

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Gravesend Borough.

Contributors

Gravesend (Kent, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

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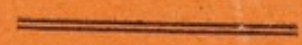
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GRAVESEND

BOROUGH OF



GRAVESEND

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1953



H. S. DAVIES,
M.D., B.S.(LOND)., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953.

THE MAYOR (Alderman J. CAVEY, J.P.)
Councillor C. A. WHITE (Chairman)
Councillor H. F. MARGRETT (Vice-Chairman)
Alderman A. G. RAMSAY
Alderman H. DAVIDSON
Alderman T. G. A. HUMPHREY
Councillor S. SCHULTZ
Councillor MISS A. E. H. JOHNSON, B.E.M.
Councillor L. P. SMITH
Councillor D. M. GILBEY
Councillor MRS. M. O. CREESE, M.B.E.
Councillor I. MORRIS
Councillor H. D. W. WILLIS
Councillor T. A. ROBINSON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

HERBERT S. DAVIES, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

DANIEL DESMOND, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Cork).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

*J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

*F. H. MILLICAN, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. (Deceased Jan. 1953)

*K. McINTYRE, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B. (Appointed June, 1953)

District Sanitary Inspectors :

*J. H. LOTT, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

*D. G. BANKS, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

*K. G. C. BURT, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B. (resigned April, 1953)

*J. WILCOCK, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B. (appointed Nov. 1953)

Clerical Staff :

MRS. E. MARTIN, Secretary to Medical Officer

A. H. BAKER, Chief Clerk to Sanitary Inspector

MISS G. PUTTIFER

MISS P. SPENCER

MISS V. NEAVES

NOTE :—*Hold Meat and Food Inspection Certificate.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WOODVILLE TERRACE,
GRAVESEND.

15th July, 1954.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the public health in Gravesend for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population has now reached 45,530, that is 270 more than the previous year. The relatively high birth rate mentioned in my last report has been maintained, there being 767 live births, which is the same number registered during the previous year. The crude birth rate for 1953 is 16.85 per 1,000 population. The corrected birth rate becomes 16.34 which compares with 15.7 for the "Smaller Towns" and 15.5 for England and Wales generally.

It is of interest to note that the infant mortality rate has fallen to 13.03, the lowest figure recorded in the Borough.

Apart from measles and whooping cough, there has been no outbreak of serious infectious disease.

The question of atmospheric pollution is an important problem in environmental hygiene, for there can be no doubt that health suffers whenever smoke is prevalent. The Health Committee have given this matter careful consideration and since April, 1953, monthly records have been made from two collecting stations in the Borough. A brief summary of this work will be found on page 11.

As in previous years, the Council have continued to give priority to the housing question. During 1953 the Corporation completed 231 houses and 69 flats. In addition, 50 houses and 16 bungalows were built by private enterprise.

In conclusion, may I express to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee my appreciation for their continued interest and support throughout the year. I wish also to thank my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. DAVIES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

SECTION "A."

Area of the Borough (acres)	4,619
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population	45,530
Number of separate inhabited houses estimated (at 31.3.54)	12,478
Rateable Value (at 31.3.54)	£372,126
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (actual 31.3.54)	£1,487
Rates (to 31st March, 1954)—2s. 6d. in the £.	
Number of Dwelling Houses built during 1953—	
Corporation	Houses 231
	Flats 69
Private Enterprise	Houses 50
	Bungalows 16
	Total 366

Industries and Employment

The chief industries in the locality are—Paper making, cement, light and marine engineering, cable and telegraph works, printing. A number of men are employed in the Merchant Navy, on river craft, and in dock work.

Unemployment has remained at a low level, approximately 1.5% of the insured population, but statistics which apply only to the Borough are not available.

Registered Live Births.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	379	363	742
Illegitimate	12	13	25
	391	376	767

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population—16.85.

Still Births.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	5	4	9

Still Birth Rate—i.e., Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—11.60.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.20.

Registered Deaths. All causes at all ages—481.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	242	239	481
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population—10.56			
(The previous year it was 10.36).			

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's List).

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births.</i>
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	1	1.29

Natural Increase in Population (Excess of Births over Deaths) — 286

Infant Deaths—under 1 year of age.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate infants ...	5	4	9
Illegitimate infants ...	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Total ...	5	5	10

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

Infant Mortality Rate, <i>i.e.</i> , All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	12.03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	12.13
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	40.00

Comparative Birth and Death Rates.

<i>Rates.</i>	<i>Gravesend.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>160 "Smaller Towns," Population of 25,000 to 50,000</i>
Birth Rate ...	16.34	15.5	15.7
Death Rate ...	11.09	11.4	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate...	13.03	26.8	24.3
Still Birth Rate	0.20	0.35	0.34

BOROUGH OF GRAVESEND

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR LAST TEN YEARS.

YEAR	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number of births ...	725	761	1025	1029	830	751	760	702	767	767
Crude Birth rate (per 1,000 population)...	20.6	21.0	25.4	24.7	19.35	17.36	17.16	15.85	16.95	16.85
Number of deaths ...	435	430	437	438	461	456	483	488	469	481
Crude Death rate(per 1,000 population)...	12.4	11.9	10.83	10.52	10.75	10.54	10.91	11.02	10.36	10.56

Causes of Death in Gravesend for 1953
as provided by the Registrar General

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	9	2	11
2. Tuberculosis, Other forms	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	4	15
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	1	12
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	19	40
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	1	3	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	32	42	74
18. Coronary disease, angina	44	26	70
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	13	15
20. Other heart disease	30	58	88
21. Other circulatory disease	8	5	13
22. Influenza	4	6	10
23. Pneumonia	9	6	15
24. Bronchitis	24	15	39
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	18	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	7
34. All other accidents	3	4	7
35. Suicide	3	—	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total—All causes	242	239	481

BOROUGH OF GRAVESEND

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total		Under 1 week		Under 1 month		1 and under 3 months		3 and under 6 months		6 and under 9 months		9 and under 12 months	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Prematurity	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho-Pneumonia...	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	5	5	2	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
	...	10	4	4	1	1	4	4	—	—	1	—	—	—

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and
Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953.
Provisional Figures Based on Quarterly Returns**

	160 Smaller 160 County Towns (Resi- Boroughs & dent Pop. London England Great Towns 25,000 to Admini- and (including 50,000 at strative Wales London). 1951 Census) County Gravesend				
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</i>				
Births					
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	16.34
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.20
	22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)	11.60(a)
Deaths					
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	11.09
Typhoid and paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	—
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.27
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.34
Notifications (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	0.59
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	2.66
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	—
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	18.71
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	0.94
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.11
Food poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	—
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23 (a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)	3.86(a)
Deaths					
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>				
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	13.03
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	—

Note:—(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1953.

DISEASE.	Under one year										Total	Number removed to Hospital
	12	168	217	423	18	4	10	25	45	65		

Measles	12	168	217	423	18	4	10	—	—	—	852	2
Whooping Cough	11	24	31	49	3	2	1	—	—	—	121	—
Pneumonia	1	2	1	5	—	3	6	15	10	—	43	3
Scarlet Fever	—	3	1	15	8	—	—	—	—	—	27	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	2
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	5	4
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	4	2	5	2	14	13	7	1	—	48	31
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—
Total	24	204	253	500	33	26	37	27	11	1115	46	46

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Station	Rainfall Inches	Measurement of Deposited Matter by Deposit Gauges.			Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Instruments
		Insoluble Deposit (Tons per square mile)	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	S.O. ₃ (sulphur trioxide) collected per day (Milligrammes)
Swimming Pool					
April	2.01	8.52	7.65	16.18	1.12
May	1.18	10.03	6.21	16.25	0.58
June	1.18	11.58	9.53	21.11	0.95
July	3.31	7.52	7.38	14.90	0.50
August	1.14	8.86	6.21	15.07	0.75
September	2.28	7.42	8.79	16.21	1.10
October	2.88	10.17	13.32	23.49	1.13
November	0.24	5.0	8.83	13.83	1.75
December	0.67	11.34	12.65	24.00	2.34

Dashwood Nurseries

April	1.89	5.57	7.20	12.77	0.99
May	1.30	6.30	5.74	12.04	0.53
June	1.30	15.34	11.61	26.95	0.87
July	2.95	7.34	5.70	13.04	0.39
August	0.99	7.30	4.67	11.97	0.50
September	2.24	6.04	6.90	12.94	0.73
October	2.95	7.97	11.67	19.61	0.99
November	0.24	3.84	5.74	9.57	1.05
December	0.67	10.67	11.57	22.24	1.75

SECTION " B. "

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Medical Practitioners.

There are 17 doctors residing in the area who are engaged in general practice.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The following specimens were submitted to the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone, for examination :—

A.			
(1)	Sputum— Examination for Tubercle Bacilli ...	...	1
(2)	Faeces— Examination for Pathogenic Organisms ...	...	4
TOTAL ...			5
B.			
(1)	Milk— Bacteriological Examination ...	...	34
(2)	Water— Public supplies Bacteriological Examination ...	...	54
	Swimming Pool— " " ...	...	30
(3)	Ice Cream— Bacteriological Examination ...	...	66
TOTAL ...			184

3. County Ambulance Service

Eight ambulances (5 stretcher and 3 sitting cases) are stationed at the Harden V.C. Memorial Hall, Hall Road, Northfleet. Telephone—Gravesend 5257/8

4. Nursing in the Home.

This service is to provide nurses, free of charge, for persons who require nursing in their own homes. Apart from cases of emergency and accidents, patients can only be attended by a nurse on the production of a certificate from their private medical practitioner. At present it is not possible to provide a night service. Application is made to the District Officer, District Office, Arthur Street, or to the Nurses direct. The District Officer's telephone number is Gravesend 166

There are four female nurses and one male nurse employed in this area and their names and addresses together with telephone numbers are given below :—

	Telephone No.
Sister Jones, 56, Smarts Road, Gravesend.	Gravesend 4700
Nurse Rampling, Church Cottage, London Road, Greenhithe.	Greenhithe 197
Nurse Cake, 7 St. Hilda's Way, Gravesend.	Gravesend 4463
Nurse Morris, 9, Whitehill Road, Gravesend.	Gravesend 5980
Mr. J. F. Towell, "Acacia", Gorseway, Hartley, Nr. Dartford,	Longfield 3313

The following services are provided by the County Council—

5. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

- (1) Ante-natal Clinics.
- (2) Infant Welfare Clinics.
- (3) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.
- (4) Dental Clinics.
- (5) Speech Therapy Clinics.

6. Midwifery Service.

There are seven County Midwives serving the Gravesend area.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Miss L. M. Lerner,	31, York Road, Gravesend.	Gravesend 4111
Miss M. Nash,	77, Dickens Road, Gravesend.	„ 4166
Mrs. R. Peacock,	13, Joy Road, Gravesend.	„ 4084
Miss M. B. Pickering,	“Rosabel,” Forge Lane, Chalk.	„ 1795
Mrs. K. M. Polson,	15, Taunton Vale, Gravesend.	„ 4707
Miss L. M. Mills,	85, Whitehill Road, Gravesend.	„ 2980
Mrs. F. E. Dudley,	25, Arnold Road, Gravesend.	„ 5976

7. Domestic Help Service.

This is a County Service giving domestic help to old people, maternity patients and persons suffering from illness, and other cases of emergency. Application is made to the District Office, Arthur Street, Telephone No.—Gravesend 166.

Chest Clinic.

The Chest Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Dr. C. D. Routh is in attendance at the Gravesend Clinic 22, Cobham Street, at the following times:—

	<i>Tuesday</i>
Male	11.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.
Female	1.0 p.m. to 2.15 p.m.
	<i>Saturday</i>
Male and Female	9.0 a.m. 10.0 a.m.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.

The Out-patient Clinics at the Hospital are as follows :—

MONDAY		
9.15 a.m.	Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	Mr. Golding-Wood
9.30 a.m.	Physical Medicine	Dr. Sowden
9.30 a.m.	Medical	Dr. J. Craig
1.30 p.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.E.C.)	Dr. M. F. McDonnell
2.0 p.m.	Fracture Clinic	Mr. V. M. Franklin (By Appointment)
2.0 p.m.	Medical	Dr. Moir
TUESDAY		
9.0 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
9.30 a.m.	Skin Clinic	Dr. Cairns
9.30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.E.C.)	Mr. G. L. Simmons
11.30 a.m.	Surgical Clinic	Mr. M. Landau
3.0 p.m.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Mr. F. S. Horrocks
3.0 p.m.	Gynaecological Clinic	Mr. A. M. Hunter
WEDNESDAY		
9.0 a.m.	Chest Clinic	Dr. H. J. Robinson
9.30 a.m.	Surgical Clinic	Mr. B. E. C. Stanley (By Appointment)
2.30 p.m.	Physiotherapy	Mr. V. M. Franklin (Registrar)
2.30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic (Old Cases)	Dr. S. W. Hardwick
3.30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic	Dr. S. W. Hardwick (By appointment with Almoner)
6.0 p.m.	Refill Clinic	Dr. H. J. Robinson
THURSDAY		
9.30 a.m.	Orthopaedic Clinic	Mr. V. M. Franklin (By Appointment)
9.30 a.m.	Chest Clinic (Refills)	Dr. H. J. Robinson
9.30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic	Mr. W. E. Heath
1.30 p.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.E.C.)	Mr. G. L. Simmons
FRIDAY		
9.0 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
9.30 a.m.	Medical	Dr. J. Craig
10.15 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	Mr. V. M. Franklin (By Appointment, Registrar)
2.30 p.m.	Surgical Clinic	Mr. Sol. M. Cohen (By Appointment)
2.30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic	Dr. J. J. Pearse (By appointment with Almoner)
SATURDAY		
9.30 a.m.	Chest Clinic (Children)	Dr. H. J. Robinson

Premature Infants.

Premature infants nursed at home are visited regularly by the Midwives and Health Visitors.

The following special equipment is available for loan at the welfare centres.—
Draught-proof cot with detachable lining, suitable warm clothing, hot water bottles, special feeding bottles, thermometer, mucus catheter, baby scales, etc.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The three Welfare Centres in the Borough are: Windmill Street (Central), Whitehill (King's Farm Estate), and "The Nest" (Denton and Chalk district). The sessions are as follows:—

	<i>Windmill Street</i>	<i>Whitehill</i>	<i>"The Nest"</i>
	<i>Afternoon.</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Afternoon.</i>
MONDAY	Child Welfare Clinic ; Health Visitors Consul- tations; Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consultations ; Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	‡Ante-Natal Clinic.
	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Morning and Afternoon.</i>
TUESDAY	Child Welfare Clinic— Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccinations	Ante-Natal Clinic and Midwives' Clinic combined.	Speech Therapy Clinic.
	<i>Afternoon</i>	—	<i>Afternoon</i>
WEDNESDAY	Midwives' Clinic.	—	Child Welfare Clinic —Medical Officer in attendance; Health Visitors Consulta- tions ; Baby weigh- ing ; Sale of Foods, etc.
	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	
THURSDAY	Ante-Natal Clinic	Child Welfare Clinic —Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consulta- tions ; Baby weigh- ing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	
	<i>Afternoon</i>		<i>Afternoon</i>
FRIDAY	Child Welfare Clinic Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	—	Midwives' Clinic

‡First and 3rd Mondays in each month.

Attendances at Child Welfare Centres.

The attendances at the three Welfare Centres during the year were:—

(a) Individual children under 1 year of age	...	...	537
(b) Individual children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	1,259
(c) Total number of attendances of all children under 5 years			12,124

For the year 1952 the figures were:—

(a) 573	(b) 1,492	(c) 13,579
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Ladies' Voluntary Committee.

The Ladies' Voluntary Committee continue to serve at the three Welfare Centres in the town and their work is greatly appreciated.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal clinics are held once a week at Windmill Street and Whitehill Welfare Centres and once a fortnight at "The Nest" Welfare Centre. A lady doctor is in attendance at each session.

In all, 334 expectant mothers attended the clinics. The total attendances were 1,153 as against 1,085 in the previous year.

Women's Welfare Clinic.

This clinic is no longer held at Windmill Street Welfare Centre.

Married women requiring advice are now referred to the Gynaecological Clinic at Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, by their private medical practitioners. This clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons at 3.0 p.m.

Dental Treatment.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, children under five years and school children is provided at the Dental Clinic, Manor Road. The clinic is open at the following times:—

Monday to Friday	A.M. 9.30 to 12 noon
	P.M. 1.30 to 4.0
	(Appointments arranged)
Emergency cases, toothache, etc.	A.M. 9.30 to 10.0

Day Nurseries.

"Daneholme" Day Nursery, Pelham Road, Gravesend, which provided accommodation for the daily care of children under five years of age in cases of special need was closed by the Kent County Council in May, 1953.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

The County Ophthalmic Clinic is held at the Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.

Minor Ailment Clinics—School Children.

These clinics are held at the following times:—

Windmill Street	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
“ The Nest ” Denton	Tuesday and Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Whitehill, King’s Farm	Tuesday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Registration and Supervision of Nursing Homes.

There are two nursing homes in the Borough.

1. A Nursing Home of fourteen beds — maternity and medical cases. This is governed by Sections 187-195 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Six inspections were made during the year.
2. Home for Medical Cases, chiefly old people—ten beds. This home which had previously been registered under the above Act is now supervised by the Kent County Council under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Arrangements made for the discovery of Unregistered Homes.

1. The Returns from the local Registrar are examined to check the addresses at which births and deaths occur.
2. Health Visitors and the staff are asked to keep a look out for unregistered homes.

Moral Welfare—Care of the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

This work is now a function of the Kent County Council. Kendall House, Pelham Road, Gravesend, opened in 1946 by the Rochester Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, has an experienced Church Army Sister in charge. A representative of the Council serves on the Moral Welfare Committee and a grant was made to the Association from the funds available under the Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932.

Welfare of Old People.

The Gravesend voluntary Old People’s Welfare Committee which is affiliated to the Kent Council of Social Service, continues to do excellent work. The object of the Committee is to promote and assist the general good of all old people of the Borough.

The four Darby and Joan Clubs are proving very popular and membership is steadily increasing. The activities of the Committee include the following:— Home visiting, meals on wheels service, visits to hospitals, trolley shop, occupational therapy. A vehicle has been purchased and outings have been arranged for the elderly folk. Forty-one outings were arranged during the year.

The Committee are still anxious to see a Residential Home for old people opened in the area and they are continuing to negotiate with the responsible authorities.

Housing Accommodation for Old People.

During the last few years the Corporation have built 124 flats, designed especially for the needs of old people. They are very much appreciated by the old folks.

**National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, and
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

All cases were dealt with successfully by persuasion, and it was not necessary to make use of the above legislation.

SANITARY INSPECTION, HOUSING AND FOOD.

Mr. J. E. Baker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the statistics relating to Sanitary Inspection, Housing and Food Inspection.

SECTION "C."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Public Drinking Supplies.

Two public water companies supply water to the Borough. The water has been satisfactory.

(a) in quantity. (b) in quality.

The water in both supplies is hard and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action.

Twelve dwelling houses are supplied from public mains by means of stand pipes. The remainder of the Borough is supplied direct to houses. The twelve houses in question are scheduled for demolition procedure when the housing situation permits.

Bacteriological Examination.

Fifty-four samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination as follows :—

	<i>No. of Samples.</i>	<i>Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory.</i>	
Supplied by—			
Gravesend & Milton Water Co. ...	41	41	..
Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co. ...	13	13	...
	—	—	—
	54	54	...
	—	—	—

Included in the foregoing are 14 samples of the Gravesend and Milton Water Company's supply from the Leith Park Road Pumping Station well (untreated) and 14 from the outgoing main (treated).

Chemical Analysis

Samples taken for chemical analysis were as follows :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory</i>	
Gravesend & Milton Water Co's supply (1 treated and 2 untreated)	3	3	—

NOTE—Tabulated summaries of all water samples taken and results of examination are shown on pages 45—48

Corporation Bathing Pool.

The Open-air Bathing Pool opened in 1938, has accommodation for 800 bathers.

The main pool is 150 feet long by 75 feet wide and has two shallow areas and a diving pit. The diving apparatus includes the following diving boards:—1 metre fixed ; 1 metre spring ; 3 metre fixed ; 3 metre spring ; and a 5 metre fixed and a chute.

The 400,000 gallons of water in the pools are filtered, aerated, sterilised and heated.

Wide surrounds and large areas are provided for sun-bathing, whilst a spectator's terrace surrounds the site.

On the first floor of the building a Cafe and Spectators' Gallery is provided, affording a splendid view of the whole site.

There is also a Children's Paddling Pool, 50 feet by 50 feet, with its own surround, separated from the main pool by a terrace.

During the 1953 season the following persons used the Pools:—

Bathers and Spectators ...	...	68,381
Schools ...	...	17,562
Season Pass ...	...	9,173
Clubs ...	...	3,357
H.M. Forces ...	...	1,579
		<hr/>
		100,052
		<hr/>

Hygienic Arrangements.

The Medical Officer of Health has continued to keep the hygienic arrangements at the Pool under supervision. "Breakpoint Chlorination," which was put into operation in 1948 appears to be working efficiently.

Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Thirty examinations were made. See tabulated summary on pages 49 and 50.

Slipper Baths.

The Slipper Baths at the Corporation Bathing Pool were opened in January, 1949.

There are separate sections for males and females—7 baths being allocated to males and 3 to females.

This service is working very satisfactorily and is much appreciated by the residents of the town. The attendances for the year 1953 were as follows:—

Males	—	12,801
Females	—	3,127
		<hr/>
		15,928
		<hr/>

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Council has the duty to enforce certain provisions of Parts I, IV and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Administrative arrangements include the following:—

Part I—Health (General Provisions).

- (1) Registration of all factories.
- (2) Inspection of sanitary conveniences in all factories.
- (3) Inspection with regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories in which mechanical power is not used.

Part IV—Basement Bakehouses.

- (1) The quinquennial examination of basement bakehouses and the renewal or cancellation of Certificates of Suitability.

Part VIII—Homework.

- (1) Examination of lists, supplied to the Council by employers of outworkers in certain specified trades.
- (2) Notification of name and place of employment of any home worker employed outside the Borough to the Council in whose district his employment is situated.
- (3) Inspection of premises in which the outworker pursues his occupation.

Two hundred and twenty-four inspections of factories were made during the year 1953 and the provisions of the Act, so far as they affect Local Authorities, have been enforced. The following table shows the work carried out:—

I. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of		
			Written notices	Verbal Notices	Notices Complied with
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	42	69	—	8	7
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	110	155	2	21	21
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	1	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 153 <hr/>	<hr/> 224 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 29 <hr/>	<hr/> 28 <hr/>

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	9	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	26	24	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	3	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
	38	34	—	2	—
	—	—	—	—	—

1. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend Council 1953 (under I (c) of Sect. 110 Factories Act, 1937) ... 5
2. Total number of outworkers notified by Gravesend Council to other Councils (under 2 of Sect. 110 Factories Act, 1937) ... 2
3. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend by other Councils ... 5
4. Total number of outworkers employed in Gravesend ... 8
5. Total number of inspections of work places (under 111 (1) Factories Act, 1937) 7
6. List of scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Gravesend :— Wearing apparel, making etc. ... 8

BASEMENT BAKEHOUSES

Part IV. of the Act.

Certificates of Suitability are in operation in respect of five basement bakehouses and nineteen visits of inspection were made during the year. Six notices to remedy defects or for cleansing were complied with.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

Dwelling house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,200
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,950
Visits to other premises :—							
Atmospheric Pollution Stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	285
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Cooked Meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Dining rooms and cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Factories (with power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Factories (without power)	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Fish frying	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	159
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Meat Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Provision shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	528
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Public House Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Rag flock premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,892
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shops (Shops Act provisions)	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tents, vans, sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,336
Total visits of all kinds	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,002

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

In respect of dwelling houses :—

	Served.	Complied with
Informal notices	790	792
Statutory notices	100	110 (inc. 11 by Local Authority in default)

In respect of other premises :—

Informal notices	127	125
------------------	-----	-----

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Animals in unfit state	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	474
Cesspools—repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
disused and filled in	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney stacks—repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
new pots provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Coppers—New provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness—damp-proof courses provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
damp wallplaster removed and re-instated	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
external walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
external walls repointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
external walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dirty houses cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfestation of premises—							
For vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drainage—drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains partly relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
inspection chambers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
soil and ventilation pipes, new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
soil and ventilation pipes, repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
gullies and/or grids provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
gully curbs or channels repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Hearths repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lavatory basins repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Light and ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paving relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms, passages and staircases—							
—ceilings repaired and/or cleansed and whitened	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
—walls repaired and/or papered or distempered	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Sinks—new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Soakaways cleared or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stoves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Steps and thresholds repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water supply—water pipes, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
internal supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Water closets—new constructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
repaired and/or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	70
new pans provided	...	...	...	...	...	14
pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	8
unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	4
flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	32
seats renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Windows—renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	32
sashcords provided	...	...	...	...	...	101
sills renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
sash weights provided or adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other matters	...	...	...	...	...	113

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94.

Proceedings were taken against owners for failure to comply with abatement notices served in respect of five dwelling houses.

In one case an order was made to carry out the work within two months and a fine of £1 was imposed, with 6s. 6d. costs.

In two cases orders were made for the work to be carried out within 14 days and the Defendant was fined £2 in each case, with £3 3s. od. costs.

The other two cases were withdrawn, one because the work was carried out and the other because the house became vacant.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The work of disinfection of Council houses is carried out by the Local Authority, infested rooms being sprayed with an insecticide.

Premises belonging to private owners are also disinfested on request, and the cost of the work is charged to the persons concerned.

Particulars of action taken during 1953:—

		<i>Council houses.</i>	<i>Other houses.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of houses found to be infested	...	22	13	35
Number of houses disinfested	... ..	22	13	35

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Shops have been kept under observation during the year, 156 inspections being made.

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

It is the duty of the Council to enforce the provisions of this Act.

These duties include the following :—

1. The inspection and registration of premises where filling materials are used in activities laid down in the Act.
2. The inspection and licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored.
3. The inspection of records to be kept under the Act.
4. Where considered necessary the taking and testing of samples of filling materials.

The Act is intended to provide a comprehensive measure for the adequate control of the manufacture and use of filling materials and to ensure that high standards of cleanliness are maintained.

Two premises have been registered within the district and these have been kept under supervision.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

It is the duty of the Council to enforce the provisions of this Act.

The Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of pet shops, the main purpose being the enforcement of the Protection of Animals Acts in their application to the business of selling pets.

Ten premises are licensed within the district and these have been kept under supervision, 22 inspections being made.

DRAIN TESTING.

Drains at 6 premises were tested during the year, with the following results :—

					<i>No. of tests made</i>	<i>Found to be sound.</i>	<i>Found to be defective.</i>
New drains	...	...	...	...	6	6	—
Old drains	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					—	—	—
					6	6	—
					—	—	—

CESSPOOL AND PAIL SYSTEM.

There are still approximately 750 premises in the Eastern and Southern parts of the Borough where the drainage discharges into cesspools.

The Health Department is responsible for this work but the actual emptying of cesspools is carried out on behalf of the Department by the Borough Engineer's Department, a combined road gully and cesspool emptying machine being used for the purpose.

During the year 9,330 tons of sewage were removed, requiring 789 emptyings, compared with 9,215 tons requiring 816 emptyings the previous year.

Approximately 16 pails are in use in the Borough, of these, 8 are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department and the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Collection.

Nine Shelvoke & Drewry freighters, including one spare machine, are used for this service.

One of these vehicles with driver and one loader is also employed on the collection of trade refuse from large establishments, collections being made more frequently than in the case of ordinary domestic refuse, which is collected weekly.

Refuse collected during the year amounted to 12,941 tons, compared with 12,321 tons the previous year, these amounts being ascertained by test weighing.

(b) Disposal.

All refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on land at Denton marshes. This land, approximately 44 acres in extent, has been used for tipping since January, 1944, and it is estimated that it will be possible to tip on this site for a further seven years.

SALVAGE.

One Shelvoke and Drewry freighter is used for the collection of food waste and an Austin truck for the collection of waste paper. Four trailers are used with refuse collection vehicles for the purpose of collecting waste paper.

Salvaged materials collected and sold during the year were as follows:—

<i>Materials.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>			<i>Value.</i>		
	Tons.	cwt.	qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	360	2	0	2,504	12	1
Food Waste	363	2	1	1,482	16	5
Metals	2	12	1	10	10	2
Textiles	2	5	3	21	1	11
	728	2	1	£4,019	0	7

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Disinfection of rooms and bedding, where necessary, for the prevention of infectious diseases was carried out at 95 premises.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Health Department is responsible for the staffing and cleansing of public conveniences in the Borough and the collection of receipts therefrom.

One underground convenience, with male and female sections, is situated in Parrock Street and includes washing facilities. Male and female attendants are employed at this convenience.

One convenience for females, provided with attendants and washing facilities, is situated on the Gordon Promenade, but is open only during the summer months.

One convenience for males and one for females are situated in Fort Gardens. An attendant is employed at the females' convenience during entertainments in the summer.

Other small public conveniences, 9 for men, 3 for women and 2 for children, are situated in various parts of the Borough. These are without washing facilities or attendants.

Conveniences at 14 licensed premises are also cleansed by Health Department employees in consideration of the fact that they are available for the use of the general public at all times.

Conveniences attached to other licensed premises have also been kept under supervision.

Eighteen notices in respect of water closet accommodation or urinals at licensed premises were served and complied with.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 it is the duty of the Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice, and in particular—

- (a) from time to time to carry out such inspections as may be necessary for the purpose aforesaid.
- (b) to destroy rats and mice on land of which they are the occupier and otherwise to keep such land as far as practicable free from rats and mice.
- (c) to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers of land under the following provisions of this part of this Act, and to carry out such operations as are authorised by those provisions.

All infested premises notified to the Health Department or discovered during the course of inspection during the year were dealt with. The cost of disinfection at business premises by the Council's Rodent Officer is charged to the occupiers, but the work at dwelling houses is carried out free.

The following report summarises the work carried out during the year 1953 :—

Infested premises under treatment at end of 1952	...	...	16
Premises found to be infested during 1953	...	...	258
Premises treated and cleared	...	...	265
Premises still under observation at end of year	...	...	9
Total number of visits	...	...	2,892

In addition to the above, two maintenance treatments of the sewers for the destruction of rats were carried out, one during the period 8th June to 1st July, and the other during the period 2nd to 28th November.

A test treatment of ten per cent of sewer manholes previously found to be uninfested was also carried out during May.

SECTION " D. "

HOUSING.

Housing is still the great problem in health work. As in previous years the Council have pursued this matter with the utmost vigour. They have built the maximum Number of houses allocated by the Ministry.

Each applicant for accommodation receives careful consideration and the Housing Selection Sub-Committee give priority in urgent cases. I am glad to express my gratitude for the way in which they have considered the families I have put before them, especially in regard to Tuberculosis and other illnesses.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information :—

Houses completed during 1953—					
By Corporation	---	---	---	---	231
By Private Enterprise	---	---	---	---	50
				---	281
No. contemplated 1954—	252				
No. contemplated 1955—	54				
No. of Flats completed during 1953	...	...	...	...	69
No. contemplated 1954—	nil.				
No. contemplated 1955—	96				
Houses Built by Private Enterprise during 1953—					
Houses	...	...	...	...	50
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	16
				---	66

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1091
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	4041
(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 dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(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	199

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 ... 177

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	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	29
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners or occupiers	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	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished without formal procedure	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Provision of Dustbins.

Dustbins provided as a result of—

(a) Informal action	...	...	...	...	394
(b) Formal action—					
(1) by owners	...	...	...	...	2
(2) by occupiers	...	...	...	...	67
(3) by Local Authority in default	...	...	...	...	11

The Council considered the service of notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of 125 premises and made the following decisions :—

Notices to be served on owners	...	...	...	6
Notices to be served on occupiers	...	...	...	119

Housing Accommodation.

Visits have been made to all premises reported as being overcrowded or as being otherwise unsuitable for the health of the occupants. The following is a summary of the action taken and subsequent results since 1945 :—

	1945 to 1952	1953	Total
1. Reported to Housing Department as—			
(a) Overcrowded	181	15	196
(b) Not overcrowded but otherwise unsuitable	151	14	165
2. Reported to other authorities as—			
(a) Overcrowded	3	—	3
(b) Not overcrowded but otherwise unsuitable	7	—	7
(c) Not overcrowded or otherwise unsuitable	3	—	3
3. Inspected but no action considered necessary	154	20	174
4. Conditions found on re-inspection to have been abated at—			
(a) Overcrowded premises	154	13	167
(b) Premises where conditions were otherwise unsuitable	127	8	135

Included in No. 4 were fifty-nine cases where members of the families concerned were suffering from tuberculosis and eight from other illness.

SECTION " E "

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises.

Bye-laws made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 came into operation on the 10th October, 1950.

These bye-laws were made for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivering of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption.

Inspection of food premises is being maintained to ensure compliance with these bye-laws and the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the following is a summary of the visits made and results of inspection :—

	<i>Number of premises</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>	<i>Number of notices Served. Complied with.</i>	
Bakehouses — —	19	47	9	11
Butchers — —	38	285	8	7
Bakers and Confectioners	48	49	4	4
Cooked Meat Shops —	16	24	7	5
Dairies and Milkshops —	74	78	3	3
Dining Rooms and Cafes	78	115	11	13
Fish Frying Establishments	17	22	6	6
Fishmongers — —	25	71	4	4
Greengrocers — —	104	303	4	5
Ice Cream Premises —	110	166	—	—
Meat Depots — —	1	51	—	—
Provision Dealers —	144	528	15	15
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
	674	1739	71	73
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>

NOTE.—Where premises carry on more than one type of business they are recorded under each appropriate type.

Forty-four premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, and 17 for the preparation and sale of fried fish.

Milk Supply.

There are no dairy farms in the Borough. Dairies, other than dairy farms, and milk distributors are registered by local authorities and there are now on the register 3 dairies and 71 distributors.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Two hundred and twenty-four samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and the following is an analysis of the results obtained :—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Results</i>			
Pasteurised	143	Methylene Blue Test	—	Satisfactory	66
			—	Unsatisfactory	5
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	55	Phosphatase Test	—	Satisfactory	72
			—	Unsatisfactory	0
		Methylene Blue Test	—	Satisfactory	29
			—	Unsatisfactory	2
Phosphatase Test	—	Satisfactory	31		
	—	Unsatisfactory	1		
Tuberculin Tested	2	Methylene Blue Test	—	Satisfactory	1
			—	Unsatisfactory	1
Sterilised	24	Turbidity Test	—	Satisfactory	24
			—	Unsatisfactory	—

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Licences issued under these Regulations were as follows :—

" Tuberculin Tested "	Dealer's Licences	—	—	—	3
	Dealer's Supplementary Licences	—	—	—	4
" Tuberculin Tested " (Pasteurised)	Dealer's Licences	—	—	—	3
	Pasteuriser's Licences	—	—	—	3
" Pasteurised "	Dealer's Licences	—	—	—	9
	Dealer's Supplementary Licences	—	—	—	4
	Dealer's Licences	—	—	—	66
" Sterilised "	Dealer's Supplementary Licences	—	—	—	4

Ice Cream.

One-Hundred and nine premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream, and 1 for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. One hundred and sixty-six inspections were made in 1953.

Sixty-six samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Number of Samples</i>
Grade 1	45
" 2	14
" 3	6
" 4	1
—	—
—	66
—	—

Slaughterhouses.

There is now only one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough and this is used only occasionally for the slaughter of animals by private keepers under licence from the Ministry of Food. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 5.

The provisions of the slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 14.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Meat Inspection—Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<i>Cattle</i> <i>excluding</i>		<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and</i> <i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
	<i>Cows</i>					
Number killed	—	—	—	—	—	10
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	—	10
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—

Unsound Food

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

(a) Carcase Meat and Offal—

	Bovine		Pigs		Sheep	
	Meat lb.	Offal lb.	Meat lb.	Offal lb.	Meat lb.	Offal lb.
Abscesses	34	—	9	—	—	—
Bone taint	319	—	—	—	85	—
Bruised	318	—	—	—	—	—
Flukes	—	26	—	—	—	2
Putrefaction	290	199	300	75	126	60
	<u>961</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>62</u>
Totals		Meat Offal	1481 362			
			<u>1843 lb.</u>			

(b) **Fish (unsound).**

			lbs.
Cod	...	...	28
Crabs	...	...	32
Skate	...	...	35
Whelks	...	...	112
			<hr/>
Total	...		207
			<hr/>

(c) **Miscellaneous (unsound).**

			lbs.
Poultry	...	...	153
Rabbits	...	...	230
Sausages	...	...	127
			<hr/>
Total	...		510
			<hr/>

(d) **Tinned Foods (unsound).**

			lbs.				lbs.
Meat	...	...	2,966	Vegetables	...	...	1,140
Fish	...	...	60	Fruit	...	...	4,315
Game and Poultry	...	...	44	Milk	...	...	962
Sausages	...	...	98	Cereals	...	...	69
Jam	...	...	100	Fish and Meat Paste	...	...	14
Marmalade	...	...	31	Puddings	...	...	31
Sauces and Pickles	...	...	47	Soup	...	...	65
Sweets	...	...	133	Mincemeat	...	...	53
Cakes and Biscuits	...	...	143	Miscellaneous	...	...	65
			<hr/>				<hr/>
			Total	10,336	lbs.		

Total approximate weights.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
(a)	Carcase meat and offal	...	...	...		16	1	23
(b)	Fish	...	...	...		1	3	11
(c)	Miscellaneous	...	...	...		4	2	6
(d)	Tinned Foods	...	...	...	4	12	1	4
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					5	15	0	16
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Where possible, condemned food was used for animal feeding, i.e., by sale with kitchen waste to pig dealers, otherwise it was taken to the Council's controlled refuse tip and buried.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

One hundred and thirty-five samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and submitted to the Public Analyst. Particulars of the samples and a summary of the results are shown in the following table:—

	Number of		Result of Analyses	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Adulterated
Baking Powder	—	I	—	I
Black Pudding	I	—	I	—
Boracic Ointment	—	I	I	—
Butter	I	—	I	—
Cake Flour	I	—	I	—
Camphorated Oil	—	I	I	—
Castor Oil	—	I	I	—
Cheese	I	—	I	—
Cinnamon Powder	I	—	I	—
Coconut Cake	—	I	I	—
Cod Liver Oil	—	I	I	—
Coffee	I	—	I	—
Cooking Fat	I	—	I	—
Cream	—	I	I	—
Curry Powder	—	I	I	—
Custard Powder	I	I	2	—
Eucalyptus	—	I	I	—
Fish Paste	—	I	I	—
Flour	I	—	I	—
Friars Balsam	—	I	I	—
Fruit Drinks	—	2	2	—
Fruit Flavouring	—	2	2	—
Glauber Salts	—	I	I	—
Glycerine	—	I	—	I
Ice Cream	—	12	12	—
"Lollies"	—	7	7	—
Luncheon Meat	2	I	3	—
Malt Vinegar	—	I	I	—
Margarine	I	—	I	—
Meat Paste	—	I	I	—
Milk	52	—	45	7
Mincemeat	2	—	2	—
Mineral Water	—	I	I	—
Nutmeg (ground)	I	—	I	—
Pepper	I	—	I	—
Salad Cream	—	2	2	—
Sardines	—	I	I	—
Sauce	—	I	I	—
Saveloys	I	—	I	—
Sausages	7	—	4	3
Sausage Meat	I	—	I	—
Soup Powder	—	I	I	—
Spice	I	—	I	—
Stuffing	I	—	I	—

Suet (shredded)	2	-	2	-
Synthetic Cream Powder	-	1	1	-
Tapioca Flakes	1	2	3	-
Tea	1	-	1	-
Tincture of Iodine	-	2	2	-
Zinc Ointment	-	1	1	-
	83	52	123	12

Particulars of adulterated samples and action taken :—

Baking Powder Sample No. 1237.—Contained only 4% available carbon dioxide. The vendors remaining stock was withdrawn.

Glycerine Sample No. 1188.—Contained only 97% pure glycerol instead of at least 98%. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers and local vendor concerned and the remaining stock at the shop was withdrawn from sale.

Milk Samples Nos. 1190, 1192 and 1198.—Deficient in fat to the extent of 1.6%, 7.6% and 1.6% respectively. Further samples were taken in course of transit from the producers and four samples were also below standard. Details were forwarded to the Kent County Council.

Beef Sausage Sample No. 1268.—Contained only 42% meat. Further samples were obtained from the same vendor, as follows :—

Pork Sausage Sample No. 1284.—Contained only 51% meat and

Beef Sausage Sample No. 1285.—Contained only 43% meat.

The Public Analyst certified they were respectively 21% and 14% deficient in meat. Proceedings were instituted under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 3. The vendor's plea of warranty was upheld and the cases were transferred to the makers, who were fined £5 on each charge, with £8 8s. od. costs.

SECTION "F."

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND "OTHER DISEASES."

Infectious Diseases.

The following notifiable infectious diseases were recorded:—

Measles	—	852
Whooping Cough	—	121
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	48
Non Respiratory	—	3
Pneumonia	—	43
Scarlet Fever	—	27
Erysipelas	—	7
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	—	3
Non-Paralytic	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3
Meningococcal Infection	—	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	1
Total	—	1115

A table showing other particulars is given on page 10.

There were no cases of Smallpox or Diphtheria.

Institutional Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

Patients needing institutional accommodation for treatment or isolation were admitted to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

The other arrangements include the following:—

- (a) Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) Smallpox—The River Hospitals (Long Reach) Dartford.
- (c) Tuberculosis—Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, and other hospitals and sanatoria arranged by the Chest Physicians.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This work is under the control of the Kent County Council and the following arrangements are in operation:—

1. Immunisations are carried out at special sessions at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics.
2. Immunisations on behalf of the Local Health Authority are carried out by General Practitioners at their surgeries.
3. Notices are sent to every infant at the age of 8 months.
4. The Health Visitors follow up all cases in which there is no record of the injections having been given.

The diphtheria immunisation statistics for the year are as follows :—

During the year 494 children under fifteen years of age were immunised for the first time—472 children under five years and 22 over five years of age.

Twelve children under five years and 213 children over five years of age were given re-inforcing injections.

The total number of children resident in the Borough under the age of fifteen years on 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1939).

		<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 and under 15 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number immunised	— —	1,953	5,567	7,520
Percentage immunised	— —	46.8	85.8	70.5

Smallpox Prevention. Vaccination.

When the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation the Vaccination Acts were repealed and infant vaccination ceased to be compulsory.

Vaccinations carried out during the year were as follows :—

	<i>Under 1 year.</i>	<i>1-4 years.</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>15 years and over.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Primary Vaccinations	— 247	174	6	9	436
Re-Vaccinations	— —	4	22	63	89

Tuberculosis

Close co-operation has been maintained between the Health Department and the Chest Physicians.

Diagnosis.

The Chest Clinic is provided at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital where patients are seen every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Statistics—

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

Notification of New Cases.

In 1953, 51 fresh cases were notified. The following table gives comparative particulars over the last ten years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Estimated Population of Registrar General.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Non- Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1944	35,080	34	8	42
1945	36,090	32	4	36
1946	40,340	45	9	54
1947	41,630	75	8	83
1948	42,890	48	7	55
1949	43,250	82	10	92
1950	44,290	65	9	74
1951	44,280	54	1	55
1952	45,260	77	3	80
1953	45,530	48	3	51

The sources from which the notifications of tuberculosis were received :—

Chest Physicians	...	...	...	...	37
Private Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	...	5
General Hospitals and Institutions	...	...	...	...	9

Age and Sex Distribution.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of our 51 new cases :—

Age Periods.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male	Female.
0-1	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	5	1	—
5-10	3	2	—	—
10-15	2	—	—	—
15-20	2	4	—	—
20-25	5	3	—	—
25-35	3	6	—	1
35-45	3	1	—	—
45-55	3	1	1	—
55-65	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
	26	22	2	1
	—	—	—	—

Occupational Analysis.

	Male	Female
Baker's Roundsman	1	-
Carpenter	1	-
Civil Servant	1	-
Clerk	-	2
Driver	1	-
Engineer	1	-
Factory Worker	-	1
Fitter	1	-
H.M. Forces	4	-
Housewife	-	11
Laboratory Assistant	1	-
Labourer	2	-
Laundress	-	1
Printer	1	-
Printer's Warehouseman	1	-
Railway Ganger	1	-
Scholar	5	2
Secretary	1	-
Shop Assistant	-	1
Children under five years of age	2	5
No occupation	1	-
Occupation not known	3	-
	—	—
	28	23
	—	—

Deaths and Death Rate.

There were 11 deaths registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This gives a death rate of .26 per 1,000 population for all forms of Tuberculosis.

The following table compares the figures for 1953 with those of previous years, and shows the decline in the death rate for pulmonary tuberculosis since 1947—

Year.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total Rate per 1,000 Pop.
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	
1944	15	.42	2	.05	.47
1945	19	.52	4	.11	.63
1946	16	.37	2	.05	.42
1947	24	.57	2	.04	.62
1948	23	.54	2	.05	.58
1949	24	.55	2	.05	.60
1950	14	.32	—	—	.32
1951	11	.25	2	.04	.29
1952	11	.24	1	.02	.26
1953	11	.24	1	.02	.26

Tuberculosis Register.

The names of 32 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons :—

Deaths	...	...	...	...	11
Left the District	...	...	...	...	11
Recovered	...	...	...	...	9
Diagnosis not Confirmed	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 32 <hr/>

Five hundred and eleven persons remained on the Register at the 31st December, 1953. They consist of the following :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	277	187	464
Non-Pulmonary	21	26	47
	<hr/> 298 <hr/>	<hr/> 213 <hr/>	<hr/> 511 <hr/>

Admission to Hospital and Sanatoria.

Seventy patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted during the year. There has been a continued improvement in obtaining early admission to hospital and sanatoria, and the delay in obtaining admission for patients needing Thoracic Surgery has been considerably reduced.

During the year a Children's Clinic has been started and there has been an increase in the number of contacts examined. Chemo-therapy has again played a large part in the domiciliary treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

A substantial number of children have been vaccinated with B.C.G.

Legal Proceedings.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Venereal Diseases.

Dr. Routh, the Medical Officer in charge of the Gravesend Clinic, has kindly supplied the following statistics:—

<i>New Patients—Gravesend.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	4	3	7
Gonorrhoea	9	8	17
Non-Venereal	43	16	59
	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 83

Total No. of Patients (new) from all areas ... ..	...	...	243
No. of attendances of Gravesend Patients ... ..	...	...	832
Total No. of attendances—all areas ... ..	...	...	1,733

<i>Discharged cured (all districts) :—</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	6	5	11
Gonorrhoea	21	13	34
Non-Venereal	134	15	149
	<hr/> 161	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 194

Defaulted after completion of treatment and before 3 months (Gravesend)

Gonorrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Males</i>
						1

Cleanliness, Good Health and Elimination of Verminous Conditions.

The Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors have been active in their educative work in regard to cleanliness and freedom from vermin.

Borough Mortuary.

The Mortuary, situated in Swan Yard, provides facilities for six bodies and there is a well equipped post mortem room.

During the year, 83 bodies were received and 83 post-mortem examinations performed.

Coroner's Inquests.

H. M. Coroner has kindly supplied the following information :—

Total number of inquests	...	...	...	...	...	29
Number of post-mortems without inquests	...	...	...	...	...	54
Verdicts	...	...	...	...	...	29
Accidental deaths	...	...	...	...	...	21
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	3
Found drowned	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other verdicts	...	...	...	...	...	5

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

*No. of organisms
per c.c. capable of
growth on Agar at :*

Date taken. *B. coli*
 (presumptive).
 Remarks.

I. Gravesend & Milton
Water Co's Supply.

Date taken.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at : 37°C	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at : 22°C	<i>B. coli</i> (presumptive).	Remarks.
(a) Leith Park Road Well (untreated)				
15.1.53	0	0	Absent in 100 ml.	Good Water.
19.2.53	0	29	Present in 100 ml.—1	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
19.3.53	5	25	Absent in 100 ml.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
23.4.53	0	6	do.	Good water.
21.5.53	0	0	do.	do.
18.6.53	0	1	Present in 100 ml.—14	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
16.7.53	85	22	Present in 100 ml.—1	Evidence of recent faecal contamination.
27.7.53	0	5	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
20.8.53	4	39	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
17.9.53	2	23	do.	Good water.
28.9.53	21	32	Present in 100 ml.—3	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
22.10.53	0	26	Absent in 100 ml.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
19.11.53	0	37	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
10.12.53	0	0	do.	Good water.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

Date taken.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at:		B. coli (presumptive).	Remarks.
	37°C	22°C		
(b) Leith Park Road				
Outgoing main				
(treated)				
15.1.53	0	0	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
19.2.53	0	0	do.	do.
19.3.53	0	0	do.	do.
23.4.53	0	2	do.	do.
21.5.53	2	0	do.	do.
18.6.53	0	0	Present in 100 ml.—8	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
16.7.53	0	9	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
27.7.53	5	9	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
20.8.53	0	5	do.	Good water.
17.9.53	317	356	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination. Counts high for treated water.
28.9.53	15	10	Present in 100 ml.—7	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
22.10.53	0	0	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
19.11.53	0	0	Present in 100 ml.—1	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
10.12.53	0	0	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
(c) Domestic supplies				
(treated)				
15.1.53	0	0	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
19.2.53	0	0	do.	do.
19.3.53	0	0	do.	do.
23.4.53	1	0	do.	do.
21.5.53	0	0	do.	do.
18.6.53	0	0	do.	do.
16.7.53	40	32	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
20.8.53	0	6	do.	Good water.
17.9.53	254	444	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination. Counts high for treated water.
28.9.53	0	0	do.	Good water.
22.10.53	0	0	do.	do.
19.11.53	0	0	do.	do.
10.12.53	0	0	do.	do.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF DRINKING WATER.

Leith Park Road P.S. Well
(*Untreated*).

Leith Park Road P.S. Outgoing Main
(*Treated*).

Appearance	Clear and bright	Clear and bright.
Smell	None.	None.
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.61	1.47
Nitro in Nitrates	0.79	0.60
Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	Trace only	Trace only.
4 ₈ Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Trace only.	Trace only.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.006	0.006
Hardness before boiling (total)	21.1	20.9
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	3.9	3.7
Total solid matter	30.80	28.00
Microscopical examination of deposit	Unimportant.	Unimportant.

REMARKS : The above are chalk waters of great organic purity and free from sewage percolation.
The free chlorine indicates adequate chlorination.

A sample of the well water was also examined for free chlorine only and results indicated a water of great stability which had been adequately chlorinated.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BATHING POOL WATER.

Date taken.	Where taken.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at:		B.Coli (Presumptive)	Remarks.
		37°C	22°C		
7.5.53	Deep end	109	101	Absent in 100 ml.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination. Count high for treated water.
	Shallow end	12	9	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	Paddling pool	16	20	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
18.5.53	Deep end	1	0	do.	Good water.
	Shallow end	1	0	do.	do.
	Paddling pool	0	0	do.	do.
7.6.53	Deep end	3	13	do.	do.
	Shallow end	2	20	do.	do.
	Paddling pool	1	5	do.	do.
18.6.53	Deep end	0	2	do.	do.
	Shallow end	0	0	do.	do.
	Paddling pool	1	5	do.	do.
28.6.53	Deep end	3	6	do.	do.
	Shallow end	0	10	do.	do.
	Paddling pool	4	6	Present in 100 ml.—1	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
9.7.53	Deep end	0	1	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.
	Shallow end	8	0	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
	Paddling pool	0	2	do.	Good water.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BATHING POOL WATER.

Date taken.	Where taken.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at:			<i>B. Coli</i> (Presumptive).	Remarks.
		37°C	22°C			
27.7.53	Deep end	3	9	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.	
	Shallow end	0	0	do.	do.	
	Paddling pool	7	12	Present in 100 ml.—1	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.	
10.8.53	Deep end	7	18	Absent in 100 ml.	Good water.	
	Shallow end	0	19	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.	
	Paddling pool	0	5	do.	Good water.	
25.8.53	Deep end	0	5	do.	Good water.	
	Shallow end	11	17	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.	
	Paddling pool	7	10	do.	No evidence of recent faecal contamination.	
8.9.53	Deep end	9	15	do.	Satisfactory.	
	Shallow end	0	0	do.	Good water.	
	Paddling pool	0	0	do.	do.	

