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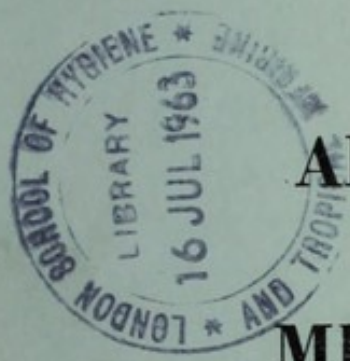


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RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM

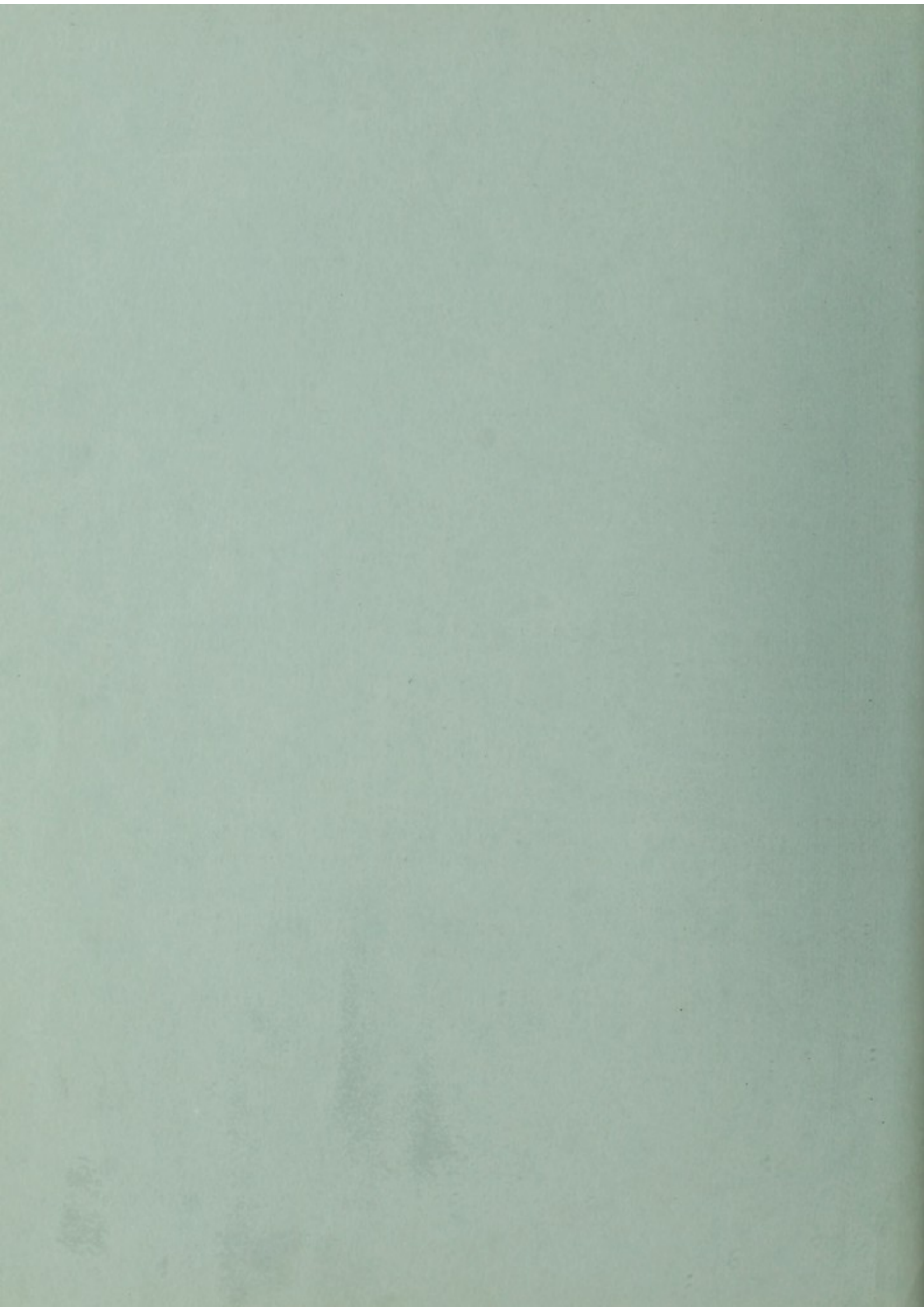


ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR
1959

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



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 9

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

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

Apart from the epidemic of measles the incidence of infectious diseases remained low. The number of new notifications of tuberculosis was the lowest ever recorded and this encourages one to hope that eventually this disease will be conquered. From the vital statistics embodied in this report it is clear that the health of this district compares very favourably with the rest of the country.

Good progress was made on the large scheme to provide water to the North Western Parishes. The provision of piped water, of course, increases the urgency of certain sewerage schemes, however, progress with these in order of priority is being steadily maintained.

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

May I take this opportunity to thank 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.
F.A.P.H.I.

Sanitary Assistant and Rodent
Operator

J.F. Stanford

Rodent Operator

R. Cousins

Chief Clerk

R.S. Oak

Clerical Assistants

Miss P. Mephram
Miss M. Wright

Official Address

Public Health Department,
Cortlandt,
Hailsham.

Tel. No. Hailsham 206

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The large total of 891 notifications received during the year compared with 135 for 1958 was due to the heavy epidemic of measles. As in 1958 only four cases required admission to an isolation hospital during the whole of the year; this is a remarkably low admission rate. One other case had been admitted to a general hospital.

Measles

There were 804 cases notified during the year compared with 61 cases in 1958. The majority of cases occurred during the first four months of the year and there were no cases at all after August.

Whooping Cough

There were 22 cases of whooping cough compared with 20 in 1958. Investigations were made into the immunisation state of every case. It was found that 7 cases had been immunised against whooping cough and 15 cases had not been immunised. It is quite possible that immunisation is partly responsible for the low number of cases during the last two years.

Scarlet Fever

During the year there were 18 cases of scarlet fever compared with 10 for 1958. As has been usual in recent years all the 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 twelve years. One girl aged 15 years was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Hastings in the month of June for observation, suspected to be a case of diphtheria. However, although the severity of her throat infection necessitated hospital treatment, she was proved bacteriologically not to be a case of diphtheria.

Poliomyelitis

There were two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis during the year.

The first case, occurring in June, was a man aged 42 years, staying on holiday at Pevensey Bay, from an address in a district in London where there had been a small outbreak of poliomyelitis. He died a few days after admission to hospital. No further cases arose from this source.

The second case was a man aged 54 years from Hailsham who was admitted to Foredown Hospital, Hove on 24th November. Although he made reasonable progress he still has considerable residual paralysis. This case did not appear to be related to any other known case, nor did any further cases arise from this source.

Dysentery

There was a small outbreak of Flexner "X" dysentery in one male ward at Hellingly Hospital. Three cases were notified and a number of symptomless carriers were detected by bacteriological investigations. There was again another small outbreak, this time of Sonne Dysentery, on the female side of Hellingly Hospital. Four cases were notified and in addition a number of symptomless carriers were detected by bacteriological investigations.

Otherwise in the rest of the population there was only one other case of Sonne Dysentery reported. This was a woman aged 34 years, living on a farm at Wartling. Being a single case it was not possible to determine the source of infection.

Food Poisoning

There were two cases of food poisoning in the year, the causative organism in each case being *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

The first case was brought to my attention by a Veterinary Surgeon, who advised me that some calves on a farm had died of *Salmonella* infection. On investigation it was found that a farm hand, who had been attending the calves, was ill in bed with symptoms suggestive of food poisoning. Specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Brighton proved in fact that he was infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Further bacteriological investigations on the farm were undertaken by the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale. As the phage type of *Salmonella typhi-murium* was the same for the calves as the farm hand it was clear that he was infected through handling the infected calves.

The other case of food poisoning was in respect of a boy aged 9 months admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne suffering from *Salmonella typhi-murium*. On investigation it was found that immediately prior to his admission to hospital he had been staying with his grandmother on a farm near Guildford. The Medical Officer of Health of the Guildford Rural District was informed, and as a result of further investigations it was found that the grandmother and another brother aged 3 years at the address in Guildford were also infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Further bacteriological investigations were carried out on the farm by the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, and as a result it was considered very probable that the family was infected from animals on the farm.

Psittacosis

In October, 1958 a child aged one year had been admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne and died the next day of a virus pneumonia. In September, 1959 the mother of this child reported that a child aged 3 years from the same village had died of a similar condition in August, 1959, and she recalled that both children had been in indirect contact with a Cockatoo living in the village. She had recently been reading in the papers that Psittacosis, a virus infection carried by birds, could be a cause of virus pneumonia in human beings and wondered whether this might have been the cause of the cases.

Although it seemed to be a very remote possibility that any connection could exist between these cases, on the advice of the Public Health Laboratory specimens of blood, from the owner of the Cockatoo, and from two members of the family of the second child were sent to the Special Virus Reference Laboratory, Portsmouth. Scrapings were also submitted from the cockatoo's cage and from the cages of two budgerigars found with the family. In no case was any evidence of past or present infection with psittacosis detected. And so the cockatoo was allowed to live with its reputation unscathed and the local anxiety was allayed.

Tuberculosis

There were two new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year compared with 7 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory case in 1959. There were only 3 deaths attributable to respiratory tuberculosis.

It is very encouraging to note this decline in the incidence of tuberculosis and that it has been a continuous trend can be shown by quoting the number of notifications during the last ten years.

Notifications of Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950	34	13	47
1951	29	4	33
1952	34	6	40
1953	26	9	35
1954	38	7	45
1955	33	6	39
1956	5	5	10
1957	14	1	15
1958	7	1	8
1959	2	-	2

It must be emphasised that this fall of cases is a true fall and in no way due to any slackness of notification. Full information is received from the Chest Physicians and the hospitals of all old cases coming into or leaving the district, and of admissions and discharges from hospitals.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

1957	Vaccinations	335	Re-vaccinations	190	Total	525
1958	Vaccinations	318	Re-vaccinations	164	Total	482
1959	Vaccinations	299	Re-vaccinations	136	Total	435

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year, the original arrangement, by which the local administration of these services had been delegated by the County Medical Officer of Health to the District Medical Officers, was changed and the administration and maintenance of records was centralised with the County Council.

However, I still personally conduct all the diphtheria immunisation clinics in the district, and during the year held regular clinics at Hailsham, Heathfield and Polegate and occasional clinics at Alfriston, Arlington, Broad Oak, Chiddingly, Cross-in-Hand, Hellingly, East Hoathly, Herstmonceux, Laughton, Maynards Green, Ninfield, Polegate, Punnetts Town, Ripe, Waldron, Westham and Willingdon.

The annual return submitted by the County Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health for this district is given below.

Age on 31.12.59 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1959	1-4 1955-1958	5-9 1950-1954	10-14 1945-1949	Under 15 Total
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955-59	161	1,500	1,782	1,567	5,010
Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954 or earlier.	-	-	565	994	1,559

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

Although many cases of aged and infirm persons living under unsatisfactory conditions have been referred to me it has not been necessary to take formal statutory action under the above act. It must again be stressed that any action under the above act should only be taken as a last resort. Nor is it suitable for dealing with eccentric or mentally unstable persons as no special provision can be made for such persons in the available accommodation.

Section 50

It was necessary for the Council to exercise their powers under this section and arrange for the removal and burial of an elderly man who had died in lodgings and apparently had no known relatives.

With the co-operation of the Police, the wife of the deceased man was traced before the actual interment and she took over the responsibility for burial.

CANCER OF THE LUNGS

The number of deaths due to cancer of the lungs was 29 compared with 27 in 1958. That the number of cases per year has been increasing in recent years can be seen in the table overleaf. Now that it is definitely known that there is a causal relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung everything should be done to dissuade young people from starting a habit, which it may well be extremely difficult to break when they are older.

Those already addicted should endeavour to cut down the daily number of cigarettes as it is known that the risk is in proportion to the numbers smoked.

DEATHS DUE TO CANCER OF LUNGS 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
1959	24	5	29

VITAL STATISTICS

The corrected death rate was 11.3 compared with 10.9 for 1958 and 11.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

The corrected birth rate was 15.2 compared with 13.9 for 1958 and 16.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate rose in 1959 to 16.4 compared with 11.4 in 1958, but this still compares favourably with the record low infant mortality rate of 22.0 for the whole of the country. There were in fact 8 infant deaths compared with 5 for 1958. Six of these deaths occurred in the first week of life and were attributable to congenital malformations.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	94,668
Census population (1951)	36,916
Population estimated to middle year	40,090
Number of inhabited houses	13,890
Rateable value	£540,107
Sum represented by penny rate	£2,172.1s.2d.
Live births	488
Live births per 1,000 population (not corrected)	12.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.7%
Comparability factor	1.25
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	15.2

Still births	11
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	22.0
Total live and still births	499
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Total	16.4
" " " " " " " - Legitimate	17.0
" " " " " " " - Illegitimate	Nil
Neo Natal (1st 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.3
Early neo natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	12.3
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	34.1
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
Total deaths per 1,000 population (not corrected)	16.2
Comparability factor	0.70
Total deaths per 1,000 population (corrected)	11.3
Senile mortality as percentage of total deaths (65 and over)	74.9

BIRTHS

Legitimate:	Total	470	Males	250	Females	220
Illegitimate:	Total	18	Males	5	Females	13

STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate:	Total	11	Males	9	Females	2
Illegitimate:	Total	-	Males	-	Females	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Legitimate:	Total	8	Males	6	Females	2
Illegitimate:	Total	-	Males	-	Females	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

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

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Hailsham Rural	15.2	16.4	11.3
England & Wales	16.5	22.0	11.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	24	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	17
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .	27	32
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	61
18. Coronary disease, angina	65	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	4
20. Other heart diseases	41	94
21. Other circulatory diseases	10	21
22. Influenza	5	4
23. Pneumonia	15	26
24. Bronchitis	17	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	2
31. Congenital malformations	4	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	14	26
33. Motor vehicle accidents.. .. .	5	3
34. All other accidents	4	7
35. Suicide	5	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-
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	285	366
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CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	18	-	-
Whooping Cough	22	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	1
Measles	804	-	-
Dysentery	9	1	-
Pneumonia	25	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	-
Other observation cases	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

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

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Disease	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	13	3	-	-	18
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	2	1	14	-	-	1	22
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Measles	10	43	66	76	77	435	81	12	4	804
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	19	25
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	6

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL

EACH MONTH

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other observation cases	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

At the beginning of the year the district was still supplied with main water by three Statutory Water Undertakings, namely (a) The Bexhill Corporation, (b) Eastbourne Waterworks Company and (c) Heathfield and District Water Company but as from 1st November, 1959 the Heathfield and District Water Company was amalgamated with the Eastbourne Waterworks Company. Regular analyses of the water supplied in the mains showed that the water was of a high standard of purity.

The three Estate Water suppliers in the parishes of Alciston, Berwick and Litlington continued in operation and although the water was satisfactory in quality the quantity at times was inadequate especially in the village of Alciston. This shortage was undoubtedly due to the prolonged dry spell of weather. However, with the aid of the Council's Emergency Water Scheme the private reservoir of Alciston was kept at a sufficient level to ensure that the various houses had a supply of water. At Berwick it was necessary to restrict the use of the estate supply for domestic purposes only.

It is very gratifying to report that after many years a start was made on the North Western Parishes Water Scheme. Main laying commenced at the end of March and by the end of the year approximately 38 miles of water main had been laid and completion of main laying was expected by the end of February, 1960. Of the mains laid approximately 28 miles of main were brought into service by the end of the year.

The construction of a reservoir of 1,000,000 gallons capacity at Windover, Wilmington to serve the North Western Parishes Scheme was also commenced during the year but here again completion was not expected until early in 1960.

In December, the Council decided to make application to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for a grant to enable further water main extensions in the North Western area to be carried out at an approximate cost of £50,000. Some of these extensions will replace the existing private estate supplies referred to above.

It is considered that when the North Western Parishes Scheme and the further suggested extensions have been completed only a small number of properties within the Rural District will not have a water main available. Every group of houses in every parish will be served by water mains and this indeed is a great accomplishment.

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 in view of the very hot and dry summer this service became an essential part in the lives of the residents in the more rural parts of the district. Requests for deliveries of water were such that at times two vehicles were each working 12 to 14 hours per day. The quantity of water delivered amounted to 1,648,000 gallons during the year.

Extension of Mains

Eastbourne Waterworks Company

In addition to the mains laid under the North Western Parishes Water Scheme the following lengths were laid in the parishes of Eastdean, Hailsham, Pevensey, Polegate and Willingdon and generally in connection with new building development.

789 yards of 5" main
1,760 yards of 4" main
733 yards of 3" main
819 yards of 2" main

Heathfield & District Water Company

1,310 yards of main varying in size from 6" to 3" were laid in the parish of Heathfield whilst 470 yards of 3" and 4" main were laid in Waldron parish.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES

The following table details the distribution of piped supplies and from which it will be seen that approximately 84.1% 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	218	61	25	-
Berwick	95	4	-	30
Chalvington	5	2	-	-
Chiddingly	43	19	-	-
Eastdean	890	356	-	-
East Hoathly	145	54	-	-
Folkington	51	21	-	-
Friston	250	100	-	-
Hailsham	5267	1843	-	-
Heathfield	2958	1020	-	-
Hellingly	2392	509	-	-
Herstmonceux	1473	508	-	-
Hooe	232	93	-	-
Horam	1418	489	-	-
Jevington	122	10	37	-
Laughton	3	1	-	-
Litlington	122	12	-	27
Lullington	26	5	-	2
Ninfield	999	357	-	-
Pevensay	2176	1067	-	-
Polegate	4674	1798	-	-
Ripe	-	-	-	-
Selmeston	3	-	-	1
Waldron	2304	823	-	-
Warbleton	630	225	-	-
Wartling	406	140	-	-
Westdean	60	22	10	-
Westham	1842	665	-	-
Willingdon	4077	1576	-	-
Wilmington	203	67	-	-
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	33,720	12,053	72	98
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Drainage and Sewerage

Work on the construction of combined sewage purification works at Polegate continued throughout the year and it is anticipated that the new works will be completed and put into operation during 1960.

Loan sanction and approval was given by the Ministry to the Alfriston Sewerage Scheme but due to difficulties in negotiating the necessary easements for the proposed sewers it was not possible for the scheme to go out to tender during the year. However, it is hoped that a start can be made on this much needed scheme in 1960.

Among works carried out by direct labour has been the completion of a new sewage plant to serve Wartling village and the construction of five new sludge beds and other minor improvements at Gardner Street, Herstmonceux.

Following reports from the officers and after consultation with the East Sussex River Board the Council decided on the following priority for sewerage schemes.

Possible Contract Schemes

Windmill Hill
East Hoathly
Ninfield
Horsebridge
Cross-in-Hand

Possible Direct Labour Schemes

Punnetts Town
Wilmington
Ripe
Selmeston
Halland

It is hoped that a start will be made on the Sewerage Schemes for Windmill Hill and Punnetts Town at the latter end of 1960.

If only a constant programme can be maintained on these Sewerage Schemes the many nuisances and pollution of watercourses caused by unsatisfactory drainage arrangements can be satisfactorily abated within the foreseeable future.

Removal of Night Soil

The removal of night soil from the parish of Alfriston still continued to be carried out by a local contractor. Difficulties did arise during the year due to the contractor vacating his farm land but fortunately it was possible to fix a suitable tank in a remote part of the parish for the reception and storage of night soil pending its removal by one of the Council's cesspool emptying vehicles.

It is to be hoped that this antiquated system can be discontinued in the near future but this cannot be until the village is provided with a proper sewerage system.

Public Cleansing

Refuse is collected throughout the district by a fleet of Dennis Vehicles consisting of 1 Dennis Paxit Major II, 1 Dennis Paxit and three 10 cubic yard side loaders plus 1 Dual Purpose Vehicle for use when any of the other vehicles are out of service through mechanical failure.

The frequency of collection remains as formerly, i.e. a weekly collection in the parishes of Alfriston, Hailsham, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon and a fortnightly collection in the remainder of the district which is more rural in character. Although fairly intensive building development continued in the southern part of the district a regular service was maintained without the need for additional labour or vehicles but it is quite clear that saturation point has been reached.

During the year the Council ordered a new Dennis Continuous Loading Paxit Mark III Refuse Collection Vehicle with a body capacity of 32 cubic yards and powered by a B.M.C. 5.1 litre Diesel Engine for delivery in May, 1960. This vehicle is a replacement for an 11 year old side loading vehicle and will assist materially in dealing with the additional refuse from the increased number of dwellings.

The new vehicle follows the trend of providing dustless loading vehicles so as to reduce to a minimum the risk of refuse being blown from the vehicle on to the highway. With a larger capacity body the journeys to the refuse disposal tip will also be reduced with a consequent saving of time, fuel and running costs.

Since the coming into force of the Litter Act the collecting staff have increased the frequency of emptying all litter baskets throughout the district and have also collected various items of junk, old bicycles, bottles etc. which had been deposited in hedgerows and isolated spots by persons unknown.

During the year approximately 6,559 tons of refuse were collected, i.e. an average of 8.97 cwts per 1,000 head of population per day.

Refuse Disposal

Three tips were in use for the disposal of refuse, one in the northern, one in the central and one in the southern part of the district. The fourth tip at Broad Farm, Hellingly which was acquired in 1958 was not brought into use but roadworks and other preliminary works were carried out so that this tip could be brought into use as from 1st January, 1960.

The refuse tip in the southern part of the district was given up at the request of the owner on 31st December, 1959.

All refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping with the aid of a Bray four wheel drive Mechanical Shovel. Manual labour on the refuse tips has now been reduced to one man and his services are to be dispensed with in 1960 when he attains the age of 65 years.

During the hot and dry summer the tips became infested with flies but prompt and regular treatment with insecticide kept this pest under control.

Maintenance Depot

It was not possible to replace the corrugated iron walls of the workshop by brickwork during the year as previously anticipated but it is hoped to carry out this work during 1960.

The Foreman Mechanic again maintained the fleet of vehicles in excellent running order.

District Salvage Scheme

Rags and non-ferrous metals have been salvaged from the refuse whenever possible but salvaging of paper and cardboard was considered to be uneconomical due to the relatively high cost of labour and the low prices obtainable for such commodities.

Cesspool Cleansing

During the year a 13 year old 750 gallon Dennis Cesspool Emptying Vehicle was replaced by a new 1,000 gallon Vehicle fitted with a Diesel Engine. This vehicle operates in the parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron and the cost of such service is met by a special rate levied in these parishes.

Two other 750 gallon Cesspool Emptying Vehicles operate in the remainder of the district where charges are made for the cleansing of cesspools. The charges are £1. for the first load and 12/6d. per load or part load removed at the same time of emptying and despite increase in costs no increase in charges has been made since they were fixed in 1949.

The Scheme is not self-supporting and a contribution is therefore made from the General Rate Fund which for the financial year ended 31st March, 1959 amounted to £102.

Cesspool contents are disposed of on agricultural land or woodland remote from houses and streams. Suitable sites are difficult to find and on occasions it has been necessary to transport the cesspool contents for relatively long distances.

In the absence of public sewers the cleansing of cesspools by special vehicles is a necessity to prevent nuisance from overflowing cesspools and obstructed drains.

Details of the work carried out by the three vehicles are as follows.

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Loads Removed</u>
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron	1,715	2,185
District Scheme	2,321	4,334

Public Health Nuisances

The very hot and dry summer, although appreciated by everyone, resulted in the receipt of numerous complaints regarding the existence of public health nuisances from offensive accumulations, unsatisfactory drainage outfalls, keeping of animals etc. and the Public Health Inspectors were kept extremely busy in dealing with these complaints and obtaining the abatement of the nuisances.

It was, however, necessary to institute legal proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 in two instances.

In the first case nuisance was being created due to the insanitary condition of a piggery and swill boiling house and the accumulation of a large heap of manure etc. which also contained decomposing swill, waste food and offal. The Magistrates made an Order for the removal and ploughing in of the accumulation of manure etc. and for the carrying out of all necessary works to prevent the recurrence. In the other case nuisance was being created by the defective and obstructed drainage system at a private school. The defendant was fined £5. and £3.3.0d. costs were awarded to the Council. No Order was made as the defendant's representative agreed to carry out the repair and overhaul of the drainage system.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

The inspection of factories and work places subject to these Statutes has been handicapped by the limited time available for such surveys but such action as has been taken is recorded in the list of inspections. No Statutory action has been necessary.

Of the 1,116 agricultural premises in the district, 174 have already been inspected and so far no action has been found necessary in respect of lack of sanitary accommodation.

Shops Act, 1950 and Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There is no doubt that with increasing competition and interest by the consumer conditions in food premises are steadily improving and as a result only informal action has been necessary to obtain compliance with legal requirements.

One complaint of foreign bodies in corned beef was investigated and as on expert examination they were reported to resemble bones from an immature rat the complaint and the specimens were forwarded to the Food and Drugs Authority for action under the Food and Drugs Act as an article "not of the nature or substance demanded".

The attention of greengrocers has been drawn to the risk of contamination likely when returnable containers are used for display purposes below 18" from the ground, this risk is not objected to as much as it might be by the wholesale merchants.

Contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulations

Risk of contamination	22
Lack of nail brush and towel	1
Smoking	1
Insanitary accumulation in food room	2

Summary of Inspections of Food Premises

	<u>Number in District</u>	<u>Total Number of Inspections Made</u>
Bakehouses	20	46
Butchers' Shops	31	209
Bakers' Shops	22	21
Cafés, Snack Bars and Canteens	62	71
Fish Shops	11	55
Greengrocers	16	31
Grocers and General Stores	134	130
Hawkers	12	2
Public Houses and Guest Houses	98	52
Sweet Shops	36	53
Ice Cream Sellers (plus 29 catering establishments)	110	69

Housing

Good progress has been maintained with the Slum Clearance Programme and during the year it was possible to re-house 32 families displaced from unfit dwellings situated mainly in the southern part of the district. The vacated dwellings have since been demolished, closed or in a few cases made fit for habitation.

Although there are still many sub-standard houses in the area it is considered that the worst dwellings have now been dealt with. In the more rural parishes there remain many old cottages, which although structurally stable, are damp, insufficiently lighted and ventilated, low pitched, without adequate drainage and devoid of such "luxuries" as a bath and water closet.

Gradually, however, owners are taking advantage of Improvement Grants and it is thought that by this financial aid many properties could be modernised and retained as useful dwellings for many years. It is therefore pleasing to record a considerable increase in the number of applications received for Improvement Grants. Undoubtedly increased publicity to Grants has accounted for renewed interest by owners and tenants alike.

During the year 91 applications were received for Discretionary Grants and of this number 74 were approved, 8 refused, 7 withdrawn and 2 were still under consideration. The total amount of grants involved was £18,195. which averages therefore approximately £245. per dwelling.

Of the 74 Discretionary Grants approved, 16 were in respect of agricultural service cottages, 27 in respect of properties controlled under the Rent Act, 1957 and 31 in respect of houses owner-occupied. Repayment with interest was made in respect of five Improvement Grants made in former years. Owner-occupiers of houses in the urbanised parishes where main water and main drainage are available have taken advantage of the new Standard Grant and by the end of the year the Council had given approval to 23 applications for such Grants.

Although only 3 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 it should not be thought that all the rent controlled dwellings are now in a satisfactory state of repair, on the contrary many owners of the poorer type property have decided against increasing the rents to the new limits under the Rent Act, 1957 in view of the relatively high expenditure required to carry out the necessary repairs.

Generally speaking it has been a satisfactory year with the demolition and closure of the worst houses and the improvement and repair of many other unfit dwellings, but there still remains the task of repairing and modernising the hundreds of cottages which are let at low and uneconomic rents.

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



PART 11 - APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

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

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal procedure	29
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 ...	5
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 ...	32
Number of houses made fit after formal action under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	9
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	9
Number of houses made fit after formal action under the Public Health Acts	4

CARAVAN SITES

Permission was given during the year to increases in the number of caravans on some of the larger sites to meet the increasing need of holiday makers during the summer months. The large sites have been kept under supervision and have generally been well conducted and maintained.

All caravan sites have been visited and little difficulty experienced except with the unlicensed sites where conditions have been far from satisfactory. It is hoped that the Planning Authority who have previously refused permission for these sites will now take the appropriate enforcement action under the Planning Acts.

Details of the licences issued under the Public Health Act, 1936 are as follows:-

Number of Sites	54	6	1	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caravans on Site	1	2	3	4	6	8	20	25	32	42	65	100	150	200

Milk and Dairies

The number of retailer/producers and distributors at the end of the year was the same as in 1958. There are no heat treatment plants in the area but supplies are obtained from neighbouring districts.

As in previous years the majority of the consumer samples sent for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, have been of raw milk. A summary of the results is given below.

Biological Examination

No. of Samples

Infected with M. Tuberculosis	...	...	-
Infected with Brucella Melitensis	...	...	-
Infected with Brucella Abortus	...	...	2
Satisfactory	...	...	42

			44

Methylene Blue Test

Raw Milk

Pasteurised

Satisfactory	...	...	34	7
Unsatisfactory	...	...	4	-
			-----	-----
			38	7
			-----	-----

As a result of the isolation of B. abortus in two samples, in one instance, 36 quarter samples were taken from 9 cows owned by the producer/retailer, with negative results, in the other case the local authority for the area in which the producing farm was situated was notified.

One automatic milk vending machine using cartons has been installed in the district and has been satisfactory to date.

Food Inspection

The local butchers continue to carry on routine slaughtering with the result that the Meat Inspectors must perform work after office hours. Due to the opening of a wholesale slaughterhouse at the latter end of the year some weekend inspections were necessary.

No further premises were added to the Certification Centres approved under the Government's Fatstock Guarantee Scheme. At the one centre in use the Meat Inspectors as Certifying Officers issued 119 certificates in respect of 464 pigs.

None of the eight slaughterhouses licenced at 31st December are used for the slaughter of horses, however, the one knackers yard operating was licenced for the slaughter of horses to the end of the year. It has not been found necessary to take more than informal action to obtain compliance with the Slaughterhouse Byelaws or under other Regulations.

A report on the existing and probable future requirements for slaughtering facilities in the district and what facilities were likely to be available to meet those requirements was made to the Council. As suggested by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a meeting to which all interested parties were invited was held on 7th December when it was agreed that the six slaughterhouses, which it was anticipated would be improved to the required standard, together with the one already complying and the neighbouring wholesale slaughterhouses would provide adequate slaughtering facilities.

It was intimated that having regard to the location, use and expense involved two slaughterhouses would not be altered or improved to the required standard. It was also agreed that the Minister concerned be asked to require that the construction standards should become operative in the Rural District on 31st December, 1960.

The Council's report was later forwarded to the Minister.

In addition to the inspection of poultry in shops regular visits are made to the weekly markets and to a poultry service station where some 160,000 birds were dealt with during the year. Although many thousands of broilers are reared in the district the majority are dealt with at specialist factories outside the area.

Informal action only was necessary during the year to deal with infringements of the Clean Food Byelaws or other Regulations. There have been a few cases of smoking in food rooms or displaying open food within 18" of the floor. In reference to the latter, complaint was made that in order to comply many greengrocers and similar traders were using wholesalers' crates as stands with the risk of contamination of food subsequently carried in the crates. The pre-packing of food is to be commended as long as the packing is done under hygienic conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

<u>Foodstuff</u>				<u>Weight in lbs.</u>
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	220 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	615 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	...	...	...	84
Jam	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
				—
				943 lbs.
				—

Meat and Poultry Inspected

During 1959 the carcasses of 1 bull, 108 bullocks, 275 cows, 569 heifers, 311 calves, 1,842 sheep, 2,969 pigs, totalling 6,075 animals were inspected, the estimated total weight being 1,025,144 lbs. As a result of these inspections, some 11,096 lbs. of meat were withheld as unfit for human consumption for various reasons, included were the complete carcasses and organs of 8 cows, 8 calves, 6 pigs and 37 sheep.

Again there was a high proportion of livers in beef and sheep found to be affected with Cirrhosis or Distomatosis mainly in 2/3 year old cattle and draft ewes.

Meat found to be unfit for human consumption is either buried on the Council's refuse tips or released to approved premises for animal feeding purposes. It is to be hoped that some form of staining and/or sterilisation of all unsound meat removed from slaughterhouses and of all meat from knackers yards will be required in the very near future in order that track may be kept of unsound meat removed from the premises.

As well as the meat referred to above it was necessary to withhold as unfit 1,536 head of poultry weighing 6,709 lbs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and
Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	678	275	324	1851	2969	-
No. inspected	678	275	311	1842	2969	-
<u>All diseases, except Tuberculosis & Cysticerchi</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	8	8	37	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	212	75	3	80	115	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerchi	31.3	30.2	3.5	6.4	4.1	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	1	-	-	37	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	0.4	-	-	1.2	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rodent Control

Apart from the first two or three months of the year when considerable difficulty was experienced in freeing premises of rats the district as a whole has had an uneventful year and work in this field has been normal routine. Similar difficulties as were experienced by the Department in the early part of the year were reported by private contracting firms. Except for the occasional flare up of rats in individual spots, infestations have been mostly minor ones. Many of these are still brought about by badly kept backyard chicken runs and compost heaps.

It seems a very slow process trying to educate occupiers of these premises into eliminating the risk of rat infestation by good planning of compost heaps and chicken runs. The old proverb "Prevention is better than cure" is always quoted to this type of householder in the hope that it will have the desired effect. School canteens and food establishments have however shown considerable improvement in preventative measures during the year.

With the long dry summer some time has been spent on roadside picnic sites which have been very much used but fortunately no major infestations arose from this source.

The number of agricultural premises where occupiers have entered into contracts with private pest destruction firms continues to grow and more farmers are becoming competent in keeping their own premises free from rats by the use of Warfarin.

Considerable time is still being spent in dealing with mice infestations which do not seem to show any signs of diminishing from year to year.

Regular attention has been given to food premises, slaughterhouses, schools and caravan sites.

The systematic inspection and treatment where necessary of all Council owned properties such as sewage works and refuse tips has continued, resulting in these premises being kept free of rats.

A 10% test-baiting of sewers was carried out this year with the exception of the parishes of Pevensey and Westham where the whole of the system is pumped, the final outlet being out to sea. No takes were recorded.

It was not necessary to serve any Statutory Notices under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)

Non-agricultural	3,663
Agricultural	551

Number of infestations found (Rats and Mice)

Non-agricultural	(a) Major	130
	(b) Minor	393
Agricultural	(a) Major	2
	(b) Minor	18

Number of treatments (including re-treatments)

Non-agricultural	514
Agricultural	3

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts and Rent Act	383
Housing Act re-inspections	675
Complaints	120
Public Health Nuisances	162
Public Health re-inspections	145
Offensive accumulations	52
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc	56
Drains and Sewers	170
Drains tested	23
Closet accommodation	12
Verminous premises dealt with	19
Infectious diseases	16
Rooms disinfected	17
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	226
Pollution of Watercourses	63
Water Sources	376
Public Cleansing	1,185
Water Analyses -	
Biological : Satisfactory 22 Unsatisfactory : 35	57
Cesspool Emptying	78
Rats and Mice Destruction	926
Swimming Pools	-
Schools	7
Markets	61
Milk and Dairies	73
Factories, Workshops, etc.	121
Smoke observations and visits	18
Slaughterhouses	1,242
Knackers Yards	3
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	352

Grocers and General Stores	132
Bakehouses	46
Bakers Shops	21
Catering Establishments	74
Ice Cream Sellers	54
Sweet Shops	43
Hawkers Premises and Vehicles	2
Public Houses and Guest Houses	52
Poultry Packing Stations	120
Housing Applicants, etc.	512
Mosquitoes, Wasps, Flies, etc.	168
Miscellaneous	211

8,073

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT
OF HAILSHAM IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 of the ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	123	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	183	51	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	201	174	-	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient (S.7)	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 110 & 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing) Making apparel) etc.) Cleaning) and) Washing	5	-	-	-	-	-