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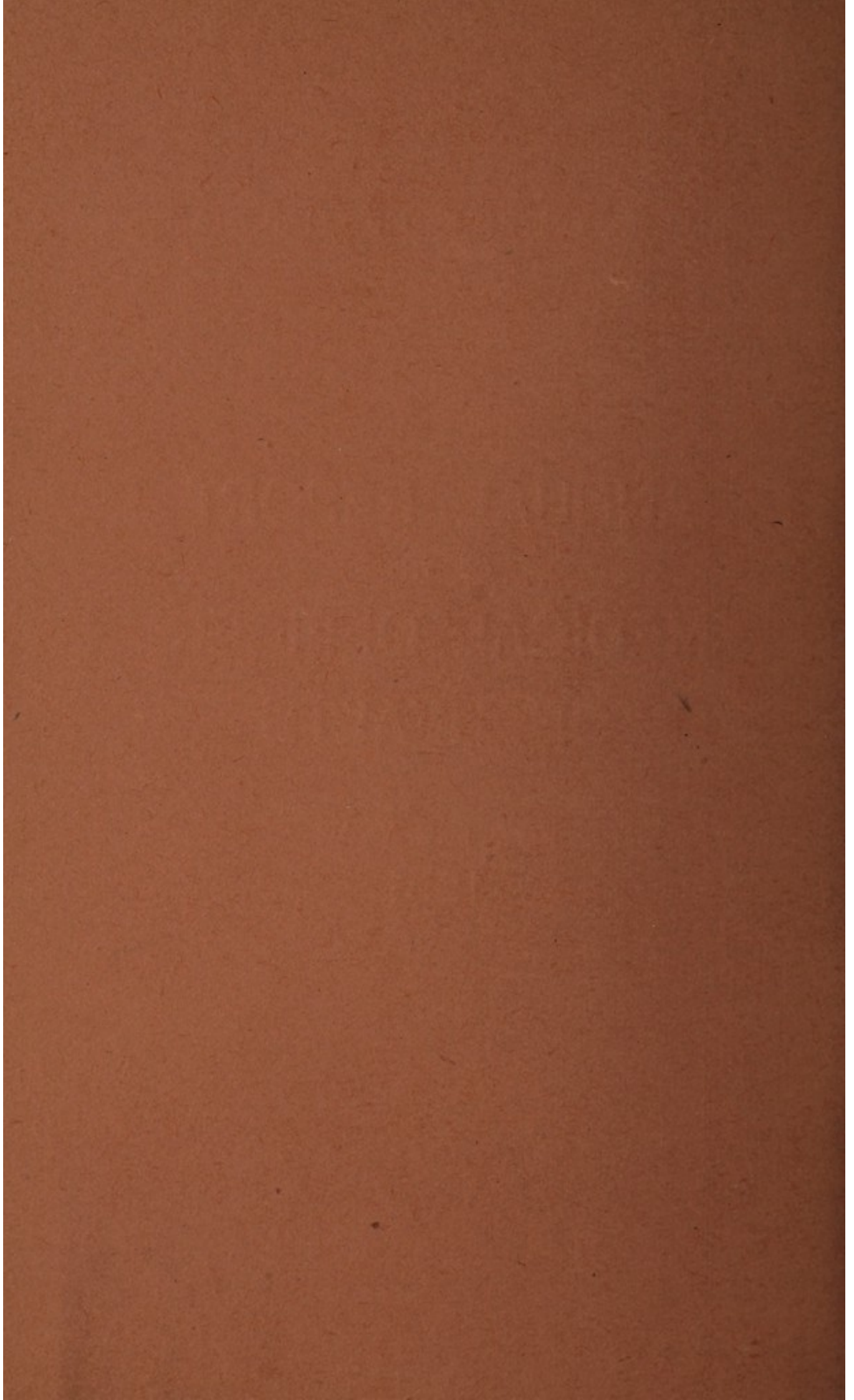
RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1951



L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

During the year there was smallpox near our border and typhoid in our midst. It is stimulating in public health work to be kept on the alert by the threat of disease. Our preventive measures are challenged and we find them successful. For the fourth year in succession there was no case of diphtheria within the district.

Less spectacular is the slow rate of improvement of environmental conditions and it is here that economic considerations act as a break on progress. There is much yet to be done, but it will take time and money.

All members of the public health staff worked hard and loyally throughout the year and particular mention must be made of Mr. E. J. J. Chapman the Chief Sanitary Inspector for his untiring devotion to duty.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

Your obedient Servant,
L. A. COLLINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES :

There was a considerable epidemic of measles during the year, the total number of cases notified being 581, which is higher than in any recent year. The epidemic started gradually at the beginning of the year and reached a peak about June and July; in August the numbers diminished rapidly and the epidemic died down. There were no deaths and very few serious cases. The few cases sent to hospital were admitted mainly on account of social or other reasons.

WHOOPING COUGH :

109 cases were notified, compared with 89 for the previous year.

SCARLET FEVER :

There were 20 cases of scarlet fever during the year, of which only six were admitted to hospital. As reported in recent years the nature of this disease seems to have undergone some change and all cases were very mild.

DIPHThERIA :

For the fourth year in succession there was not one case of diphtheria in this district.

TYPHOID FEVER :

There was a small outbreak of typhoid fever at Hellingly Mental Hospital commencing in March. There were 11 notified cases with one death. In addition there were some 12 other patients who required isolation for varying periods as investigations showed them to be either temporary or permanent carriers.

The infection was confined to one block of two storeys which housed about 120 chronic patients, many of whom had wet and dirty habits.

An immense amount of work was undertaken by the staff of the hospital in investigating all the patients in this block and many hundreds of specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, for bacteriological investigation.

Great credit is due to the measures laid down by the superintendent, Dr. B. Reid, and to the co-operation of all his staff, by which means the infection was confined to one block only. Indeed it is remarkable that there were no cases amongst the staff or other contacts with that block.

At the end of the year there were still three persistent carriers in isolation at Hellingly Mental Hospital and one at the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital. The results of the operation of cholecystectomy to cure the carrier state have proved disappointing. In five such operations performed there has been one death and the other four cases have remained intermittent carriers.

Owing to the number of chronic carriers discovered it is impossible to say for certain which was the source of infection, although suspicion points to one particular case. Despite the fact that since 1935 all new admissions to Hellingly Mental Hospital have been tested for the carrier state, it seems that at some time one such carrier has slipped through the net. This is not surprising as investigations during this epidemic have revealed the frequently intermitting nature of the carrier state.

DYSENTERY :

There was an outbreak of dysentery in a Residential Nursery School in May and June. On hearing that there had been numerous cases of diarrhoea among the children of the school arrangements were made for specimens to be sent from all new cases to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, for bacteriological investigation. The laboratory reported four positive cases of dysentery, the infecting organism being *Shigella sonnei*.

On further investigation it was apparent that during the previous three weeks over 50% of the children had at some time shown symptoms which could be attributed to this type of dysentery. In view of the obvious widespread prevalence of the infection in the nursery, it was agreed in consultation with the medical officer in charge that the best line of action to stamp out the infection was to give a course of specific treatment to all the children as well as members of the staff. At the termination of this course further specimens were submitted for bacteriological investigation. Any positive cases were isolated and if necessary given a second course of treatment and not considered free from infection until proved negative on three consecutive occasions. By this means the nursery school was cleared of infection by the middle of July. All the cases had been extremely mild and none had given rise to any anxiety.

In addition to this outbreak there were six sporadic cases of Sonne dysentery notified during the year in the district. Undoubtedly Sonne dysentery was fairly prevalent this year, but as it is generally a very mild disease only a small proportion of cases come to notification.

FOOD POISONING :

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year, but a suspicious case at Punnetts Town in October was fully investigated at the request of the family doctor. It was found that there had been some 31 similar cases, involving 12 households. Although food poisoning was at first suspected, no source of food was found to be common to all the households affected. Reports from the laboratory on specimens submitted were negative for food poisoning, typhoid and dysentery organisms.

As most of the cases had already recovered before the investigations were begun, it is impossible to be dogmatic concerning the nature of the outbreak, but it is probable that it was due to an airborne infection of some filter-passing virus.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS) :

There was one case of poliomyelitis in October, a man aged 52 years, from Willingdon. This case made a satisfactory recovery. There were no other cases.

WEILS DISEASE :

This is not a notifiable disease but it is caused by infection with an organism—*Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae*—which is commonly found in rats. Infection may be transmitted through the abraded skin or from bathing in rat infected waters.

The hospital informed me of two deaths from this cause during the year, in May a man from Alfriston and in December a man from Maynards Green. Appropriate anti-rat measures were instituted.

SMALLPOX :

The outbreak of smallpox at Brighton caused considerable work for this Public Health Department. Some eighty contacts were kept under surveillance and vaccinations performed where necessary. I was asked by general practitioners to see a few suspicious cases, but all such cases were shown to be either chicken pox or some other condition.

In order to ensure that any contacts could be vaccinated and to satisfy the public who were flocking to the doctors' surgeries, a public vaccination clinic was held on three mornings a week. This was continued for two weeks only. Although mass vaccination is quite unnecessary in the face of a well controlled epidemic, it is however not politic to withhold vaccination from a demanding public. The size of this demand can be seen by comparing the vaccination figures of 1951 with the previous year.

VACCINATION RECORDS RECEIVED :

1950 Vaccinations	337	Re-vaccinations	109	Total	446
1951 Vaccinations	3,785	Re-vaccinations	4,644	Total	8,429

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION :

Although there has been no case of diphtheria in this district during the last four years, this is no time to be complacent. The number of children receiving a complete course of immunisation in 1951 was lower than in any of the previous five years. There is a danger that, owing to the absence of cases of diphtheria, the public may forget the menace of this disease, neglect immunisation and thus leave open the door for new epidemics of diphtheria. The reduced figure for immunisations cannot be accounted for by local causes as it was general throughout the country.

During the year a total of 305 children received a complete course of immunisation, compared with 418 in the previous year. A total of 654 refresher doses were given, compared with 830 in the previous year.

I have personally conducted frequent clinics at Heathfield, Hailsham, Polegate and Herstmonceux, and occasional clinics at Westham, Horam, Maynards Green, Ninfield, Pevensy and Willingdon.

The annual return for 1951 showed a total of 1,422 children under five years, and 4,715 children from five to fifteen years had completed a full course of immunisation at 31st December, 1951. Expressed as a percentage of the mid-year population this works out at 51.4% for children under five years and just over 100% for children between five and fifteen years. There is a ready explanation for this statistical figure of over 100%. The mid-year child population is only an estimated figure by the Registrar General. Our records for children immunised in this age group is only 42 above the Registrar General's figure. During the year there were 162 additions in this age group and only 39 abstractions. With a shifting population the additions are made up of new children coming into the district which I find at schools requiring booster doses, whereas abstractions are made when another authority writes to ask for the child's record card. It is not feasible to have knowledge of all children leaving the district and therefore the abstraction figure is always low.

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	1
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	13	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	3
16. Diabetes	—	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	44	41
18. Coronary disease, angina	38	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	6	4
20. Other heart disease	43	54
21. Other circulatory disease	7	7
22. Influenza	4	4
23. Pneumonia	8	5
24. Bronchitis	8	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	5	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	7	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	2
31. Congenital malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	—
34. All other accidents	3	6
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—
	<hr/> 254 <hr/>	<hr/> 226 <hr/>

Public Health Staff

<p>Medical Officer of Health (part-time) also Assistant School Medical Officer for East Sussex County Council.</p> <p>Senior Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector</p> <p>Additional Sanitary Inspectors</p> <p>Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operator</p> <p>Rodent Operator</p> <p>Clerical Assistants</p>	<p>Dr. L. A. Collins, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., D.P.H.</p> <p>E. J. J. Chapman, F.G.S., M.S.I.A.</p> <p>M. F. Warman, L. E. Scott, R. R. Creasey.</p> <p>J. F. Stanford.</p> <p>R. Cousins</p> <p>Miss M. Catt, Mrs. M. O. Stevens, Miss R. Savage.</p>
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Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25 years and over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	—	3	1	11	3	2	—	20
Whooping Cough	5	21	28	48	3	1	3	109
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	9	74	109	332	42	6	9	581
Pneumonia	—	2	2	6	—	1	9	20
Dysentery	—	3	5	1	—	2	1	12
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

**Cases notified or Admitted to Isolation Hospital and
Total Deaths**

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	20	6	—
Whooping Cough	109	2	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Measles	581	11	—
Pneumonia	20	—	—
Dysentery	12	2	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	11	*6	1
Puerperal pyrexia	2	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Other observation cases	—	1	—

* Includes 2 carriers.

**Number of Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital
Each Month**

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	1	4	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	1	*5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Observation Cases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	1	6	9	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	2

* Includes 2 carriers.

Tuberculosis

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ..	6	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ..	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ..	—	5	—	—	1	—	1	—
45—55 years ..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	—	—	3	1	1	—
Total ..	16	13	2	2	5	1	2	—

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLY.

In spite of the fact that the Kent and Sussex anticline brings to the surface within the area considerable tracts of sandstone, marl, shale, greensand and clays of varying characteristics, a very large part of the district is of Weald clay formation, which has poor water-bearing capabilities, and since this extends to considerable depths, the problem of providing water in such subsoils where required, is difficult and costly, having particular regard to the fact that agriculture is the main pursuit of the area.

Although there are three Water Companies whose mains supply parts of the district, namely the Eastbourne Water Co., the Heathfield and District Water Co., and the Bexhill Corporation, (in the order of their service) the Wealden areas above referred to lie in the central and north-western part where no mains are available, and the Council have been considering a comprehensive scheme to meet this deficiency. This scheme has been approved in principle, but has been the subject of considerable modification and official approval is still awaited.

Meanwhile the needs are met by wells and springs of varying quality and quantity and these are the object of unremitting attention by the department, which advises as to the correction of deteriorated sources, whilst for those whose supplies have become exhausted or impaired by brackishness or other causes, the Council's Emergency Water Service is available.

This service provides for the delivery of drinking water by tanker to any part of the area upon payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gallon, and has been most beneficial in that it has met all emergency calls at short notice. In doing this 393,800 gallons were delivered during the year.

Tankers are available for the delivery of 400, 450 or 800 gallons (400 being a minimum). The vehicles (a Dodge and a Fordson Dual-Purpose Lorry), are serviced and maintained at the Council's depot.

EXTENSION OF MAINS.

A considerable extension of the Bexhill Corporation main was carried out to supply Hooe village during 1951, whilst the mains of the Heathfield Water Co. were extended to Hale Hill, in Vines Cross area, to afford supplies and improve circulation and pressure to these parts. Minor extensions have also been made to housing sites at Hailsham and Westham. A start was made with an extension in the Broad Oak area, mainly to serve several farms.

Improvement of the quality, circulation and pressure in certain mains of the Heathfield Water Co. has been effected by means of de-scaling.

In those parts of the district covered by Companies mains, the water supplies have been satisfactory in regard to quality and constancy as periodical bacteriological and chemical examinations have confirmed. None of the Companies' waters after treatment are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The accompanying summary gives information as to the extent of the area supplied direct from main to dwelling houses, from standpipes or from other sources.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private main	No. of Houses Supplied by Public main	By Stand- Pipe	By Private main
Alciston ..	124	—	—	37
Alfriston ..	564	157	10	—
Arlington ..	185	21	33	—
Berwick ..	87	—	—	30
Chalvington ..	—	—	—	—
Chiddingly ..	—	—	—	—
Eastdean ..	630	204	—	—
East Hoathly ..	—	—	—	—
Folkington ..	32	10	—	—
Friston ..	290	95	—	—
Hailsham ..	4,237	1,644	—	—
Heathfield ..	2,669	757	32	—
Hellingly ..	2,113	245	—	—
Herstmonceux ..	840	277	10	—
Hooe	63	21	—	—
Jevington ..	159	10	43	—
Laughton ..	—	—	—	—
Litlington ..	95	—	—	37
Lullington ..	6	—	—	2
Ninfield ..	784	266	—	—
Pevensey ..	2,244	727	—	—
Polegate ..	3,675	1,174	—	—
Ripe	—	—	—	—
Selmeston ..	—	—	—	—
Waldron ..	2,366	756	—	—
Warbleton ..	149	48	—	—
Wartling ..	281	86	—	—
Westdean ..	86	19	12	—
Westham ..	1,685	536	10	—
Willingdon ..	2,745	891	—	—
Wilmington ..	161	47	—	—
Total ..	26,280	7,922	150	106

It will be seen that as the population of the area is 36,400 the proportion unsupplied with main water is approximately 28.7%.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following built-up areas are provided with outfall works and purification beds, namely, Hailsham, Heathfield, Herstmonceux, Horam, Polegate and Willingdon. In the coastal areas at Westham, Pevensey and Pevensey Bay, sewage after screening is pumped to sea by centrifugal pumps.

Rapid growth in housing and population in the Willingdon and Polegate areas have given rise to overloading of these systems and enlargement of the works is years overdue. In addition sewage disposal schemes are urgently needed for the villages of Windmill Hill, Alfriston, East Hoathly, Wilmington and Ninfield.

No major works have been carried out since the war despite the fact that the urgency of this matter has been reported as long ago as 1945. Meanwhile conditions continue to deteriorate to the detriment of the welfare of the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Much attention has been paid to the prevention of the discharge of farm wastes into rivers and streams, which was formerly a common practice. As a result of persistent effort many improvements have been made to safeguard the water courses from pollution.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

The whole area is covered by a scheme which provides for the removal of all house refuse and consists of six areas in which, according to needs, a weekly or fortnightly service is available. This involves the use of six Dennis Refuse Vehicles and one Fordson Dual-Purpose vehicle. The system works smoothly and satisfactorily and involves the employment of 28 workmen. The Council do not undertake the removal of trade waste.

TIPPING :

As far as possible controlled tipping is followed, but the problem of soil covering is difficult in some areas, whilst suitable available sites are few.

The problem of tipping and labour costs became so acute that the Council purchased a Chaseside Excavator, which has been invaluable for it not only provides for consolidation, and thus for the limitation of pests, but extends the life of the tips very considerably. This unit is powered by a Diesel Engine and results in most economical running. It is serviced in turn with other vehicles at the Council's Depot by a Foreman Mechanic.

Constant attention is given to the suppression of fly, cricket, wasp and rodent pests and few complaints have been received of any annoyance from their activities.

MAINTENANCE DEPOT :

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in housing the eleven vehicles and for their servicing and maintenance by reason of the limited accommodation, and efforts by the Council to improve this condition have been rejected by the Ministry, firstly, as a result of opposition to a site, and, secondly, on the grounds of economy. The need, however, continues to be an urgent one and gives cause for much anxiety to the department and operates to the reverse of economy.

DISTRICT SALVAGE SCHEME.

In conjunction with the removal of house refuse, a salvage scheme continues to operate very successfully, when all raw materials which could be re-used are collected, retrieved and sold. The materials are various and interesting and the proceeds for the year reached £4,253 19s. 2d. A bonus of 10% is shared by the collectors. The total amount realized since the commencement of the scheme is £26,086 14s. 9d.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

During the year the following work has been carried out :—

	CESSPOOLS	LOADS
District Scheme	1,106	1,964½
Heathfield, Waldron and Horam Scheme	1,252	1,495

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL.

This primitive and obnoxious system exists in one village only, Alfriston, where a collection is made twice weekly by a horse drawn trailer cart.

Its abolition is dependent on redrainage of the village. As Alfriston is high in priority for a sewage scheme it is earnestly hoped that there may be some prospect of proceeding with such a scheme in the near future.

FACTORIES ACT.

The ebb and flow of small factories in the area continues and these are subject to routine visits. Inspection is also made of the packing sheds at the numerous market gardens in the district and all outworkers' premises have been visited.

Employers generally are ready to provide the necessary amenities for their staffs and no difficulty has been experienced in implementing the requirements of the Acts.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The application of this Act only to premises where rag flock etc., is manufactured or used otherwise than in the remaking or reconditioning of any article, limits its scope in this district, but there is one factory which has been registered in respect of the use of rag flock.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The institution of regular routine inspection of food shops in the district has meant more effective administration of Section 38 of the Shops Act, which regulates heating, ventilation, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation, and during the year action has been taken to enforce the provisions in respect of washing facilities and sanitary accommodation in four cases, in addition to informal action in connection with seven premises regulated by the Food and Drugs Act.

HOUSING.

The greatest obstacle to reconditioning is the low rental of most of the smaller properties which are normally in greatest need of repair and improvement. From an owner's point of view this is not only uneconomic, but in many cases impossible, especially as the Housing Act, 1949, precludes grant aid for service cottages, which is a complete reversal of policy, compared with the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. It is the Council's policy to consider each application under the Housing Act, 1949, on its merits but to date of 11 applications only one has succeeded in obtaining a grant.

The practice of private individuals purchasing rent-controlled cottages when a vacancy occurs and of carrying out major repairs and improvements continues, but although this means the preservation of a house it does not often benefit the classes mostly in need of the same, and consequently the list of applicants for houses continues to increase.

During the year six Undertakings were accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act and eight Statutory Notices issued under Section 9. Six Statutory Notices were complied with during the same period.

OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding still exists particularly amongst those families who are least able to afford the rent of Council houses and who would not be the best type for such a change, but the excellent

work of the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee has provided much relief in the allocation of houses to suitable applicants and by this means has set changes in motion which have removed several cases of overcrowding and brought health and happiness to many families.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

On the 1st April, the Public Health Laboratory Service initiated facilities for the examination of milk for tuberculosis and *Brucella abortus* infection. Six guinea pigs per month were allocated for the use of this Council and were used in the main for sampling producer/retailer supplies. Should there be reason to suspect a supply of milk to be a danger to health, additional samples are taken.

During the nine months of the year under review 38 samples were taken, which gave the following results :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i>	1
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i>	3
Infected with <i>Brucella melitensis</i>	1
Failing Methylene Blue Test	3
No result—guinea pig died	2
Free from infection	28
	—
	38
	—

Reports of infected milks were received from other authorities in respect of several other farms.

Farmers whose milk is found to be infected are notified and arrangements made with the Milk Marketing Board for the milk to be pasteurised prior to distribution to the public. It is advised that any milk retained for home consumption should be scalded before consumption. The Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture are notified in order that the Divisional Veterinary Officer may take appropriate action.

The sample found to contain *Brucella melitensis* was obtained in the course of delivery by a retailer of raw milk, and was the third to be found in Sussex, although only 17 cases had been reported in the rest of England and Wales. Arrangements having been made for all milk sold off the farm to be pasteurised, quarter samples, 88 in all, from all cows in milk were obtained and forwarded for examination. As a result two cows were discovered to be secreting *Brucella melitensis* and were slaughtered under the *Brucella Melitensis* Order, 1940.

No cases of illness attributable to milk borne disease were notified during the year.

Routine inspections of dairies were carried out and one old ill-equipped dairy was replaced by modern premises as a result of pressure by the department.

The co-operation with the National Agricultural Advisory Service has continued to be good.

One unusual occurrence was the presence over a period of some days of a strong flavour and odour of fish in milk retailed in one area, which rendered the milk unpalatable. The cause was eventually traced to the over-feeding of fish meal to the cows. The farmer was persuaded to provide the necessary protein by alternative foods.

FOOD INSPECTION.

As in most rural districts there are a number of small slaughterhouses used in conjunction with butchery businesses, and although most of the rationed meat is obtained from the central slaughterhouses of the Ministry of Food, the local premises are used for killing a larger number of 'self suppliers' pigs, sheep and calves.

There are eleven slaughterhouses and one knackers yard licenced under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, all kept in good order, while there are 44 persons licenced under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. A Temple Cox Humane Killer, with ammunition, is kept in this department.

During the inspection of food premises it is found that most of the traders do comply with the Clean Food Byelaws, and it has not been necessary to take formal action to obtain compliance.

Ice cream continued to be a popular confection and there are now 108 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and several for the manufacture and sale of ice cream in the district. The number of shops which are installing refrigerated display counters for the sale of 'Deep Freeze' foods is increasing, especially in the grocery business.

The foods which were found to be unfit for human consumption are given in the accompanying table, from which it will be noted that the commodities examined are of great variety.

During one short period of the year three hundredweights of German tinned cooked ham were found to be blown and decomposed. This was at a period when wholesale condemnation of this food was occurring all over the country.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

DETAILS OF MEAT FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Total No. of animals inspected :			
(212 Pigs, 8 Sheep, 7 Calves, 4 Goats)		231	
Total weight of Carcases inspected ..		51,615 lbs.	
Total weight of Unsound Meat with-held ..		272 lbs.	
<i>Abscesses</i> ..	Ox Liver	11½	„
<i>Bruising and/or Blood Congestion</i>			
	Hand of Pork	5½ lbs.	
	English forequarter Beef	14	„
	English hindquarter Beef	16½	„
	1 pig's pluck	10	„
	—		46 „
<i>Cirrhosis</i> ..	1 pig's liver		4 „
<i>Decomposition</i> ..	1 English turkey ..		7½ „
<i>Emaciation</i> ..	1 sheep's carcass ..		40 „
<i>Fevered</i> ..	2 sheep's carcasses ..		91 „
<i>Heating and Taint</i>	Rump steak	8 lbs.	
	English topside and flank	34	„
	—		42 „
<i>Pneumonia</i> ..	2 pig's lungs		10 „
<i>Tuberculosis</i> ..	Thick flank English Beef		20 „

**Summary of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs Slaughtered
and Inspected**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	—	—	12	24	242
No. inspected ..	—	—	7	12	212
<i>All diseases, except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	4
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	—	—	—	25	1.9
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcass con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
% of No. inspected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH BY
THIS DEPARTMENT

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Foodstuff</i>	<i>Weight</i> (lbs.)
14 boxes ..	Kippers	196
1 box ..	Cods Roe	28
5 tins ..	Smoked Cod Roe	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
13 tins ..	Salmon	13
4 tins ..	Sardines	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
4 tins ..	Pilchards	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
31 tins ..	Ham	336 $\frac{1}{4}$
Quantity ..	Bacon	104
8 tins ..	Pork Luncheon Meat	12 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 tin ..	Tongues and veal	1
1 tin ..	Corned beef	6
19 tins ..	Braised kidneys	19
1 tin ..	Meat Soup	$\frac{1}{2}$
42 tins ..	Luncheon Meat	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 tins ..	Beef Loaf	3
2 tins ..	Stewed Steak	2
6 tins ..	Brawn	30 $\frac{3}{4}$
1 box ..	Pork sausages	36
1 tin ..	Chicken	4
1 tin ..	Braised Hearts	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
20 1 doz. pkts.	Torox cubes	9
3 tins ..	Spaghetti	3
4 pkts. ..	Gravy Salt	$\frac{1}{2}$
25 tins ..	Peas	30 $\frac{1}{4}$
13 tins ..	Baked Beans	10
3 pkts. ..	Ground Mace	$\frac{3}{4}$
7 jars ..	Pickled Walnuts	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 tins ..	Savouries	6
71 pkts. ..	Dessert Powder	11
Quantity ..	Cheese	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 boxes ..	Pastry Margarine	84
94 tins ..	Plums	138
2 tins ..	Crushed Pineapple	3
1 tin ..	Pineapple chunks	1
1 tin ..	Grapes	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
8 tins ..	Cherries	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
13 tins ..	Apple puree	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
15 tins ..	Quartered Apples	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 tin ..	Peaches	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 tins ..	Prunes	25 $\frac{3}{4}$
7 tins ..	Peeled Tomatoes	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Foodstuff</i>	<i>Weight (lbs.)</i>
10 pkts. ..	Dessicated coconut	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
1 sack ..	Peanuts	140
1 jar ..	Mango Jam	2
1 jar ..	Lemon cheese	1
5 tins ..	Unsweetened milk	5
1 tin ..	Sweetened milk	1
67 tins ..	Evaporated milk	67
		1491 $\frac{1}{2}$

RODENT CONTROL.

The activities of the department under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, are best judged by the summary given below.

In addition to the systematic attendance at premises where, by reason of their attraction to rodents, periodical treatments are undertaken, inspections of infested dwelling houses, shops, warehouses and yards are followed up by treatments with varying baits in accordance with the Ministry's formulae.

Sewer testing has also been carried out and reports made from time to time show that much good work was accomplished throughout the year.

The duties now devolving upon the Council to control all agricultural properties to ensure that necessary disinfection is carried out by the occupiers, have been exercised as far as the capacity of the staff would permit and much useful work can be recorded. It would be neither reasonable nor practicable to appoint a special officer to visit farms for this purpose and the supervision must accordingly be fitted in with other duties, and information regarding infestations followed up as soon as practicable.

	<i>Total Properties</i>	<i>Total Disinfested</i>
Local Authority's Properties ..	33	18
Dwelling Houses	9,752	142
Business Premises	1,126	56
Agricultural Properties	1,425	5
	12,336	221

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts	467
" " Re-inspections	654
Requisitioning	2
Complaints	166
Public Health Nuisances	396
" " " Re-inspections	274
Pollution of Watercourses	181
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc.	59
Offensive Accumulations	45
Drains and Sewers Inspected	282
Drainage Tested	65
Closet Accommodation	129
Verminous Premises dealt with (Including insect infestations)	36
Infectious Diseases	196
Rooms Disinfected	53
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	303
Rats and Mice Destruction	933
Markets	13
Public Cleansing	1,079
Salvage	493
Water Sources examined, protected and/or corrected Investigations re sources and applications for mains	734
Water Analyses :	
Formal Chemical—	
Satisfactory Nil.	Unsatisfactory 5
Bacteriological—	
Satisfactory 35.	Unsatisfactory 65
	—
Milk and Dairies	105
Slaughterhouses	139
Meat Shops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	141
Catering Establishments	482
Ice Cream Shops	255
Knackers Yards	126
Bakehouses	22
Factories, Workshops, etc.	69
Laundries	472
Housing Applications	6
Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee	816
Housing—Licensing	85
Cesspool Emptying	10
Miscellaneous	152
	526

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

453	Sanitary Acts
654	Inspection of
100	Establishments
300	Canteens
354	Public Health Notices
181	Inspection of
44	Regulation of
205	Regulation of
45	Regulation of
150	Regulation of
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