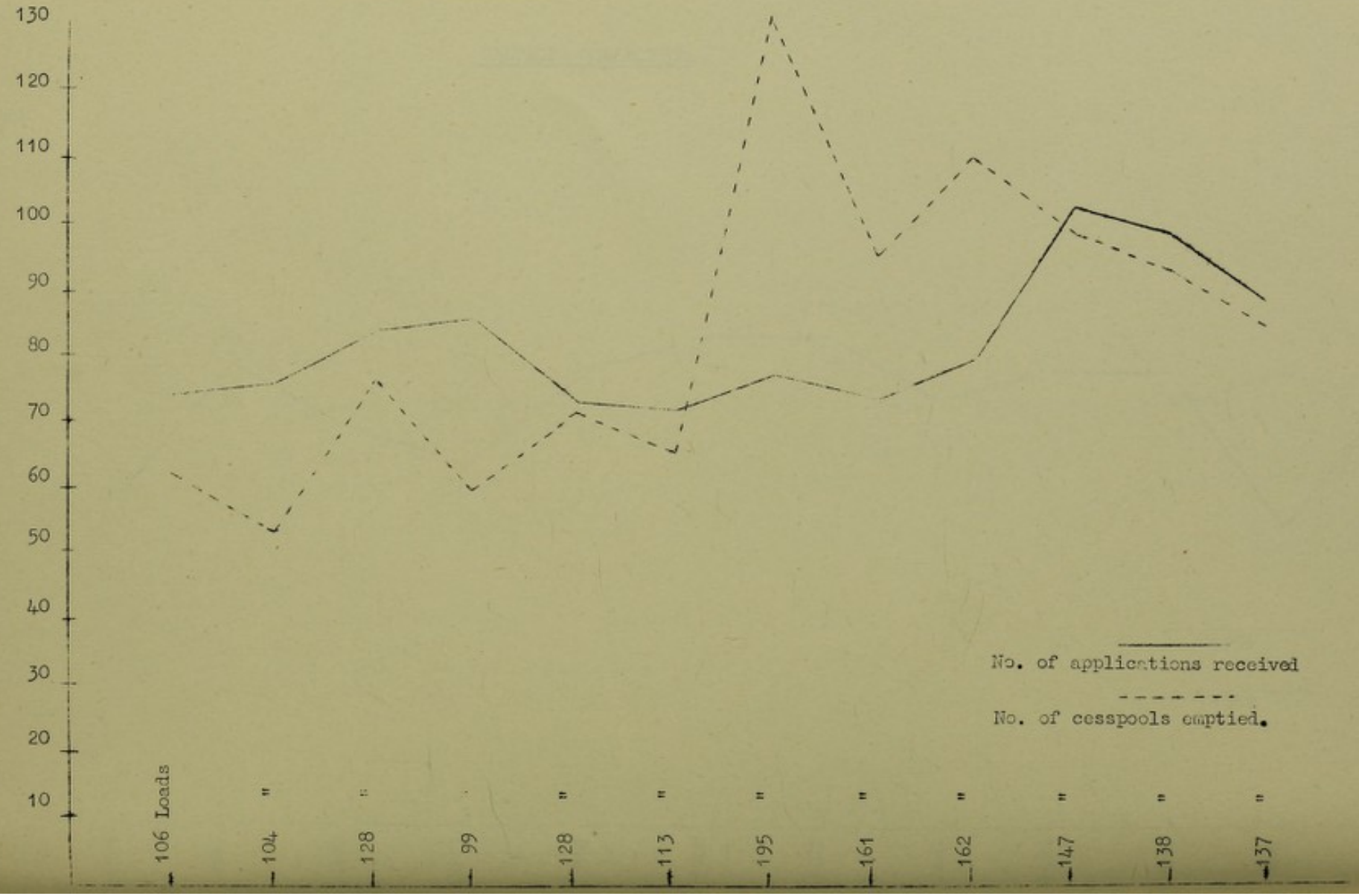
The cesspool cleansing service operated by the Council was again in considerable demand throughout the year.

The Council had previously considered the desirability of purchasing an additional emptier and in July a new Dennis 750 gallon tanker was delivered.

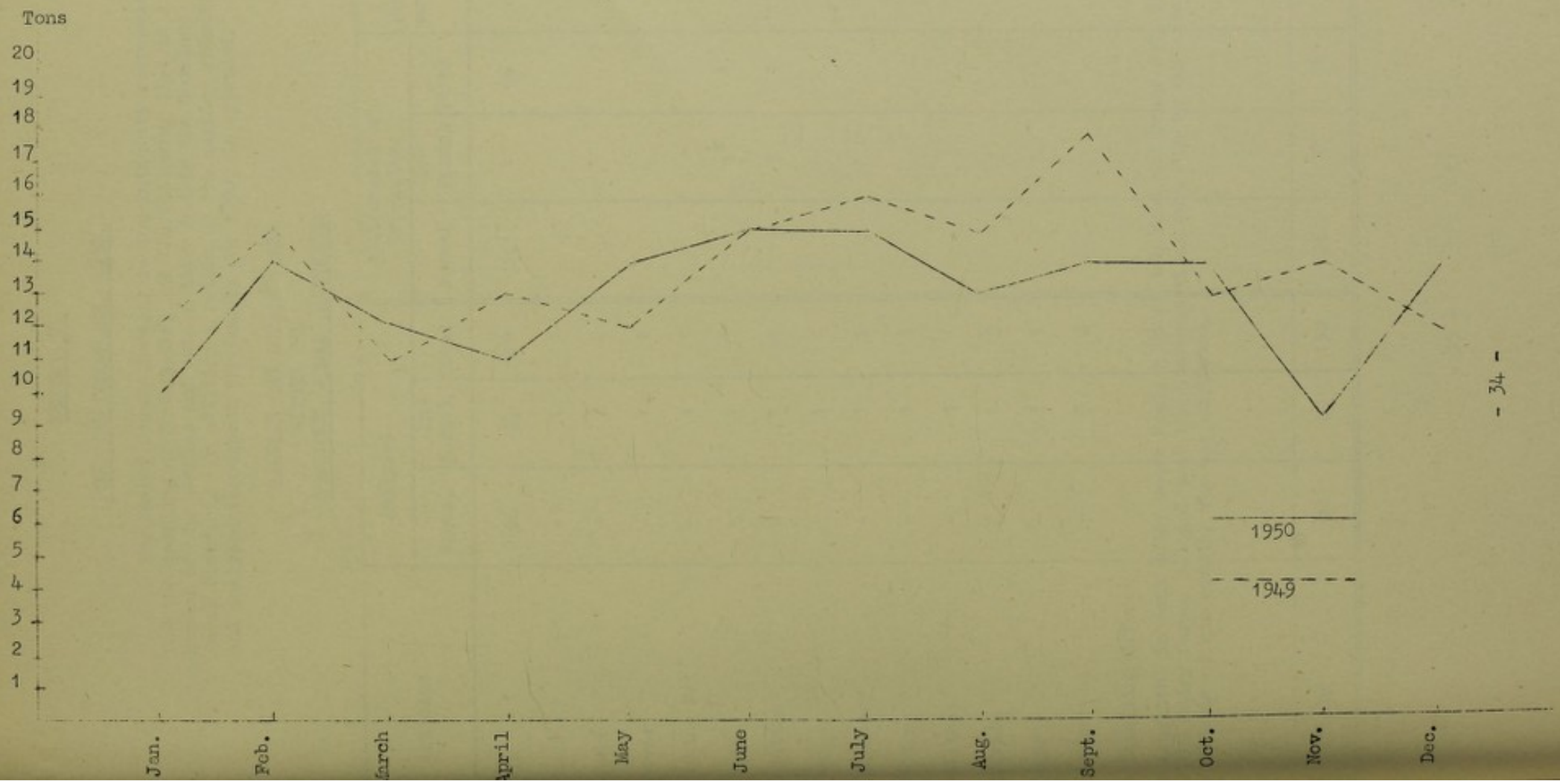
This vehicle arried at an opportune time because very heavy demands were being made on the services of the one existing vehicle and it was becoming impossible to keep up with the requests for emptying which were being received in the office.

The number of cesspools cleansed during the year was 1,000 and the number of loads removed amounted to 1,618. The attached graph sets out the number of requests received and emptyings carried out per month.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.



SALVAGE COLLECTION.



SECTION V.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Surrey County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling of foodstuffs, and the following list is a record of the samples and action taken within the Godstone Rural District. In addition a return of the samples submitted and analysed throughout the County for 1950, is appended.

SAMPLES AND ACTION TAKEN WITHIN THE GODSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
Milk	96	24	120	26	-	26	7	ø
Bacon	-	1	1					
Butter	-	2	2					
Cheese	-	1	1					
Cooking Fat	-	1	1					
Cream	-	1	1	-	1*	1		
Gelatine	-	1	1	-	1	1		
Jam	-	1	1					
Margarine	-	1	1					
Pepper	-	1	1					
Potatoes	-	1	1					
Spirits	2	1	3					
Sugar	-	1	1					
Vinegar	-	3	3					
Totals	98	40	138	26	2	28	7	ø

* Labelling Offence

ø Acquittal in each case; under Section 83 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the dairy farmer alleged that the contraventions were due to the acts or default of his cowman, who was convicted.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Return of Samples analysed during year 1950.

Articles	Samples			Adulterated or Irregular			Prose-cutions
	Formal	In-Formal	Total	Formal	In-Formal	Total	
RATIONED FOOD							
Bacon	-	3	3				
Butter	5	5	10				
Cheese	-	4	4				
Cooking Fat	-	2	2				
Lard	-	2	2				
Margarine	-	4	4				
Meat	-	2	2				
Sugar	-	4	4	-	1	1	
Tea	-	4	4				
OTHER FOOD							
Milk	1,176	267	1,443	128	15	143	15 ø
Milk, condensed	1	-	1				
Almonds, ground	10	2	12				
Apple in syrup	1	-	1				
Apple Puree with sugar	1	1	2	1	1	2	
Beef Suet, shredded	-	1	1				
Beer	2	-	2				
Biscuits	-	2	2	-	1	1	
Blackcurrant Jelly	1	-	1				
Blackcurrant Juice	1	-	1				
Blancmange Powder	1	-	1				
Bread	-	1	1				
Breakfast Spread	1	-	1				
Cake	4	2	6				
Cake Flour Mixture	1	-	1				
Cheese, processed	1	-	1	1*	-	1	
Chellies	1	-	1				
Cherries, crystallised	1	-	1				
Cherries, glace	-	1	1				
Cherries in syrup	1	-	1				
Chutney	-	1	1	-	1	1	
Coconut, desiccated	1	-	1				
Coffee	-	1	1				
Coffee Essence	-	1	1				
Coffee and Chicory Essence	-	1	1				
Coffee and Chicory Extract	-	1	1				
Confectionery	7	3	10				
Carried forward	1,217	315	1,532	130	19	149	15

ø In respect of these proceedings there were 7 convictions and one case was dismissed. For each of the remaining seven summonses the dairy farmer concerned, under the provisions of Section 83 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, alleged that the contraventions were due to the acts or default of his cowman, who was convicted.

* Labelling offence.

Articles	Samples			Adulterated or Irregular			Prose-cutions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total	
Brought forward	1,217	315	1,532	130	19	149	15
OTHER FOOD (continued)							
Crab, canned	-	1	1				
Cream	-	4	4	-	4*	4	
Cream, clotted	1	-	1	1*	-	1	
Currant Sugar Sweet Spread	1	-	1	1	-	1	
Custard Mixture	1	1	2				
Custard Powder	1	2	3				
Dates	-	1	1	-	1	1	
Fish, canned	-	11	11	-	2*	2	
Fish Cakes	-	1	1				
Fish Paste	2	-	2				
Fish Roes, canned	-	1	1				
Flour	1	2	3				
Flour Mixture	1	-	1				
Fruit Drink Powder	-	1	1				
Fruit Flavoured Lollies	4	2	6				
Frying Oil	-	1	1				
Gelatine	2	3	5	-	1	1	
Ginger	-	1	1				
Ginger ground	1	-	1				
Goats cream	-	2	2	-	1*	1	
Goats Milk	-	3	3				
Golden Syrup Puddings	1	-	1				
Honey	-	1	1				
Honey Cake	-	1	1				
Honey, imitation	-	1	1				
Ice Cream	19	11	30	-	1*	1	
Icing preparation	-	2	2				
Jam	2	6	8				
Jelly	4	1	5				
Jelly Crystals	1	1	2				
Lemon Curd	2	1	3				
Lemonade Crystals	1	1	2				
Malt and Hops	-	1	1				
Malted Milk	1	-	1				
Marmalade	-	1	1				
Marzipan	3	-	3				
Meat, cooked and prepared	1	-	1				
Meat Paste	-	2	2				
Meat Pies	1	3	4				
Mincemeat	3	-	3				
Non-Brewed Condiment	-	2	2	-	2*	2	
Olive Oil	-	2	2				
Peas, canned	-	1	1				
Peel, mixed	1	-	1				
Pepper	3	8	11				
Potatoes	-	4	4				
Prawns	-	1	1				
Carried forward	1,275	403	1,678	132	31	163	15

* Labelling offences, including misdescription.

Articles	Samples			Adulterated or Irregular			Prosecutions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total	
Brought forward	1,275	403	1,678	132	31	163	15
OTHER FOOD (continued)							
Rhubarb in Syrup	1	-	1				
Saccharin Tablets	1	-	1				
Salad Cream and Mayonnaise	2	2	4				
Sausage Meat	14	1	15				
Sausage Rolls	-	1	1				
Sausages	82	8	90	5	1	6	1 Ø
Soft Drinks	1	4	5				
Soup	1	1	2				
Spice, mixed	-	1	1				
Spices, pickling	-	1	1	-	1	1	
Spirits	34	1	35				
Thyme and Parsley Stuffing	-	1	1	-	1	1	
Tomato Juice	1	1	2	-	1	1	
Vinegar	-	7	7	-	1*	1	
Vitamin Fruit Rings	1	1	2	-	1	1	
Wine	1	-	1				
Wine, Non-alcoholic	4	-	4	2	-	2	
DRUGS							
Asprin Tablets	-	1	1				
Bronchial Mixture	-	1	1				
Cold Capsules	-	2	2				
Cold Cure	-	1	1				
Cough Balsam	-	1	1				
Cough Linctus	1	-	1				
Epsom Salts	-	1	1				
Liquid Paraffin	-	2	2				
Nasal Inhalant	-	1	1				
Nerve Tonic	-	1	1				
Witch Hazel	-	1	1				
Totals	1,419	445	1,864	139	37	176	16

Ø A conviction was recorded in this case.

* Labelling Offence.

ICE CREAM.

There are 65 persons registered with the Council for the sale of ice cream from approved premises. Two of these are registered for the manufacture of ice cream and are equipped with modern plant.

Samples taken during the year gave the following results:

Grade 1 - 3 samples.
" 2 - 7 samples.
" 3 - 3 samples.

It should be noted that the majority of the registrations are for the sale of pre-wrapped ice cream supplied by well known manufacturers.

SECTION VI

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

At end end of the year there were 7 dairy premises and 12 milk distributors registered with the Local Authority.

Samples of milk are taken regularly from the various milk supplies coming into the Godstone Rural District. One dairyman has installed a pasteurising plant and has since received his licence from the Surrey County Council.

School milk supplies are regularly sampled.

(b) FOOD INSPECTION.

The following is a brief summary of foodstuffs found during the year 1950 to be unfit for human consumption:-

Bacon	107½ lbs	Jam	8 lbs
Brawn	7 lbs	Meat	527 lbs
Calves	2 complete carcases.	Meat (tinned)	231½ lbs
		Milk (tinned)	15 tins
Cheese	2682 lbs.	Prunes	32 lbs
Cooking fats	9 lbs	Pastry mix	17 packets
Currants	50 lbs	Soup (tinned)	24 tins
Eggs (Shell	2834	Syrup	2 lbs
Fish	168 lbs	Sultanas	30 lbs
Fish (tinned)	3½ lbs	Tea	7 lbs
Figs	47½ lbs	Vegetables (tinned)	21 tins
Ham (tinned)	15 lbs		

Food premises are inspected at regular intervals and in the main the new Food Handling Byelaws adopted by the Council in January, 1950 are being observed. These Byelaws have also been useful in bringing home to food handlers the importance of personel cleanliness in relation to food hygiene.

The Surrey County Council, Education Department have accepted the service offered for the spraying of their school canteens of which there are 18 within the Godstone Rural District, twice per year and at such other times as may be necessary.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

Thirteen private slaughter houses were licensed during the year.

Of these 6 are maintained on the list of the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of privately owned pigs.

At Felbridge there is one licensed Knacker's Yard. Consdierable improvements have been carried out at these premises and the surroundings and general conditions have much improved.

SECTION VII

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Rats and mice infestations dealt with during the year are summarised in Table 12. The poisons used were zinc phosphide, arsenic and red squill. Gassing was also carried out by the use of hydrogen cyanide in powder form on a number of occasions. Traps are also used but not to any great extent.

The estimated kill using the Ministry's suggested formula for computing the results of poisoning gave a total of 3,502 rats and 169 mice destroyed during the year by the Councils rat officer.

	Rats	Mice
Number of complaints received from members of the public during 1950	178	16
Number of complaints from members of the public investigated.	171	15
Number found not to be infested.	14	0
Number of premises found to be infested as a result of independent investigation.	8	0
Number of infested premises treated during 1950	166	17
Number of infested premises successfully cleared during 1950	163	17
Number of premises which required further treatment.	3	0
Complaints awaiting investigation at the end of the year	7	00

The whole of the sewers within the Godstone Rural District were tested in March for rat infestations and on one section only in the Lingfield area a positive result was obtained. Further treatment was therefore carried out in May and the infestation was successfully cleared.

Regular visits are made to the Council's refuse tip and Sewage Disposal Works for test purposes and any infestation found is dealt with immediately.

In April, 1950 a new 5 cwt Morris Van was put into service for the use of the rat officer and has proved of great assistance in maintaining an efficient service.