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Contributors

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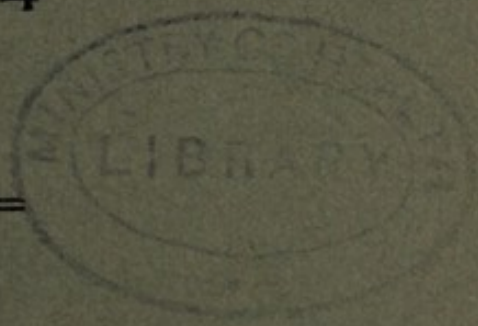
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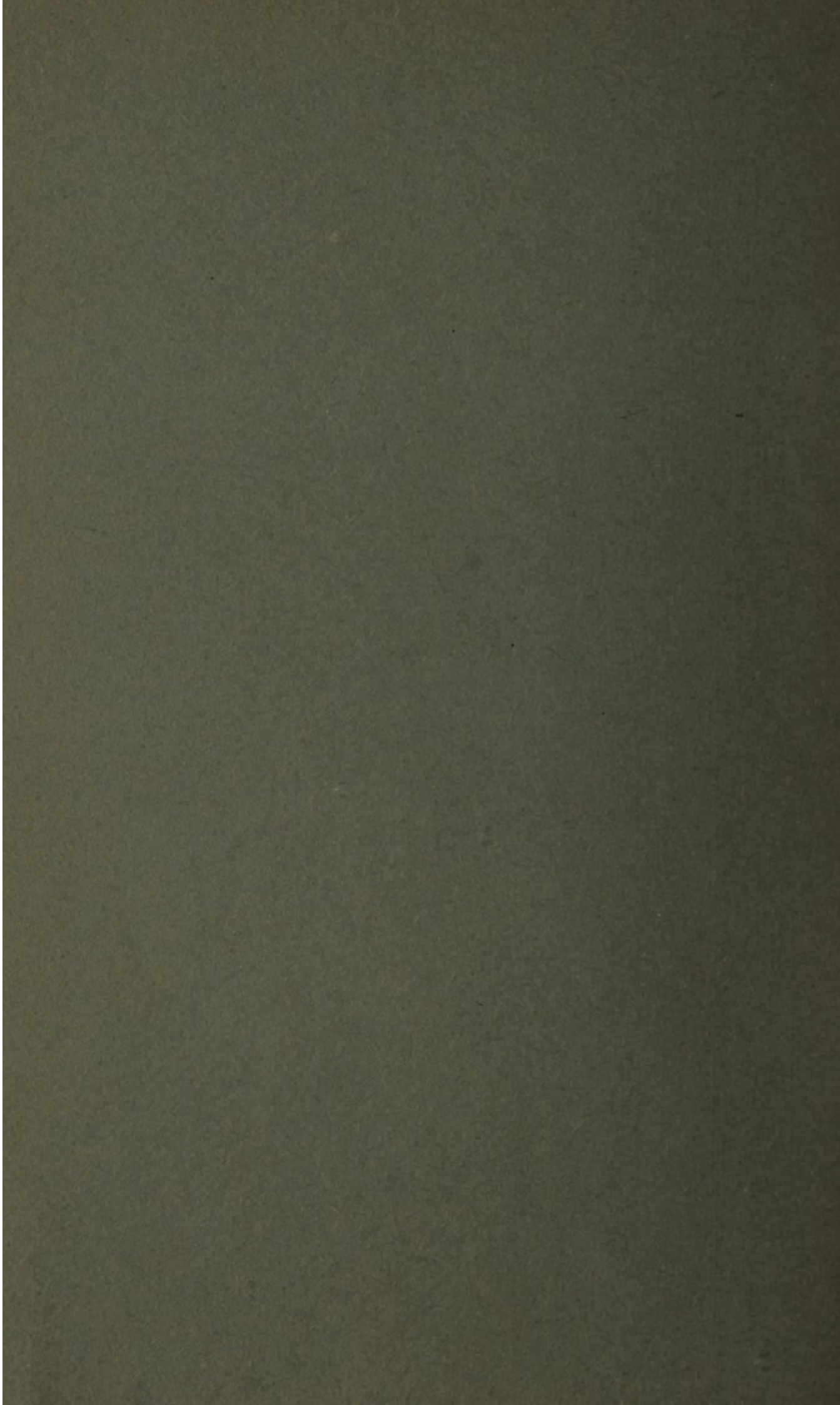
RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1954



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
1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

Once again this was an uneventful year from the health point of view, and the incidence of infectious diseases was relatively low. As can be seen from the figures of the Vital Statistics, embodied in the report, the health of this district compares very favourably with the rest of the country.

Considering the environmental factors which affect the health of the community, there is still an acute shortage of houses, and progress with regard to major extensions of water or sewage disposal schemes is necessarily slow.

I am grateful to all members of the public health staff, who have worked hard throughout the year, and special tribute should be paid to Mr. E. J. J. Chapman, who has devoted so many years to the public health service.

I wish once again to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year was 165 as compared with 1021 in the previous year. This large reduction was mainly due to the fact that this was not an epidemic year for measles, there being only 3 cases as compared with 688 in the previous year. However, the low incidence of infectious diseases is also reflected in the low number of admissions to the isolation hospital; the total number of cases admitted being 11, of which 5 were observation cases, whereas the average admission rate during the previous ten years was 45 cases per annum.

WHOOPIING COUGH:

There were 67 notifications of whooping cough compared with 197 in the previous year.

SCARLET FEVER:

Only 29 cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 82 in the previous year. As has been the rule in recent years, most cases were very mild and only two cases were admitted to hospital.

DIPHTHERIA:

After more than six years of freedom from this infection in this district, one case was notified in July. This was a boy aged 5 years, who had recently arrived in this country from Australia, and was said to be sickening when on board ship. This was a very mild case which made a rapid recovery. The boy had never been immunised against diphtheria. Throat swabs were taken from three child contacts and the children excluded from school until the throat swabs proved negative for the diphtheria bacillus.

It is satisfactory that the only case of diphtheria occurring in all these years should be an imported case in a non-immunised child; but an incident such as this stresses the necessity for pursuing the diphtheria immunisation campaign with undiminished vigour.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS):

There were two cases of Poliomyelitis during the year, both from the same household. This is the first time during the last eight years in this district that there has been more than one case in the same household.

The first case, a man aged 26 years, was rapidly fatal, as he was admitted to the isolation hospital on the 4th September and died on the 5th September. His daughter, aged 4 years, was admitted to the isolation hospital on the 5th September with some weakness of one leg and eventually recovered.

TYPHOID:

There were no cases of typhoid or paratyphoid fever during the year. Two chronic typhoid carriers still remained under observation at Hellingly Hospital and the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital.

DYSENTERY:

Thirty-six cases of dysentery were notified from Hellingly Hospital in the course of the year. Some of these notifications were in respect of symptomless carriers discovered in the routine bacteriological investigation of contacts. When a case occurs in a ward specimens are submitted for bacteriological investigation from all the other patients in the ward and not until three negative specimens have been produced from each patient is the ward declared free from infection. All cases who have had dysentery are still kept under observation and monthly specimens are submitted for investigation. The infective organism has been the same Flexner type of bacillus in all cases. Despite the prodigious efforts of these laboratory investigations it seems very difficult to clear a mental hospital from this infection, probably because some intermittent carrier is free for a season and then at a later date gives rise to a new series of cases. It is satisfactory, however, that under treatment with modern drugs the disease of dysentery is relatively very mild and does not give rise to the distressing situation of former days.

FOOD POISONING:

Two cases of Food Poisoning were notified in the year and in both cases the infective organism was salmonella typhimurium.

The first case was a woman, aged 59 years, from Heathfield. As the case was not reported until eight days after the commencement of her illness it was not possible to determine the source of infection but all food had been partaken within the household. The husband of this case worked in a food shop in Heathfield and he was immediately taken off all work in connection with the handling of food. Specimens were sub-

mitted for bacteriological investigation from the two family contacts, husband and son, which showed that both were in fact infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*, although the husband had showed no symptoms of infection. The husband was kept off all work in connection with the handling of food until six consecutive negative specimens had showed him to be free from infection.

The second case was a boy aged 4 years from Cross-in-Hand and had no connection with the first case. As many days had elapsed from the onset of his illness before the diagnosis was made, it was not possible to determine the source of infection. No other member of the household had been ill.

VACCINATION RECORDS RECEIVED.

1953	Vaccinations	240	Re-vaccinations	91	Total	331
1954	Vaccinations	280	Re-vaccinations	129	Total	409

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

There has been a fresh improvement in the immunisation rate in 1954 as will be seen by comparing the figures for the last three years. The number of refresher doses just falls short of last years figure, which was the highest in any one year since the scheme was started. This fresh improvement is partly due to the fact that at the beginning of April a scheme was started whereby parents have been given the option of having combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation instead of the simple diphtheria immunisation. The combined immunisation necessitates three injections being given as soon as possible after the child is three months old, whereas the simple diphtheria immunisation entails two injections when the child is eight or nine months old. This scheme has proved very popular since its commencement, although many parents seemed wary at first of the necessity of the first injection being given when the child is only three months old. However, the propaganda campaign of circularising parents when their child is three months old seems to be achieving satisfactory results.

1952	Complete Course	433	Refresher Doses	851
1953	Complete Course	357	Refresher Doses	958
1954	Complete Course	474	Refresher Doses	953

(Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough 301)

(Diphtheria only 173)

I have personally conducted frequent clinics at Hailsham, Heathfield, Polegate and Herstmonceux, and occasional clinics at Pevensey, Ripe, Chiddingly, Laughton, Punnetts Town, Cross-in-Hand, Hellingly, Arlington, Hankham, East Hoathly, Maynards Green, Hooe, Ninfield, Westham and Warbleton.

The need to keep up the immunity of the child population by refresher doses was again stressed by the Ministry of Health, who required the annual return to be completed on the same lines as for last year, showing separate figures for the children inoculated during the last five years and for children last inoculated more than five years ago, whether by primary or refresher inoculations, with no distinction between children who have received the combined whooping cough and diphtheria course of injections since April 1954. As will be seen from the table below, the immunity index, which is calculated on the proportion of children who have been given inoculations within the last five years to my estimated mid-year child population, is 68.6% for the 1—4 years group and 64.4% for the 5—14 years group. These figures are considered to be fairly satisfactory but it is important that the public should be continually reminded of the necessity of protecting their children by diphtheria immunisation. In interpreting this index it must be borne in mind that of the children under one at the end of the year only one third have attained the age of eight months, and therefore if all this group were immunised the index among them would be only about 33%.

Age at 31.12.54. <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1—4 1953—1950	5—9 1949—1945	10—14 1944—1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of in- jections .. (Whether pri- mary or re- freshers)	85	1302	2498	2540	6425
1950—1954 ..	85	1302	1957	1415	4759
1948 or earlier	—	—	541	1125	1666
Estimated mid-year child population ..	440	1898	5240		7578
Immunity Index	19.3%	68.6%	64.4%		62.8%

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951:

No formal action has been taken under the above Acts although several cases have been investigated and kept under observation.

VITAL STATISTICS:

The death rate for the district for the last six years is as follows:—

	<i>Crude Death Rate</i>	<i>Comparability Factor</i>	<i>Corrected Death Rate</i>
1949	12.3 per thousand	0.74	9.1 per thousand
1950	13.4 per thousand	0.74	9.9 per thousand
1951	13.2 per thousand	0.73	9.6 per thousand
1952	12.5 per thousand	0.73	9.1 per thousand
1953	16.5 per thousand	0.73	12.1 per thousand
1954	16.3 per thousand	0.71	11.6 per thousand

As explained in last year's Annual Report, the apparent sudden rise in the death rate of the district in 1953 is due to the fact that from 1st January 1953 all deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital have been assigned to this district. Previously a number of these would be classed as outward transfers.

In 1954 there were 114 deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital and it can be assumed that about 102 of these should be classed as outward transfers. Deducting this number from the total number of deaths the crude death rate for 1954 would be 13.5 per thousand and the corrected death rate 9.6 per thousand. These figures are comparable with the figures of recent years.

The corrected birth rate is 13.7 per thousand, compared with 15.2 for the whole of England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate is 14.5 per thousand registered live births, which is very satisfactory compared with a record low infant mortality rate of 25.5 for the whole of the country.

STATISTICS

Area in Acres	..	..	..	94,668
Census Population (1951)	..	..	..	36,916
Population estimated to middle year	..	..	..	36,550
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	12,265
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£324,261
Sum represented by Penny Rate	..	..	..	£1,289. 16. 11
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (not corrected)				11.4

Birth Rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	13.7
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Registered	
Live Births	14.5
Total Deaths per 1,000 (not corrected) ..	16.3
Total Deaths per 1,000 (corrected) ..	11.6
Senile mortality as percentage of Total Deaths (65 and over)	78.2

BIRTHS:

Legitimate: Total 396	Males 187	Females 209
Illegitimate: Total 19	Males 9	Females 10

STILLBIRTHS:

Legitimate: Total 9	Males 7	Females 2
Illegitimate: Total 0	Males 0	Females 0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

Total 6	Males 2	Females 4
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COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
Hailsham Rural ..	13.7	14.5	11.6
England and Wales	15.2	25.5	11.3

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	5	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	2	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	35	50
18. Coronary disease, angina	48	36

19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	9
20.	Other heart disease	51	89
21.	Other circulatory disease ..	8	15
22.	Influenza	3	—
23.	Pneumonia	15	21
24.	Bronchitis	10	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	3	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	9	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations ..	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	19
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	2	2
34.	All other accidents	5	11
35.	Suicide	2	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
		277	319
		277	319

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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

Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	2	5	20	2	—	—	29
Whooping Cough	2	8	20	34	1	—	2	67
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Measles ..	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ..	1	1	—	3	2	1	11	19
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	35	36
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2

Cases Notified or admitted to Isolation Hospital and Total Deaths

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	29	2	—
Whooping Cough ..	67	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	1
Measles	3	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Pneumonia	19	—	—
Dysentery	36	—	—
Encephalitis ..	1	1	1
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Meningococcal infection ..	1	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—
Other Observation Cases	—	5	1

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

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	I				I							
Poliomyelitis									2			
Encephalitis		I										
Food Poisoning			I									
Other Observation Cases			2	I	I	I						

Tuberculosis

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years ..	2	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
5—14 years ..	I	I	I	3	—	—	—	—
15—24 years ..	3	3	I	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years ..	3	2	—	I	2	—	—	—
45—54 years ..	6	5	—	—	I	—	—	—
55—64 years ..	3	I	I	—	I	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	2	—	—	I	I	—	—
Total ..	22	16	3	4	5	2	—	—

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLY.

Within the Rural District there are three water Undertakers whose natural products are quite different in their composition, but by treatment the respective Undertakers have been able to supply water of a consistently good chemical and bacteriological standard. These Undertakers, the Eastbourne Waterworks Company, the Heathfield and District Water Company and the Bexhill Corporation, by enlargements and extensions, have been able to meet all increased domestic, agricultural and industrial needs.

As in parts of the area not covered by mains, water from wells and springs within Weald Clay is of an indifferent quality and of poor yield, the Council have continued to operate an Emergency Water Service whereby main water is delivered by tanker to householders whose supplies have failed. This has been an invaluable provision and continues to be very popular with those in need. During the year this vehicle travelled 9422 miles in the delivery of 502,600 gallons to householders.

North Western Parishes Scheme. Negotiations are still in progress with the Eastbourne Waterworks Company for a supply of main water to the Wealden Parishes comprising Alciston, Arlington, Berwick, Chalvington, Chiddingly, Lullington, East Hoathly, Hellingly, Laughton, Ripe and Selmeston, and it is hoped that the scheme will soon be ready for final approval.

EXTENSION OF MAINS.

Although no major extensions have been carried out during the year, considerable activity has been displayed by the Undertakers in their respective areas to afford supplies to municipal and private housing developments. The following is a summary of extensions carried out within the year:—

Eastbourne Waterworks Company. Extensions: (1) Eastdean Downlands, Eastdean. (2) Halland, East Hoathly.

(3) Magham Down and The Butts, Hailsham. (4) Carters Corner and London Road, Horsebridge, Hellingly. (5) Beachlands, Pevensey Bay. (6) Polegate Garden Estate, Polegate. (7) Gorringe Valley Estate, Wannock Avenue and Wannock Estate, Willingdon.

Bexhill Corporation. Extensions: (1) Victoria Road, Herstmonceux to Tiles Farm, Bodle Street. (Negotiations are proceeding for a further extension to Thorneyfolds and Bartletts within the Parish of Warbleton.) (2) Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux.

Heathfield Water Company. Extensions: Although no new mains were laid during 1954 the renewal of approximately 1000 yards of old 4 in. main between Maynards Green and Sandy Cross, Heathfield, was completed with a link of 100 yards of 3 in. main to Churwell Road, Waldron.

Distribution of Supplies. The following table shows the distribution of supplies and indicates that approximately 86.5% of the population is provided with a piped water supply.

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 ..	632	199	10	—
Arlington ..	201	43	25	—
Berwick ..	87	—	—	30
Chalvington ..	—	—	—	—
Chiddingly ..	—	—	—	—
Eastdean ..	771	250	—	—
East Hoathly ..	114	38	—	—
Folkington ..	32	9	—	—
Friston ..	414	138	—	—
Hailsham ..	5319	1773	—	—
Heathfield ..	2952	954	—	—
Hellingly ..	2638	396	—	—
Herstmonceux ..	1216	392	10	—
Hooe ..	201	42	—	24
Horam ..	1217	407	—	—
Jevington ..	141	10	37	—
Laughton ..	—	—	—	—
Litlington ..	97	—	—	37
Lullington ..	19	4	—	2
Ninfield ..	981	336	—	—
Pevensey ..	2228	747	—	—
Polegate ..	4185	1393	—	—
Ripe ..	—	—	—	—
Selmeston ..	—	—	—	—
Waldron ..	2317	752	—	—
Warbleton ..	241	78	—	—
Wartling ..	391	127	—	—
Westdean ..	92	22	7	—
Westham ..	1838	607	10	—
Willingdon ..	3008	1012	—	—
Wilmington ..	172	61	—	—
Total ..	31,628	9,790	99	130

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Owing to pressure of housing work and acute shortage of staff, little progress has been made on new sewerage schemes. The Council's consulting engineers are preparing the detailed working drawings for a new pumping station and sea outfall for Pevensey and Westham. Plans are being prepared to redesign the Polegate and Willingdon works which have been overloaded for many years. A preliminary survey has been made in the Alfriston area but owing to staff difficulties this scheme has had to take second place to the Polegate and Willingdon Scheme.

Small works of improvement and maintenance have been carried out by direct labour. These have included the construction at the Gardner Street sewage disposal works of twin tanks to remove by settlement, the humus discharged from the filter beds. This has had the effect of improving considerably the final effluent from the works.

The East Sussex River Board, which now appears to be establishing itself under the new machinery, has commenced a series of analyses of the effluents from existing sewage works. Unsatisfactory samples from the Polegate and Hailsham works have rendered it necessary to consider the expenditure of time and money on temporary works of improvement.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In order to prevent the pollution of rivers and streams, the department has been active in dealing with any premises found to be discharging offensive drainage effluents into watercourses. It is satisfactory to report that assistance has in some cases been sought and obtained from the River Board Officers to reinforce our action in dealing with questions of difficulty, and this has resulted in a marked improvement in certain streams and a growing awareness of the dangers attending pollution.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

For some years past the Council have undertaken the removal of house refuse from the whole district by means of area visits at weekly or fortnightly intervals as the density of the population demands. This involves the employment of six dustless loaders, all of Dennis pattern, and a dual purpose vehicle fitted as a relief dustless loader when required, also the engagement of an outdoor staff of 27 men.

In spite of the rapidly developing parts of the district, particularly in the southern part of the area and coastal fringes, the work has been carried out without additional staff or complaint, but it is anticipated that increases will soon be imperative.

The Council have not undertaken the removal of trade waste but facilities have been offered in built up areas for the use of the tips by traders who are in difficulty concerning disposal.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The practice of tipping has been followed for some years at four tips, where a modified form of controlled tipping continues, assisted by the use of a mechanical excavator for the preparation of soil covering. This is invaluable in the suppression of pests, as well as in enlarging and extending the life of the respective tips. A limited amount of incineration has been tried but cannot be adopted generally by reason of the proximity of dwellings.

MAINTENANCE DEPOT.

The Council's depot at Leap Cross, originally serving as a garage, has been adapted as far as circumstances would permit, as a maintenance workshop for the twelve vehicles, but since it continues to house three vehicles, its use as a workshop for major overhauls has been severely handicapped. The Council have therefore been negotiating for its acquisition and conversion to an enlarged unit as a central depot, office and stores, which will also include space for garaging three vehicles housed elsewhere under precarious tenure and remote from a central area. This would assure easier supervision, improved working conditions and safer storage. In spite of the drawbacks, the work of complete overhaul of several vehicles has been capably undertaken by the Foreman Mechanic, with the result that they have been kept in a satisfactory state of efficiency at a great saving in costs and time.

DISTRICT SALVAGE SCHEME.

In view of the renewed demand for raw materials recoverable from house refuse collections, and a corresponding improvement in prices, additional efforts were made to increase the yield by stimulating public interest and the employment for a few weeks of a part-time baler. This resulted

in an increase in receipts from £654. 9. 11. in 1953 to £1,026 15. 10. in 1954. In the event of the demand being maintained it is confidently anticipated that this result can be improved.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

A service is available for all parts of the district where cesspools are in use and this is carried out by three Dennis Vacuum Emptiers. In the parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron the cost is met out of Special Rates levied and the full use of one vehicle and part use of a second is entailed. In the remaining parishes of the district the scheme operates on a "pay as we empty" basis, engaging the remaining time of the second vehicle and the full time of the third. This service has been of great benefit to the community and the following is a summary of the work carried out.

	<i>Cesspools</i>	<i>Loads</i>
District Scheme	1,548	2,802
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron Scheme	1,583	2,414

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL.

Provision has been made for some years for the removal of night soil twice weekly in the village of Alfriston, and this scheme continues to operate. It is the intention of the Council to discontinue this in favour of the water carriage system when redrainage of the village is undertaken.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

The repetitive work carried out under these Acts gives little cause for comment, but all factories in the district are visited regularly as well as the numerous nursery gardens in the area, to ensure that hygienic conditions are satisfactory.

Irregularities have generally been remedied as a result of verbal notice to the managements concerned.

SHOPS ACT 1950 and FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

The following table shows the number of inspections made to ensure the control of food premises in the area. Little cause for complaint was found. An increase in the number of hawkers vans and mobile shops is indicative of the need for traders to compete for custom, and when the number of shop keepers who offer sidelines to their main trade is considered as well, it seems that ample provision is made for the population.

Summary of Inspections of Food Premises

	<i>Number in District</i>	<i>Total Number of Inspections made</i>
Bakehouses	20	74
Bakers' Shops	15	5
Butchers' Shops	31	420
Cafes and Snack Bars	78	253
Fish Shops	14	121
Greengrocers	18	48
Grocers and General Stores	127	293
Hawkers	27	42
Ice-Cream Sellers	101	199
Public Houses and Guest Houses	112	264
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	543	1719
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>

HOUSING.

At the end of the year there still remained some 530 applicants for Council houses. Thus the demand for houses still continues, despite the fact that up to 31st December 1954, 741 Council houses or flats have been erected since the war. In the allocation of houses special attention is given by the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee to the individual merits of every case. Where possible exchanges are made in order that the family should fit the house, and every consideration is given to the question of problem families. During the year 75 new Council houses were completed and occupied.

More use has been made of Improvement Grants and of 48 applications received during the year, 26 have been granted, 14 refused, 7 withdrawn by applicants and 1 still remained under consideration at the end of the year.

Five applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 and all these applications were granted. No certificates were cancelled during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during year as a result of formal or informal procedure	3
Number of houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and still in force	12
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during year as a result of informal action under Public Health and Housing Acts	211
Number of houses made fit after service of formal Notices under the Housing Act 1936	3
Number of houses made fit after service of formal Notices under the Public Health Acts	5

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The sampling of milk retailed in the area has continued and the samples sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Brighton. Details are given below.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i>	1
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i>	3
Satisfactory	67
No result—guinea pig died	1
	72

METHYLENE BLUE TEST

	<i>Ungraded</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>
Samples taken	35	41	9
Satisfactory	28	35	9
Unsatisfactory	7	6	Nil

Reports on samples taken by other local authorities of milk produced in this area were received and are summarised below.

	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i>	5
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i>	13
	18

Four cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order from herds producing infected milk.

Where *Brucella abortus* has been isolated the herd owners have co-operated and taken advantage of the Health Department's offer to take quarter samples in order to trace the infected cow or cows, as a result 462 samples were submitted for examination. Follow-up samples from four cows traced in 1953 were continued but were given up after nine months as the cows were still infected and the owner had decided to continue to send his milk for heat-treatment and not to revert to bottling.

Following a report that a bulk sample was infected with *Brucella abortus*, quarter samples taken from the herd revealed that one cow was secreting *Brucella melitensis*. This result was confirmed by the Veterinary Research Station, Weybridge, the cow subsequently being slaughtered under the *Brucella Melitensis* Order 1940. It is interesting to note that this herd adjoined, and was downwind from the herd from which two cows were taken under this Order in 1953, yet in no other way were the two herds connected.

Although undulant fever in man is caused by infection with *Brucella melitensis* or *Brucella abortus*, no cases of this disease were brought to my notice during the year.

I should like to record the help and co-operation which I have received from the local veterinary surgeons, both those in private practice and those of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At the end of the year there were 25 producer-retailers and 18 distributors retailing milk in the district.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The most important event of the year from the point of view of food inspection was the end of meat rationing, with its attendant return to slaughtering by local butchers. Before July the Council had a meeting with the members of the Hailsham Butchers Group to discuss the adequacy of the slaughtering facilities in the district. After this meeting the butchers owning their own slaughterhouses proceeded to put their premises in order and at the end of the year the position under the Slaughterhouses Act 1954 was as follows:—

Premises licenced to 31st July 1959	..	7
Premises licenced for one year	.. ..	3
		—
		10
		—

No application was received in respect of two premises previously licenced.

One knackers yard was licenced for one year under the provisions of Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, the premises being expressly licenced for the slaughter of horses.

As was anticipated, it was not possible for the officers carrying out the meat inspection duties to do so without working a considerable amount of overtime, which for the period from July to December inclusive amounted to over 200 hours. In addition the Council agreed that the meat inspectors should act as Certifying Officers at Ordinary Deadweight Centres under the Government's Fatstock Guarantee Scheme. Most of the grading is carried out after normal office hours and 96 payment certificates were issued.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation given to the department by the master butchers and their employees, as a result of which it was not found necessary to take formal action over any matter.

There are 46 slaughtermen licenced under the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954.

Unsound food is disposed of by burial on the Council's refuse tips or released to approved persons for processing for products not intended for human consumption.

The attention of food handlers has been drawn to the Clean Food Byelaws, although no formal action has been necessary. The importance of hygiene in the handling and preparation of food has been stressed in talks given to Civil Defence Rest Centre Staffs.

The sale of ice-cream continues to be popular in the area, most of it being prewrapped and manufactured by large concerns. Two premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, 101 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, and in addition there are 37 catering establishments selling ice-cream.

DETAILS OF MEAT FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

This year the details of diseased or unsound meat have been summarised as the total quantity condemned for each condition, included in which are five complete carcasses (4 pigs and 1 calf).

Total No. of animals inspected:

(116 Bullocks, 56 Cows, 443 Heifers,
163 Calves, 387 Sheep and 1,325 Pigs) .. 2,490

Estimated Total Weight of Carcasses In-
spected 632,954 lbs.

Total weight of unsound meat with-held 4,186 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Abscesses	216 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Actinomycosis	102 lbs.
Bone Taint and Putrefaction ..	434 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bruising	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cavernous Angeoma	33 lbs.
Cirrhosis	20 lbs.
Cysts	1 lb.
Distomatosis	118 lbs.
Fatty Infiltration	5 lbs.
Fever	56 lbs.
Hydatid Cysts	2 lbs.
Joint-ill	68 lbs.
Nephritis	14 lbs.
Parasites	4 lbs.
Pericarditis	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Pleurisy and Congestion ..	29 lbs.
Pneumonia	137 lbs.
Septic Peritonitis	200 lbs.
Speargrass (seedy breasts) ..	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Strongylosis	6 lbs.
Swine Erysipelas	80 lbs.
Tuberculosis	2,540 lbs.

Total weight of unsound poultry with-held 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Ascites (1 hen)	7 lbs.
Oedema (1 chicken)	3 lbs.
Tumour (3 hens)	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Summary of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs Slaughtered and Inspected

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed ..	559	56	179	416	1325
No. inspected ..	559	56	163	387	1325
<i>All diseases, except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	1	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was con- demned ..	28	8	—	12	27
% of No. inspect- ed affected with disease other than tubercu- losis	5	14.3	0.6	3.1	2.3
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	1	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	17	13	—	—	20
% of No. inspect- ed affected ..	3	25	—	—	1.6

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH BY
THIS DEPARTMENT

<i>Foodstuff</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Tinned and cooked meats	74½
Fish	34
Tinned Soup	1
Tinned Milk	16
Tinned Fruit	25
Tinned Vegetables	7½
6 bottles Lemon Squash	8½
1 tin Liquid Eggs	28
2 cases Irish Skinned Rabbits	60
1 parcel Beef Sausage Meat	40
	294½

RODENT CONTROL.

Systematic treatment is given to all refuse tips, sewage works, and local authority properties, and as a result of sustained efforts, such premises have been kept singularly free from major infestations. Treatment of private dwellings is carried out gratis, and this has encouraged a greater public interest in notifying initial infestations, which is the secret of successful control.

In consequence of the combined activities of the Council's staff and the County Pest Department, with whom there is close liaison, there has been a marked reduction in the number of major rat infestations, but the number of cases of mice infestation has increased. A charge is made for the treatment of all business premises.

Experience proves that Warfarin baits for rats are reliable and successful under most conditions, whilst Sorex D is invariably used for mice with similar results.

Test baiting of all sewers was carried out with nil results.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts					453
Housing Acts Reinspections					286
Complaints					129
Public Health Nuisances					313
Public Health Nuisances Reinspections					222
Pollution of Watercourses					126
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc.					92
Offensive Accumulations					94
Drains and Sewers Inspected					237
Drainage tested					98
Closet Accommodation					85
Verminous Premises dealt with					39
Infectious Diseases					19
Rooms Disinfected					24
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.					302
Rats and Mice Destruction					732
Markets					24
Public Cleansing					1,025
Salvage					177
Water Sources examined, protected and/or corrected					
Investigations re sources and applications for					
mains					647
Water Analyses:					
Chemical—					
Satisfactory	2	Unsatisfactory	1		
Biological—					
Satisfactory	39	Unsatisfactory	51		93
Milk and Dairies					250
Slaughterhouses					662
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.					953
Catering Establishments					517
Ice Cream Shops					199
Knackers' Yards					45
Bakehouses					74
Factories, Workshops, etc.					451
Laundries					4
Housing Applicants and Selection of Tenants Sub-					
Committee					887
Smoke Observations and visits					42
Cesspool Emptying					151
Miscellaneous					169
					9,621



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