

**[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Lewes Borough.**

**Contributors**

Lewes (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1970

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LEWES BOROUGH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
YEAR ENDED - 31st DECEMBER, 1970.

17018 to 17021

17022 to 17025

17026 to 17029

17030 to 17033



LEWES BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1970

Chairman: Councillor Birkbeck  
Vice Chairman: Councillor Habgood

Alderman Miss Temple

Councillor Fairlee

Councillor Mrs. Greene

Councillor Mrs. Hoile

Councillor Martin

Councillor Nicholl

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

J. L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. from November,  
1960

The Grange, Southover, Lewes.  
Telephone No. Lewes 4282

Public Health Inspectorate

W. I. Price, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector  
(appointed 2nd April, 1941 - Died 26th August, 1970)

C. W. Mann, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E., Chief Public Health  
Inspector (from 1st November, 1970)

E. Peter, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector (from 1st May, 1967)

Office Staff

A. J. Sheppard (from 20th January, 1947)

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To the Mayor, the Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee, the Aldermen and Members of the Lewes Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Lewes Borough for 1970.

The vital statistics of the area compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and do not call for any special comment.

Only seven cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. The outstanding occurrence was an isolated case of typhoid fever in an elderly lady who subsequently died. This was the only death from typhoid in England and Wales during 1970. No secondary cases occurred and despite extensive investigation the source of infection was never found. None of the remaining six notifications of infectious disease were of significance. No new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Attention is once again drawn to the number of deaths from cancer of the lung (14) which shows a welcome reduction from the highest ever figure of 18 recorded in Lewes in 1969. However, throughout England and Wales this largely preventable disease is killing more and more people each year. The total for 1970 for England and Wales was 30,281 compared with 12,396 in 1949. The number of deaths from this cause is rising by about 500 a year at the present time. The medical profession is convinced, though not entirely, since some doctors still continue to smoke, that the cause of these premature deaths is cigarette smoking. Doctors have reduced their smoking considerably more than any other group of people and statistics are showing conclusively that the number of deaths from lung cancer in doctors is now falling. Amongst smokers there is also an increased rate of heart disease, of bronchitis and of cancer of the bladder. A figure of 100,000 deaths per year associated with smoking has been recently mentioned and this illustrates the magnitude of the problem. It is probably the greatest single health problem at the present time.

Little has been heard about fluoridation during recent years and in the meantime, a vast amount of money continues to be spent on our dental services, some of which would have been unnecessary had fluoridation been universally adopted. In Birmingham, which has consumed artificially fluoridated water since 1965, the benefits are already apparent in the state of children's teeth which continue to improve. The cost of fluoridation in that city works out at about 1½ new pence per annum per head of the population. I am certain that if a cost benefit analysis was carried out, a financial saving to the community would be demonstrated, to add to the already proved benefits to dental health.

It is encouraging to report the completion of an additional 54 council dwellings during the year in which two clearance areas were declared containing 23 houses. In addition two houses were dealt with as individual unfit houses. A further survey of housing in the Borough is to be undertaken so that the number of unfit houses which require either clearance or improvement can be ascertained. Only 16 new dwellings were erected by private enterprise during the year but some 20 existing properties were brought up to acceptable standards by the use of improvement grants.



It is with deep regret that I have to report the death in August, 1970, of Mr. W. I. Price, the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough since 1941. He possessed a wealth of knowledge about the town and its inhabitants which was invaluable in carrying out his duties. It had been my pleasure to work with Mr. Price during the last ten years of his career. The problem of a successor to Mr. Price was considered by the Council and it was decided to appoint the Chief Public Health Inspector of Chailey Rural District Council (Mr. C. W. Mann) as Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough Council in a supervisory and consultative capacity for a trial period of one year and that the position be reviewed at the end of that time. Mr. Mann retains his position with the Chailey Council and Mr. Peter is the full-time Public Health Inspector in the Borough. This staffing arrangement may require to be augmented when the trial period expires.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and support I have received from them during the year. My thanks are also due to Mr. Mann and Mr. Peter for their valuable assistance, and to the other officials of the Council for their courtesy and co-operation.

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

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. COTTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

### (a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	1,993
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1970)	14,080
Population (1931 Census)	10,993
Population (1951 Census)	13,106
Population (1961 Census)	13,637
Net increase of population during year	50
Number of occupied houses 1951	3,915
Number of occupied houses 1961	4,386
Number of occupied houses 1970	4,958
Rateable Value (1st April, 1970)	£874,123
Product of a penny rate	£8,490

### (b) VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. Births & Birth Rates

	LEWES BOROUGH	ENGLAND & WALES
Live Births	195	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	13.8	16.0
* Corrected birth rate	15.7	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	10	
Still births	1	
Still births rate per 1,000 live and still births	5	13.0
Total live and still births	196	
Live births		
Legitimate	92	84
Illegitimate	9	10
	101	94
	195	

#### 2. Deaths & Death Rates

Deaths	160	
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	11.4	11.7
* Corrected death rate	10.3	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)		
	Male	Female
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-
	-	1
	5	18.0
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	6	17.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	0	26.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0	12.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		



Deaths & Death Rates Cont'd

	<u>LEWES</u> <u>BOROUGH</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u> <u>&amp; WALES</u>
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Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	0	11.0
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	5	23.0
Maternal mortality (including abortions)		
Number of deaths	0	147.0
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	0.18

\* In order to compare death rates and birth rates in different parts of the country, the Registrar General supplies comparability factors for every district, so as to adjust for irregularities regarding age and sex in the local population. Applying a comparability factor of 1.14 to the crude birth rate of 13.8 the adjusted rate becomes 15.7. Similarly a comparability factor of 0.90 applied to the crude death rate of 11.4 makes the adjusted rate 10.3. This is below the rate for England and Wales at 11.7.

POPULATION

The population of Lewes for the last ten years is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Death Rate</u>
1961	13,690	206	149	15.1	16.5	10.9	9.9
1962	13,810	192	166	13.9	15.2	12.0	10.8
1963	13,870	200	191	14.4	16.4	13.8	12.7
1964	13,890	214	170	15.4	17.6	13.7	12.6
1965	14,020	210	179	15.0	17.1	12.8	11.7
1966	14,070	187	181	13.3	15.2	12.9	11.9
1967	14,080	218	158	15.5	17.7	11.2	10.4
1968	14,160	210	174	14.8	16.9	12.3	11.4
1969	14,030	175	179	12.5	14.3	12.8	11.3
1970	14,080	195	160	13.8	15.7	11.4	10.3

The population figure has shown an increase of 50 from the figure 14,030 for 1969.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No case of maternal mortality occurred in Lewes during 1970. The last previous maternal death of a Lewes resident occurred during 1965.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

One infant death occurred during 1970 giving an infantile mortality rate of 6 per 1,000 live births. There was also one infant death during 1969. In small populations, too much importance should not be attached to these figures since a difference of one death makes a very large variation in the rate per 1,000. There were no significant features about the causes of death in the death recorded.

BIRTH RATE

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 13.8 per 1,000 population. The figure is higher than the rate for 1969. Applying the area comparability factor of 1.14 the adjusted birth rate becomes 15.7 which is lower than the rate for England and Wales.

### DEATH RATE

The crude death rate for Lewes for 1970 was 11.4 per 1,000 population. This figure is lower than the rate for 1969 of 12.8. Applying the area comparability factor of 0.90, the adjusted rate becomes 10.3 which is lower than the rate for England and Wales at 11.7.

The average age at death was 71.1 years  
The highest age at death was 97 years  
The lowest age at death was 3 months

### SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH

		<u>% of deaths</u>
(1) Disease of the heart and circulatory system	50	31.2
(2) Cancer (all sites)	46	28.7
(Cancer of the lung and bronchus accounted for)	14	8.7

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

It was not necessary to take action under the above legislation which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises persons who are not able to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.



Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over
Typhoid Fever	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Buccal Cavity etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	3
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Leukaemia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2
Diabetes Mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	11
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	10
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	6
	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	9

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diseases of Musculo- Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill- Defined Conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Suicide and Self- Inflicted Injuries	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	75	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	6	15	20	31
	F	85	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	1	8	28	43



## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Newhaven and Seaford and the Rural District of Chailey. The East Sussex United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Joint Committee, by which the Medical Officer of Health for the four districts is appointed, provides an efficient means of administering the Joint Appointment.

The Chief Public Health Inspector died on 26th August, 1970, after serving the Borough since 1941, and from 1st November, 1970, the Chief Public Health Inspector of Chailey Rural District was appointed to fill the post in a supervisory and consultative capacity, whilst retaining his post with Chailey Rural District Council. In addition, an Assistant Public Health Inspector carried out duties during the year.

#### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

#### 3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which houses the ambulances available in the district at the St. John Headquarters, Timbervale Lane, Lewes. During 1970 these vehicles were available for the conveyance of both infectious and non-infectious cases, and arrangements are in being for the disinfection of ambulances, bedding, clothing, etc., after use for the transport of an infectious case. All vehicles are staffed and serviced by the County Council. If a further call is received while all vehicles are out on duty, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other depots in the area. Should this prove necessary, it is done by radio control.

#### 4. NURSING IN THE HOME

As from 31st March, 1970, the East Sussex County Council terminated the arrangement whereby the East Sussex County Nursing Association was responsible, on the County Council's behalf, for the nursing and domiciliary midwifery services in the district. From that date the County Council has provided the services direct.

#### 5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Description and Situation	Day and Time of Attendance	By whom provided
Child Health Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon 2-- 4 p.m.	East Sussex County Council
Speech Therapy, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Every Thursday and Friday all day	East Sussex County Council



Description and Situation	Day and Time of Attendance	By whom provided
Family Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Friday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon (open clinic or by appointment for children with minor behaviour and habit disorders)	East Sussex County Council
Child Guidance Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Every Wednesday by appointment	East Sussex County Council
Cytology Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	1st and 3rd Thursday in ) the month ) 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and ) as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednes- ) neces- day at 6 p.m. ) sary	East Sussex County Council
Chest Clinic, Victoria Hospital, LEWES.	By appointment Monday 2 p.m. Wednesday 9.15 a.m. Friday 11.15 a.m. once a month	Regional Hospital Board
Dental Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Monday to Friday by appointment	East Sussex County Council
Nervous Disorders Clinic, Victoria Hospital, LEWES.	Tuesday from 2.15 p.m. onwards	Regional Hospital Board
Family Planning Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Tuesday 6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m. every Thursday in the month 6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Friday 1st, 3rd and 4th (by appointment only)	Family Planning Association

## 6. HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Hospital facilities are available in the area at the Lewes Victoria Hospital and are administered by the Brighton and Lewes Hospital Management Committee.

## 7. PROVISION FOR DEALING WITH THE NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY DISORDERED

Under the Mental Health Act, 1959, the County Council administers the Mental Health Services in respect of patients outside Institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.



### SECTION III

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

##### 1. WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of a few private wells, which are used for trade purposes, the water supply is derived from the Brighton Corporation Waterworks, which are situated at the South-West end of the Borough.

The water is pumped from the well into four covered distributing reservoirs, namely Jubilee Park, Race Hill (2) and Western Road.

The supply is constant, of good quality and sufficient for the needs of the community.

Brighton Corporation Water Department have taken a daily sample from consumer's premises for bacteriological examination, a fortnightly sample from the reservoirs for bacteriological and abbreviated chemical examination and from the Southover Pumping Station weekly samples of the water before treatment, for bacteriological and abbreviated chemical examination, and after treatment for bacteriological examination and monthly for complete chemical examination.

The following is a copy of the results of analysis of a sample of water taken at the Southover Pumping Station:-

Brighton Water Department. Sample No. 4510.

Results of Examination of sample of water from Southover Pumping Station.

Raw, Borehole No. 3.

Taken on 10th November, 1970.

##### Bacteriological Examination

Colonies per ml

Nutrient Agar at 20°C 3 days. . . . -

Nutrient Agar at 37°C 1 day . . . . -

Counts per 100 ml

Coliforms. . . . -

E. Coli. . . . -

##### Physical Character

Colour (Hazen) . . . . . 3

Turbidity. . . . . Clear

Taste. . . . . Normal

Odour. . . . . Nil

##### Chemical Analysis (Expressed in mgm. per litre)

pH. . . . . 7.45

Alkalinity (CaCO<sub>3</sub>). . . . . 190.0

Chlorides (Cl). . . . . 26.8

Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) . . . . . Nil

Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) . . . . . 0.041

Nitrite Nitrogen (N). . . . . Nil

Oxidised Nitrogen (N) . . . . . 4.4

Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs at 27°C) . . . . 0.16

Temporary Hardness (CaCO<sub>3</sub>). . . . . 190.0



Permanent Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) . . . . .	28.0
Total Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) . . . . .	218.0
Total Solids (dried at 180°C) . . . . .	304.0
Free CO <sub>2</sub> . . . . .	
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) . . . . .	9.0
Calcium (Ca) . . . . .	83.2
Magnesium (Mg) . . . . .	2.9
Sodium (Na) . . . . .	12.4
Potassium (K) . . . . .	1.0
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> ) . . . . .	11.0
Iron (Fe) . . . . .	
Manganese (Mn) . . . . .	
Conductivity . . . . .	420
Synthetic Detergent . . . . .	
Fluoride (F) . . . . .	0.1

#### Remarks

#### Probable Combination of Mineral Constituents

CaCO <sub>3</sub>	190.0	mg/l.
CaSO <sub>4</sub>	15.6	"
CaCl <sub>2</sub>	7.2	"
MgCl <sub>2</sub>	11.4	"
NaCl	22.6	"
NaNO <sub>3</sub>	26.7	"
SiO <sub>2</sub>	9.0	"
Total	282.5	"

No form of contamination of the supply has occurred during the year and as the water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action it has not been necessary to take any action against this.

All dwelling houses in the Borough have a direct piped supply from the public water main, with the exception of 22 houses on the Cuilfail Estate which receive their piped supply via two private reservoirs which are supplied from the public water main. Low water pressure due to old pipes of insufficient diameter has been experienced in certain houses in Malling and the matter was taken up with the Water Company who will be providing a suitable main in due course.

## 2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Main drainage is provided throughout the Borough there being only 30 houses which are drained to a cesspool or septic tank system.

The sewers discharge to the Outfall Works at Southerham where the effluent, after the passing of the sewerage through a detritus chamber, screens and sedimentation tanks, is stored in holding tanks to be discharged to the River Ouse at suitable states of the tide. These arrangements have now prevailed for many years and with the possibility of further development taking place in the town in the now foreseeable future and the rising water consumption per head of population early consideration should be given to the provision of a modern sewage disposal works capable of dealing with the increased load.



### 3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of house refuse is carried out once weekly over the whole district and trade refuse more often where requested.

Disposal of refuse has been mainly on low lying land at Malling Brooks where despite its proximity to dwelling houses careful attention to covering the tip, disinfection and rodent control has kept nuisance to a minimum.

### 4. INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Public Health Acts. . . . .	313
Housing Acts. . . . .	429
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act . . . . .	116
Factories Act . . . . .	4
Petroleum Acts. . . . .	91
Food and Drugs Act. . . . .	118
Shops Act . . . . .	8
Visits re sickness. . . . .	160
Visits re drainage. . . . .	98
Visits to Swimming Baths. . . . .	20
Disinfections . . . . .	23
Wasps Nests . . . . .	96
Nuisances . . . . .	15

### 5. HOUSING

#### (a) New Dwellings

70 new dwellings were provided during the year, 16 by private enterprise and 54 by the Local Authority.

#### (b) Slum Clearance

Only two houses were dealt with under Section 16 of Housing Act, 1957, as individually unfit houses and two areas in the town represented as clearance areas namely North Street and Lancaster Street containing a total of 23 houses.

These areas will be the subject of a public enquiry during 1971.

There are still many houses in the town which are unfit within the meaning of the Housing Act, 1957, and a further reservoir of houses which while not unfit for habitation are in need of repair and improvement.

A comprehensive survey of housing in the Borough is being undertaken in order that a programme may be formulated for encouraging improvement of the houses with grant aid wherever possible. This in turn may encourage the owners of unfit properties to improve them and thereby obviate the need for action to be taken under the Housing Acts. In this connection consideration may be given to designating certain areas of the town as General Improvement Areas and thus preserve the delicate balance between maintaining the character of the town and at the same time progressively reduce the number of unfit properties.

#### (c) Houses made fit

3 houses were made fit after formal action and 10 after informal action.



- (d) Improvement Grants  
Applications for 11 Standard and 9 Discretionary Grants for the improvement of dwellings were approved during the year.
- (e) Number of houses demolished  
7.
- (f) Certificates of Disrepair  
No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.
- (g) Qualification Certificates  
2 Qualification certificates were issued during the year.
- (h) Common Lodging Houses  
There are no registered common lodging houses within the Borough.

## 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (a) Milk Supply  
Only a very small quantity of "Untreated" or "Sterilised" milk is sold within the Borough, the remainder being "Pasteurised".  
  
The number of retail purveyors is 27, and there is one registered cowkeeper.  
Four samples of Untreated milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, for examination, all of which were found to be satisfactory in that neither Brucella abortus nor M. Tuberculosis was found by guinea pig inoculation.
- (b) Ice-Cream  
There are 53 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and none for manufacture.
- (c) Meat  
There are no licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough; the greater part of the home-killed meat is received from Brighton Abattoir.
- (d) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations  
There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.
- (e) Poultry  
There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.
- (f) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations  
The food premises subject to the Regulations, grouped in the categories of trade, are:-

Bakers and Confectionery Shops. . . . .	7 )	
Bakeries. . . . .	1 )	
Butchers Shops. . . . .	11 )	Regulations 16 and 19
Canteens. . . . .	13 )	apply and complied with
Cooked Meats Shops. . . . .	2 )	



Confectioners Shops. . . . .	17	All comply with Regulation 16, Regulation 19 applies and complied with in 13 premises
Dairies. . . . .	5	)
Fishmongers Shops. . . . .	3	)
Fried Fish Shops . . . . .	4	)
Restaurants and Cafes. . . . .	14	) Regulations 16 and 19
Hotels . . . . .	3	) apply and complied with
Public Houses. . . . .	24	)
Sweet Factory. . . . .	1	)
Greengrocers Shops . . . . .	14	)

Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are:-

Sale of Ice-cream .	- 53
Manufacture of suasages etc.	- 13
Fish Frying	- 3

Contraventions of the Regulations were observed in 7 premises and these were remedied following informal action.

No legal proceedings were instituted under the Food and Drugs Act.

(g) Unsound Food

The following summary lists food which was found on examination to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners for destruction:-

Beef	-	115 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Chicken	-	56 lbs
Ham	-	9 lbs
Canned Vegetables	-	94 tins
Canned Fruit	-	34 tins
Canned Meat	-	27 tins
Canned Fish	-	13 tins
Canned Jam	-	2 tins
Yoghurt	-	17 cartons
Cream	-	5 cartons
Assorted Frozen Foods	-	1,880 packets

Disposal of the unsound food was:-

Fish	-	To Pig Keepers for swill
Fruit and Canned Goods	-	Burial at Refuse Tip

A number of complaints were received of food being sold which was unfit for human consumption or otherwise unsatisfactory. This included:-

Drawing Pin found in a packet of Wheat Flakes.  
 Piece of String found in Loaf of Bread.  
 Nail in a Loaf of Bread.  
 Mould on Skinless Beef Sausage.  
 Coloured spots on Luncheon Sausage.



"Off" condition of pieces of Fried Fish.  
 Mould growth in bottle of milk.  
 Mouldy Pork Pie.  
 Larder Beetle in a portion of Queen Crab Meat.  
 Foreign matter in Chicken and Ham Pie.  
 Mould in carton of Fresh Cream Pineapple Dessert.

The above matters were taken up with the manufacturers or retailer, and thoroughly investigated.

#### 7. RODENT CONTROL

In addition to dealing with individual complaints of rat or mice infested premises, regular inspections and surveys were made of premises and land which had a previous record of infestations.

The Council's refuse tip was kept under close supervision and treatments were carried out as and when found necessary.

The number of visits made to premises under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, was 720 and the number of infestations cleared was 73.

#### 8. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The number of office and shop premises now registered with the Council is 315. 101 of these premises received a general inspection which involved 111 visits.

3 premises contravened the provisions of the Act in a total of 6 requirements, these were subsequently remedied.

6 notifications of accidents were received and investigated.

#### 9. PETROLEUM ACT

31 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, the total quantity permitted to be kept was 63,098 gallons. Fees received amounted to £116.00.

Periodic inspections were carried out and advice given where necessary to comply with licence conditions.

#### 10. SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's open air swimming baths at The Pells is 150 feet by 75 feet, with depths varying from 2 feet to 5 feet, and a capacity of 200,000 gallons. The bath is emptied, cleansed and refilled as and when found necessary, usually at 2 monthly intervals, and in addition approximately one-seventh of the volume of water is changed daily by pumping from the borehole.

The continuous circulation and chlorination plant with an output of 26,000 gallons per hour maintained the water in a very satisfactory bacteriological condition.



## 11. NUISANCES

The majority of the nuisances brought to the notice of the Council were dealt with informally, and in most instances abatement of the nuisance was secured by these means. The principal nuisances in respect of which informal notices were served fell into the following categories:-

Noise	4
Dumping of refuse	1
Smoke	3
Smell	1
Defects to houses	4
General Public Health	2

## 12. DRAINAGE

98 inspections were made in connection with defective drainage.

## 13. FOOD POISONING

Eight cases of food poisoning were investigated during the year, and the appropriate action taken. Only one of these cases was subsequently confirmed.

## 14. FACTORIES ACT

There are 19 factories in the Borough in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act are to be enforced by the Council. During the year 10 inspections were carried out in this class of factory.

Under Section 7 of the Act there are 68 factories on the register. 32 inspections were carried out at these premises and 3 defects concerning sanitary conveniences were remedied.

8 visits were also made to other premises to which the Act applies.

3 persons are employed as outworkers making or repairing wearing apparel. No instance of work in unwholesome premises was found.

### PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

Particulars	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	19	10	-	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.....	68	32	-	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding Out-Worker's Premises)	9	8	-	Nil
TOTALS:	96	50	-	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH defects were found	
	FOUND	REMEDIED
Want of cleanliness	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	-	-
(a) Insufficient	3	3
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-
TOTALS:	3	3

PART VIII of the ACT

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	
Wearing ) Making Apparel ) etc., ) Cleaning ) and ) Washing	3	-	-	NIL



#### SECTION IV

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

##### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

A total of 7 cases of infectious disease were notified in Lewes in 1970. The details are as follows:-

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Measles	2	-	-
Infective Jaundice	2	-	-
Typhoid	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
TOTAL	7	2	1

The case of typhoid referred to in the introduction to this report proved to be an isolated case. The patient was a lady of 72 who was a patient in hospital for the last nine days of her illness before any confirmatory evidence of typhoid could be found. All the hospital staff and outside contacts were investigated for possible typhoid infection but no secondary cases developed from any of the contacts. Extensive investigation into the possible source of the infection failed to reveal anything significant and no other cases of typhoid occurred at this time in the Sussex area. Repeated sewer swabbing in the Lewes Borough also failed to reveal a source of infection.

#### SECTION V

##### TUBERCULOSIS

In 1970, no new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified amongst Lewes residents. There were, however, two inward transfers of pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year. Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were removed from the register during the year. Two of these cases left the district, two died from causes other than tuberculosis, and one recovered.

The incidence of two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1970 is 0.14 per 1,000 population. Both of these cases were, however, inward transfers, and the incidence of cases originating in Lewes was nil.

##### NUMBER OF CASES ON THE REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1970

<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
43	47	9	5	104

Whereas at 31st December, 1969, the number of cases on the register was:-

46	46	9	5	106
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