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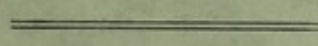


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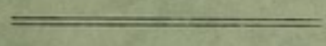
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RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM



Sum.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1958



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

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A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
T O T H E
H A I L S H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L
1 9 5 8

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

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

This year the incidence of epidemic disease in the district was particularly low. A glance at the vital statistics reveals that the health of this district compared very favourably with that of the rest of the country.

Progress in those environmental matters which affect the health of the community, namely housing, water supplies and sewerage is being maintained, although it is not possible to provide immediately, in the more isolated areas of a rural district, the amenities expected by an urban population.

I am grateful to all the members of the public health staff for their loyalty and hard work during the year, and all have co-operated in some way in the production of this report.

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.

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.,

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector

L.E. Scott, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors
and Meat and Food Inspectors

M.F. Warman, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.
R.R. Creasey, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

Sanitary Assistant and Rodent
Operator

J.F. Stanford

Rodent Operator

R. Cousins

Chief Clerk

R.S. Oak

Clerical Assistants

Miss M. Wright
Miss P. Mephram

Official address

Public Health Department,
Cortlandt,
Hailsham, Sussex.

Tel. No. Hailsham 206

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was a remarkably low number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year, the total being 135 compared with 374 for 1957 and 531 for 1956. During the year only four cases were admitted to isolation hospital, three of these being merely observation cases. Three other cases had been admitted to a general hospital.

Measles

Only 61 cases were notified as compared with 140 cases in 1957 and 400 cases in 1956. Thus it appears that two non-epidemic years occurred consecutively but in fact most of the cases in 1958 were towards the end of the year and built up into the large epidemic of 1959.

Whooping Cough

There were only 20 cases of Whooping Cough compared with 154 in 1957. The immunisation state of every case was investigated. Of the 13 cases in children aged 5 years and under, 8 had been immunised against whooping cough and 5 had not. Of course such small figures are useless from a statistical point of view but it is also quite clear that immunisation against whooping cough with the vaccines used does not give a hundred per cent protection against the disease.

Scarlet Fever

There were 10 cases of scarlet fever compared with 7 in 1957. As has been the rule in recent years all cases were very mild.

Diphtheria

Again there was no case of diphtheria during the year, there having been only one imported case during the last eleven years. One man was admitted to the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital in the month of March to exclude the possibility of diphtheria but bacteriological investigations proved that this was not a case of diphtheria.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There was only one case of poliomyelitis in this district in the year. This was a man aged 28 years from Hailsham. He was diagnosed as being a case of poliomyelitis whilst he was being treated as an in-patient in St. Mary's Hospital. He eventually made a good recovery.

Two other cases were admitted to hospital for observation but in neither case was poliomyelitis confirmed.

Dysentery

In the early part of the year there was a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at Hellingly Hospital. There were 16 cases in all as well as a few symptomless carriers which were discovered in the course of laboratory investigations. This small outbreak was confined to two male wards one of which contained very low grade cases. In November there was one further case of Flexner X Dysentery in the hospital.

Typhoid Fever

One notification of typhoid fever was received in respect of a girl aged 15 years. This person was normally a resident of Spain and had only returned for a holiday in this country three days before being taken ill. It was clear in this case that the infection was derived from a Spanish source. The 'phage' type of the organism further confirmed its Spanish origin.

Food Poisoning

The case of food poisoning notified was in respect of a child aged 2½ years at Oak Hall L.C.C. Nursery, Broad Oak. The child was taken ill the day after admission to the nursery so it was obvious that the child had been infected prior to his arrival at the nursery. The type of infection was Salmonella typhi-murium. Fortunately owing to the prompt isolation of the case no other cases developed in the nursery.

In addition to the notified case two children from one family who had been admitted to hospital for tonsillectomy were found to be symptomless carriers of Salmonella typhi-murium and discharged to their own home. On investigation a third child in the family was found also to be a symptomless carrier of Salmonella typhi-murium. Only one child was of school age and he was kept away from school until shown to be free from infection.

Tuberculosis

There were 6 deaths attributable to tuberculosis compared with 5 in 1957. However there were only 8 new cases notified which is the smallest number for any previous year. Between 1946 and 1955 the average number of new cases notified per year was over 40.

The East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit carried out surveys at Hailsham and Herstmonceux during the year. A total number of 638 persons were X-rayed. There were no cases of active or inactive pulmonary tuberculosis discovered among these persons. Four cases of other disease were brought to light.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Records Received

1956	Vaccinations	278	Re-vaccinations	124	Total	402
1957	Vaccinations	335	Re-vaccinations	190	Total	525
1958	Vaccinations	318	Re-vaccinations	164	Total	482

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Under the National Health Service Act, the County Council is responsible for the Vaccination and Immunisation Services. The arrangement by which the local administration of these services has been delegated by the County Medical Officer of Health to the District Medical Officers has worked very satisfactorily in this district. Unfortunately, on the grounds of economy, steps are being taken to centralise the service with the County Council. In the case of this district no effective economy will be made by such centralisation. Any "paper" gain of the County Council will be at the expense of the District Council. It is indeed a retrograde step much to be deplored.

The figures given below show that the number of immunisations performed in the year has remained satisfactory, in fact, the number of refresher doses given is a record. The majority of these refresher doses have been given by me at clinics in the schools after having found the cases during routine school medical inspections. When a parent is present verbal consent is obtained at that time for the immunisation.

1956	Complete Courses	420	Refresher Doses	897
1957	Complete Courses	462	Refresher Doses	886
1958	Complete Courses	410	Refresher Doses	962

Of the complete courses given during the year, 60 were of the combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and 332 were of the triple Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus antigen.

During the year I personally conducted regular immunisation clinics at Hailsham, Heathfield and Polegate and occasional clinics at Alfriston, Broad Oak, Chiddingly, Cross-in-Hand, East Dean, East Hoathly, Hankham, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Maynards Green, Punnetts Town, Selmeston and Willingdon.

The annual return showing separate figures for the children inoculated during the last five years and for children last inoculated more than five years ago is given overleaf:-

Age on 31.12.58 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1958	1-4 1954-1957	5-9 1949-1953	10-14 1944-1948	Under 15 Total
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954-1958	134	1438	1832	1491	4895
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1953 or earlier	-	-	474	1277	1751

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

Many cases of aged and infirm persons living under insanitary circumstances have been referred to me and kept under observation. In some cases it has been possible eventually to persuade the person to enter a home where proper care can be provided. In only one case was it necessary to take statutory action under the above act. This was in the case of an old man living alone in a house in Willingdon. He was kept under observation for some eight months but eventually his general condition gradually declined until he became completely bed-ridden and was so weak that he could barely open a thermos put beside his bed by a home help. Application was made to the Hailsham Court and an order was made for his removal to hospital.

Any order depriving a person of his freedom and of his will to live and die in his own home should only be made at the very last resort. It is surprising how long persons may go on living reasonably happily in their own environment and under unsatisfactory conditions provided a minimum of outside help is available. It is only as a life saving measure that action should be taken under the above act. The act is not suitable for dealing with eccentric and mentally unstable persons as no special provision can be made for such persons in the available accommodation.

Section 50

Notification was received from the Police that the remains of a man had been found in a wood at Herstmonceux. From enquiries made it was ascertained that the remains were those of a man who had discharged himself from Hellingly Hospital some months previously.

Accordingly it was necessary for the Council to exercise their powers under this Act and arrange for the burial.

CANCER OF THE LUNGS

Although in this district the number of deaths from cancer of the lung was slightly lower than in the previous year this can only be regarded as a small fluctuation in the generally increasing trend of recent years as shown in the table below. In England and Wales the total number of deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus increased from 19,119 in 1957 to 19,809 in 1958. Research has shown a definite relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung and therefore it is most important that young people should be educated not to form a habit which may be very difficult to break. It should also be noted that even regular smokers can decrease the chances of contracting cancer of the lung by ceasing to smoke.

DEATHS DUE TO CANCER OF LUNG AND BRONCHUS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950	5	3	8
1951	7	2	9
1952	7	6	13
1953	13	3	16
1954	13	1	14
1955	13	3	16
1956	18	6	24
1957	27	3	30
1958	21	6	27

VITAL STATISTICS

The corrected death rate was 10.9 compared with 10.0 for 1957 and 11.7 for the whole of England and Wales.

The corrected birth rate was 13.9 compared with 13.8 for 1957 and 16.4 for the whole of England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate was 11.4, which is very satisfactory compared with a record low infant mortality rate of 22.5 for the whole of the country.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	94,668
Census population (1951)	36,916
Population estimated to middle year	39,350
Number of inhabited houses	13,498
Rateable value	£503,285
Sum represented by penny rate	£2,008.10s.10d.

Live births	439
Live births per 1,000 population (not corrected)	11.2
Comparability factor	1.25
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	13.9
Still births	7
Still births rate per 1,000 live and still births	15.7
Total live and still births	446
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Total	11.4
" " " " " " " - Legitimate	12.0
" " " " " " " - Illegitimate	Nil
Neo Natal (1st 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	11.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.5%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
Total deaths per 1,000 population (not corrected)	16.7
Comparability factor	0.65
Total deaths per 1,000 population (corrected)	10.9
Senile mortality as percentage of total deaths (65 and over)	74.8

BIRTHS

Legitimate:	Total	415	Males	213	Females	202
Illegitimate:	Total	24	Males	12	Females	12

STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate:	Total	6	Males	2	Females	4
Illegitimate:	Total	1	Males	-	Females	1

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Legitimate:	Total	5	Males	3	Females	2
Illegitimate:	Total	-	Males	-	Females	-

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Hailsham Rural	13.9	11.4	10.9
England & Wales	16.4	22.5	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	21	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	15
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	24	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	48	83
18. Coronary disease, angina	67	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	6
20. Other heart diseases	47	58
21. Other circulatory diseases	9	14
22. Influenza	2	3
23. Pneumonia	24	25
24. Bronchitis	7	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	7	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	3
34. All other accidents	5	13
35. Suicide	4	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
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	324	334
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CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25 yrs & over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	7	-	1	-	10
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	2	2	12	1	1	-	22
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Measles	1	1	2	7	3	25	15	4	3	61
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	14	18
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	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	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other observation cases	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	1	-
Whooping Cough	22	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Measles	61	-	-
Dysentery	17	-	-
Pneumonia	18	1	1
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Typhoid Fever	1	1	-
Other observation cases	-	3	-

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	2	2	-	-	2	-	1	1
65 and over	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Total	2	5	1	-	4	-	1	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Main water is still supplied in the district by three Statutory Water Undertakings, namely (a) The Bexhill Water Corporation, (b) Eastbourne Waterworks Company, and (c) Heathfield and District Water Company. Regular analyses of the water supplied in the mains prove that the supplies reach a high standard of purity.

During the year agreement was reached between the Eastbourne Waterworks Company and the Heathfield and District Water Company on the terms of amalgamation of those two companies and a Draft Order to that effect is now under consideration by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

In addition to the Statutory Water Undertakings there are three different estate water supplies serving the parishes of Alciston, Berwick and Litlington and here again regular analyses of the water have proved satisfactory.

During the year the Council agreed to an extension of the water main from Alfriston to serve properties in Litlington and Lullington so as to replace the present private estate supply, and it is hoped to carry out the main-laying in the new year.

In November the Minister of Housing and Local Government gave formal consent to the raising of the necessary loan for the North Western Parishes Water Scheme and therefore it is hoped that the commencement of the work will not long be delayed.

The Emergency Water Service whereby householders in need are provided with main water by means of an 800 gallon water tanker continued to operate and during the year 533,000 gallons were delivered.

Extension of Mains

Bexhill Corporation - A short length of main was laid to the new Fire Station, Herstmonceux for general use of the Fire Brigade.

Eastbourne Waterworks Company - During the year a further 2,553 yards of main varying in size from 2" to 6" were laid in the parishes of Eastdean, Hailsham, Pevensey, Polegate and Willington. Generally these extensions were in connection with new house building developments.

Heathfield & District Water Company - 530 yards of 6" main were laid in Cade Street, Heathfield so as to boost the pressure in that area.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES

The following table details the distribution of piped supplies and from which it will be seen that approximately 82.6% of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private Main	No. of houses supplied		
		By Public Main	By Stand-Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston	95	-	-	38
Alfriston	541	206	-	-
Arlington	183	47	25	-
Berwick	86	1	-	30
Chalvington	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-
Eastdean	822	330	-	-
East Hoathly	133	49	-	-
Folkington	56	21	-	-
Friston	237	93	-	-
Hailsham	5080	1766	-	-
Heathfield	2876	992	-	-
Hellingly	2092	443	-	-
Herstmonceux	1445	488	-	-
Hoe	227	87	-	-
Horam	1431	482	-	-
Jevington	122	10	37	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-
Litlington	98	-	-	39
Lullington	26	5	-	2
Ninfield	997	349	-	-
Pevensay	2079	1018	-	-
Polegate	4497	1704	-	-
Ripe	-	-	-	-
Selmeston	3	-	-	1
Waldron	2328	809	-	-
Warbleton	420	150	-	-
Wartling	406	138	-	-
Westdean	60	22	10	-
Westham	1836	654	-	-
Willingdon	4112	1564	-	-
Wilmington	203	67	-	-
<hr/>				
Total	32491	11495	72	110
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Drainage and Sewerage

The new sea outfall and the pumping station for the Pevensey and Westham Sewerage Scheme were substantially completed during the year and the works are now in use.

Formal approval was given by the Ministry to the acceptance of the tender and consent given for loan sanction for the construction and maintenance of combined sewage purification works at Polegate and trunk sewers and other incidental works in Polegate and Willingdon. The contractors commenced work in May 1958 and completion is expected sometime in 1960.

Details of the Alfriston Sewerage Scheme were submitted to the Ministry together with an application for loan consent and grant. The Minister's decision was still awaited at the end of the year.

Among minor works carried out by direct labour has been the filling in of an obsolete sewage plant serving a small group of houses in Battle Road, Hailsham and the connection of those houses to the main sewer; small improvements to the sewage works at Gardner Street, Herstmonceux; improvements to the sewage works at Ghyll Road, Heathfield which included the provision of sand filtration; commencement on a new sewage plant to serve the houses at Wartling Village and the provision of a storm overflow at No. 2 Pumping Station, Pevensey to give relief in times of storm to prevent flooding which had been occurring in the gardens of properties in Wallsend Road. The gas engines and pumps at No. 3 Pumping Station, Westham which were worn and overloaded were replaced by larger electric pumpsets.

Towards the end of the year the Council asked their officers to report on the priority to be given to sewerage schemes for those parishes at present without main drainage. With the advent of main water to certain parishes it will be necessary to provide proper sewerage schemes and it is to be hoped that too long a delay will not occur between the arrival of main water and the installation of sewerage schemes.

Removal of Night Soil

Unfortunately this mediaeval practice still continues in the parish of Alfriston, however the end of this antiquated system is in sight with the proposals to provide sewers in the near future.

Public Cleansing

A new Dennis Paxit Major 11 was purchased in August to replace two existing ten year old side loading refuse vehicles.

The present fleet of vehicles now engaged on refuse collection consists of 1 Dennis Paxit Major 11, 1 Dennis Paxit, three 10 cubic yard Dennis side loaders, and 1 Dual Purpose Vehicle for use when any of the other vehicles are out of service through mechanical failure. The remaining side loaders will need to be replaced within the next 3 years and the principle of providing new vehicles of the dustless loading type should be continued. The side loading vehicle should be considered as out-of-date in view of the difficulty in preventing refuse being blown off the vehicle whilst loading is in progress.

Weekly collection of refuse continued in the urbanised parishes of Alfriston, Hailsham, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon whilst fortnightly collections were performed elsewhere in the rural parts of the district. Building development continued in the southern part of the area but despite the increase in dwellings a regular service was maintained without the need for extra labour.

It is estimated that 6,845 tons of refuse were collected during the year, i.e. an average of 9.5 cwts. per 1,000 head of population per day.

The purchasing of vehicles fitted with Diesel engines has shown a reduction in fuel costs, which are rather high with petrol engines which consume fuel at the rate of 7 miles per gallon compared with an average of 11 miles per gallon with Diesel engines.

Refuse Disposal

Three tips are in use for the disposal of refuse, one in the northern, one in the central and one in the southern part of the district. A fourth tip at Broad Farm, Hellingly was acquired in view of the fact that the other central tip was rapidly filling and that it was expected that the southern tip would have to be discontinued. Fortunately the owner of the southern tip extended the period in which this tip could be used until 30th September, 1959 and therefore the new tip at Broad Farm, Hellingly was not brought into use although preliminary works were carried out.

The new Bray B.L. 430 Mechanical Shovel which was purchased in March 1958 has proved very effective in the control of the tips and when the new central tip is in operation it will be possible to dispense with all manual labour on refuse tips.

The refuse is disposed of partly by controlled tipping and partly by incineration and consolidation.

Maintenance Depot

The Foreman Mechanic has again proved his worth by the excellent way he has maintained the fleet of vehicles. The walls of the workshop which are of war-time corrugated iron are now in need of replacement and it is hoped to provide new brick walls to the steel framed structure in 1959.

District Salvage Scheme

The low prices obtainable for paper and other materials and the relative high cost of labour has rendered the salvaging of large quantities uneconomical. However rags, non-ferrous metal etc. were salvaged wherever possible.

Cesspool Cleansing

Three 750 gallon Dennis Cesspool Emptying vehicles are still employed on this service. The number of cesspools to be emptied increases yearly and overtime is necessary in order to cope with the demands on the service. Unfortunately in rural areas this service is necessary as it is impractical at reasonable cost to provide the necessary main drainage in the more rural parts of the district. It is however hoped that in the course of the next few years some of the more urbanised parishes will be provided with sewers.

Cesspool contents are usually disposed of by tipping on agricultural land or woodland remote from houses and streams. Due to the heavy rainfall during 1958 difficulty was experienced by the vehicles in traversing agricultural land and suitable sites with a hard approach road are rare. Accordingly it was necessary on some occasions to transport the cesspool contents relatively long distances so that the sewage could be disposed of without giving rise to nuisance or contamination of streams.

All the vehicles are supplied with a sprayer for attachment to the outlet and this results in the sewage being spread over a large area with a resultant quicker soakage of the sewage into the soil.

The Council decided to replace a 13 year old vehicle by a new 1,000 gallon cesspool emptier and it is hoped that the new vehicle will be in operation early in 1959.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

It has not been found necessary to take any Statutory action in respect of any default or nuisance at any factory. The chief cause of trouble has been delay in the cleansing of bakehouse walls and ceilings.

Shops Act, 1950, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938

In general the improvement of food premises continues and no Statutory action has been necessary.

Two complaints were received of foreign bodies in loaves of bread, both manufactured outside the area. One loaf was found to contain a small length of string as from the neck of a flour sack and the other alleged to contain a "fly" had in actual fact a piece of burned grease from the dough mixing machine in it. The wholesale bakers in both cases were warned to exercise more care in future.

Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations

Lack of wash hand basin	1
Lack of covering to stall	1
Risk of contamination	5
Fittings defective or unclean	2

Summary of Inspections of Food Premises

	<u>Number in District</u>	<u>Total Number of Inspections Made</u>
Bakehouses	18	41
Butchers' Shops	32	362
Bakers' Shops	22	28
Cafes, Snack Bars and Canteens	91	97
Fish Shops	15	53
Greengrocers	21	37
Grocers and General Stores	135	103
Hawkers	23	5
Ice Cream Sellers (plus 43 catering Establishments)	98	73
Public Houses and Guest Houses	101	53
Sweet Shops	34	20

Housing

With the erection of 46 Council dwellings at Horam it was possible to proceed with the re-housing of families to be displaced from unfit houses and consequently good progress was made with the Slum Clearance Programme. It is now considered that the worst of these unfit houses have been dealt with but naturally there still remain many unfit houses which although structurally sound are let at such low rentals that their repair and modernisation will prove uneconomic unless the tenants are re-housed and the dwellings consequently decontrolled under the provisions of the Rent Act, 1957.

It will be appreciated that there are numerous cottage properties in the more rural parts of the area which are affected with inherent dampness and lack most amenities including main water and adequate drainage. Closet accommodation still consists of the Earth Closet at the end of the garden. Improvement Grants would be the answer to the problem if only owners could be persuaded to avail themselves of this opportunity but it appears that most owners prefer to wait until the property is vacated when it can be disposed of to some owner-occupier who may then carry out a modernisation scheme with the aid of a grant.

The charming old country cottages may be very pleasing to the eye but with their dampness, small windows, low pitched ceilings, bad arrangement, lack of amenities and outmoded fireplaces and appliances they must be detrimental to the health of the occupants and present a problem in efficient house management.

The Council received 53 applications for Improvement Grants and of this number 37 were granted, 4 refused, 7 were withdrawn and 5 were still under consideration. Repayment with interest was made in respect of 3 Improvement Grants made in former years. During the year the Council purchased a terrace of three cottages in Ninfield and modernised them with the aid of Improvement Grants.

A few applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, and it is quite obvious that in most cases landlords and tenants have settled their problems amicably or that rents have not been increased in view of the relatively large amount of repairs required and the small increase of rent permissible.

It was not necessary for the Council to re-house any tenant who had received notice to quit under the decontrol sections of the Rent Act, 1957 so presumably in those cases where owners had taken action the tenants concerned were able to find their own alternative accommodation.

Details of the applications received under the Rent Act, 1957 and the action taken are as follows:-

PART 1 - APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1)	Number of applications for certificates	...	...	18
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	Nil	
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	18
	(a) In respect of some but not all defects	...	...	14
	(b) In respect of all defects	...	...	4
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	14
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	Nil	
(6)	Number of certificates issued	...	...	10

PART 11 - APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	6
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	2
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...	...	2
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	8

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal procedure	10
Number of houses closed under Section 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957	14
Number of houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given under Section 16 (4) of the Housing Act, 1957 ...	1
Number of parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	1
Number of families re-housed by Local Authority from houses the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders ...	28
Number of houses made fit after formal action under Sections 9 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	3
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	1
Number of houses made fit after formal action under the Public Health Acts	2

CARAVAN SITES

There are several large caravan sites within this district and these provide a much required need for holiday makers during the summer months. Much time has been spent by the staff in ensuring that these sites are well and properly maintained. It is gratifying to report that most of these sites are now equipped with main water, a sufficient number of water closets and adequate drainage, and site owners in some instances have also been persuaded to provide showers or bathrooms equipped with hot and cold water. It is hoped that owners of the smaller sites will also follow this admirable standard in the near future.

The individual caravans which are dotted about the countryside and which are often used as permanent homes do however present a problem when the occupants consist of families with young children. The itinerant gypsy with his picturesque horse drawn caravan is now almost a thing of the past although there were occasions during the year when it was necessary to request these travellers of the highway to move on.

Milk and Dairies

There was an overall increase of 2 during the year in the number of retailer/producers and distributors, this is due to shopkeepers in areas served by the larger combine dairies taking milk for sale to their customers in emergency. All the heat treated milk sold in the area is obtained from premises out-side the area.

Emphasis continues to be laid on the raw milk supply when the monthly consumer samples are taken for despatch to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton for examination. A summary of results is given below:-

<u>Biological Examination</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	
Infected with M. Tuberculosis	-	
Infected with Brucella Melitensis	-	
Infected with Brucella Abortus	-	
Satisfactory	47	
	<hr/>	
	47	
	<hr/>	

<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>	<u>Raw Milk</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>
Satisfactory	33	11
Unsatisfactory	7	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Below is a summary of reports received from other authorities on milk produced in this area:-

	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Infected with M. Tuberculosis	-
Infected with Brucella Abortus	6
	<hr/>
	6
	<hr/>

In every case all the milk sold was heat treated and the producer was advised to boil milk used by persons on the farm.

Food Inspection

The routine slaughter of animals by the local butchers has continued throughout the year and so has the need for the meat inspectors to work overtime, fortunately only evening and not weekends.

The slaughterhouses approved as Certification Centres under the Government's Fatstock Guarantee Scheme were reduced in August to one. During the year the meat inspectors as Certifying Officers issued 300 certificates in respect of 1060 pigs.

None of the eight slaughterhouses licensed to 31st July, 1959 and the one licensed annually are used for the slaughter of horses. There is only one knackers yard in the district and this is annually licensed for the slaughter of horses. No formal action has been necessary to enforce compliance with the Slaughterhouse Byelaws approved in 1957 or under Government Regulations.

Regular visits are made to weekly poultry sales at two markets and to the large poultry service station, this latter organisation dealt with approximately 145,000 birds. Very few of the broilers produced in the area are processed within the district.

It was not necessary to take formal action under the Clean Food Byelaws but informal action was taken regarding smoking or animals in food rooms or displaying food below the 18" "dog height" with consequent risk of contamination. However, food products gave very little cause for complaint but where necessary warnings were given.

Meat and Poultry Inspected

During the year under review a total of 5,686 carcasses were inspected which included 149 bullocks, 312 cows, 625 heifers, 348 calves, 1,356 sheep, 2,896 pigs the total weight of the carcasses being estimated at 1,123,056 lbs.

As a result it was found necessary to withhold 8,151 lbs. of meat as unfit, and included 22 complete carcasses, i.e. 1 steer, 6 cows, 4 calves, 6 sheep and 5 pigs.

One notable feature was the large proportion of beef livers affected with Cirrhosis or Distomatosis no doubt due to the long wet periods over the past two years.

In addition to the above it was found necessary to withhold as unfit 877 hens, 223 chicken, 6 cocks, 5 turkeys and 2 ducks making a total of 1,113 carcasses and having a total weight of 4,370 lbs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and
Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	774	312	363	1429	2896	-
No. inspected	774	312	348	1356	2896	-
<u>All diseases, except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	4	5	7	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	82	66	1	57	141	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	10.9	22.4	1.7	4.8	5.1	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	3	-	-	17	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.4	1.3	-	-	0.6	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

<u>Foodstuff</u>	<u>Weight in lbs.</u>
Tinned milk 	1
Tinned fruit 	73
Tinned meat 	151½
Tinned vegetables 	95
Tinned fish 	5
Fish 	105
Cocoa 	3½
Soup 	2
Cream 	1
Cake 	1
Jam 	12

—————
450 lbs.
—————

Rodent Control

It has been rather an unusual year with regard to the movement of rats since they do not appear to have moved about to the same extent as in previous years. This is undoubtedly due to the wet season and would account to some extent for the reduction in the number of infestations found. This in its turn has permitted more inspections to be carried out in all types of premises.

On the whole rat infestations tend to become smaller and many such infestations can be attributed to badly run and badly sited compost heaps.

The latter part of this year has seen the non-renewal of contracts by the Agricultural Executive Committee since at the 31st March next this committee will cease all treatment of agricultural premises for rats. In consequence farmers have been advised to enter into contracts with private firms who undertake this work. Quite a number have already done this.

The usual attention has been given to food premises and any treatment required is always given priority. More work has been necessary at school canteens. Slaughterhouses have also been regularly inspected and appropriate action taken where necessary. The systematic treatment of refuse tips, sewage works and other properties owned by the Council has continued and as a result rats on these premises have been almost non-existent.

In view of the nil results obtained in the 10% test baiting of sewers in 1956 further testing was again considered unnecessary.

No Statutory Notices under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 were served.

Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)

Non-agricultural	5,586
Agricultural	779

Number of infestations found (Rats and Mice)

Non-agricultural	(a)	Major	102
	(b)	Minor	337
Agricultural	(a)	Major	5
	(b)	Minor	6

Number of treatments (including re-treatments)

Non-agricultural	462
Agricultural	11

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts and Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	433
Housing Act re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	542
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	141
Public Health Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	188
Public Health re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	171
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	15
Keeping of Animals Birds, Etc.	...	...	...	...	...	58
Drains and Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	165
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	22
Closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	13
Verminous premises dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	9
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	17
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	227
Pollution of Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	109
Water Sources	...	...	...	...	...	262
Water Analyses -						
Biological : Satisfactory	30	Unsatisfactory :	37			67

Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	1100
Cesspool Emptying	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Rats and Mice destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	720
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Factories, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Smoke observations and visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,187
Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	452
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Bakers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Catering establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Ice Cream Sellers	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Hawkers' premises and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Public Houses and Guest Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Poultry Packing Stations	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Housing Applicants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	501
Flies, Wasps, Mosquitoes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	238

Total inspections

7,435