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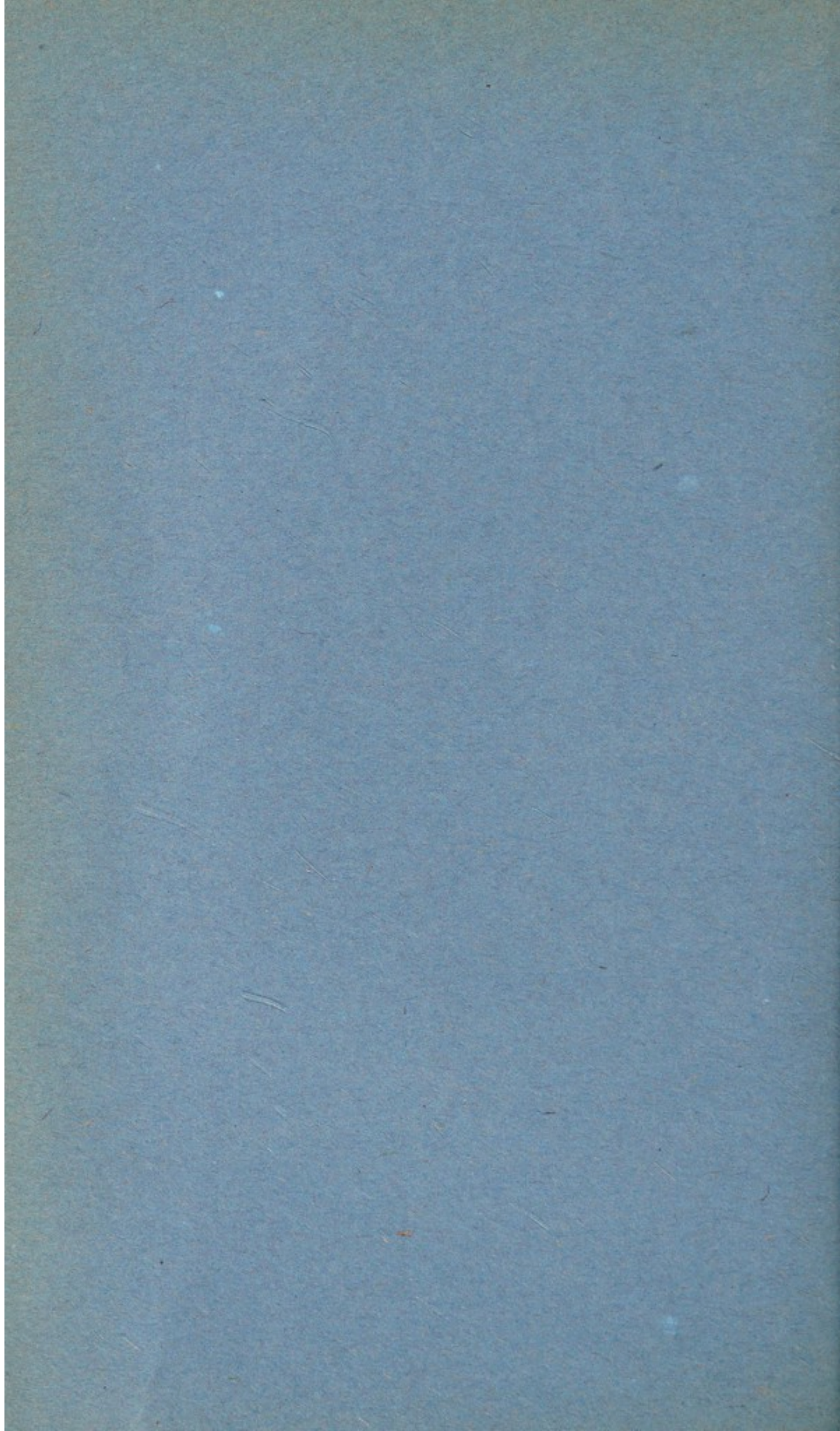


BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1952





TOWN HALL,
LYMINGTON,
JULY, 1953.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON**

Mr. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report for the year 1952.

Regarding vital statistics. Of the 327 residents who died 225 were over 70 years of age; of these 225 deaths 107 occurred in the age group 70 to 80 years, 106 between 80 and 90 years of age, and 12 were over 90.

The infant mortality rate was high chiefly due to prematurity and congenital malformations. The number of live births was 265, a decrease of 22 in comparison with 1951.

The death rate was 14.5 per 1,000 estimated resident population of 22,510. This when multiplied by the comparability factor gives a death rate of 10.1 per 1,000, as compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

The death rate from Tuberculosis was .13 per 1,000 estimated population compared with .24 for England and Wales, being less than the rate for 1951 in both cases.

There were 10 deaths caused by accident in one of which a motor vehicle was involved.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Lymington Borough is a district of 15,302 acres, which includes 1,572 acres of mudland. The area is very largely agricultural in character, and has three main shopping and residential districts, namely, Lymington Town on the Eastern side of the district, New Milton on the West, and Milford-on-Sea on the South. In addition to these there are two other districts, namely, Hordle which is North of Milford-on-Sea, and Pennington, which adjoins Lymington Town. These are less populated than the three mentioned previously, but progressive development of these parts is anticipated when normal building activities are permitted.

The Borough is ideally situated, having the New Forest on its Northern border, the sea on the South, and the large shopping centres of Bournemouth and Southampton within easy reach.

The number of inhabited houses in the Borough is made up of 6,749 separate dwellinghouses, business premises with living accommodation 610, farm houses and farm cottages 171. 300 premises occupied as Summer holiday residences are not included.

DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	13,730
Population	22,510
No. of inhabited houses	7,530
Rateable Value	£185,340
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£730

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.8
Legitimate	265	130	135	Comparative figure	12.6
Illegitimate	245	116	129	England and Wales	15.3

Still Births

	Total	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 (live and still birth)	22.1
Legitimate	6	4	2		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		

Deaths

	327	158	169	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.5
				Comparative figure	10.1

The death rate of England and Wales is 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths
Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	41.5
Infants under 4 weeks	30.5
(England and Wales 27.6)	

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	40.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	50.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Gastro Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The chief causes of death were:—

Malignant Disease	71	Influenza	Nil
Coronary Disease		Tuberculosis (Resp.)	3
Angina	51	Vascular Lesions of	
Heart Disease	57	Nervous System	41
Other Circulatory		Suicide	8
Disease	14	Motor Vehicle	
Pneumonia	14	Accidents	1
Bronchitis	9	All other Accidents	9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers:—

- (a) Medical Officer of Health:
E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.
- (b) Senior Sanitary Inspector:
N. Raw, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
- (c) Additional Sanitary Inspector:
J. G. Jenkins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(2) **General Health Service:—**

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Examinations made at the Hampshire County Laboratories, and Public Health Laboratory.
- (b) **Ambulance facilities.**—Provided by the Hampshire County Council as the Local Health Authority. Ambulances stationed at Lymington and New Milton.
Infectious cases—ambulance headquarters at Lymington.
- (c) **Child Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics** are provided by the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. In this Borough the following are the facilities provided:—
Ante-Natal Clinic: Hillcroft, New St., Lymington.

Child Welfare Centres:

Hillcroft, New St., Lymington	Every Friday
Women's Institute Hall, Hordle	3rd Wednesday
Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea	4th Thursday
Church Hall, New Milton	2nd and 4th Wednesday
Church Hall, Ashley, New Milton	3rd Monday
Women's Institute, Pennington	2nd and 4th Tuesday

- (d) **Protective Treatment against Diphtheria.**—All children can receive free protective treatment by their own doctor; at Child Welfare Centres, or by the Medical Officer of Health at the Town Hall. Treatment at the Schools is also given by the Council's Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section deals chiefly with the various activities of the Health Department and includes the report and observations of Mr. Raw, the Council's Senior Sanitary Inspector, who wishes to express his thanks to his colleagues in the Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

Water Supply:—

There are two water undertakings serving the Borough of Lymington, Lymington Town being served by the Corporation owned Waterworks at Ampress, the rest of the district New Milton, Milford on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle, receiving water from the West Hampshire Water Company. The area is quite well covered by mains water, but there are still some few properties in the more isolated parts of the district where Wells are the source of supply, the mains being unavailable. During the year the supplies from both these sources has been adequate and satisfactory in quality.

Out of a total of 7,530 occupied dwelling houses 7,517 are provided with water from the mains, 13 properties in the district remain on well supplies; analysis reveals that the water in these cases is reasonably good. Seven of these properties are situated more than 100 feet from the nearest mains supply. It is estimated the population served by mains water is 22,470.

LYMINGTON TOWN'S SUPPLY

The output from the Ampress Water Works was 98,123,496 gallons, an increase of nearly 16,000,000 gallons over 1951.

The mains were extended to serve the Southampton Road housing site where 36 houses are being erected by the Council. Alterations to mains and services in Gosport Street were carried out to meet the new road levels.

A total of 34 tappings was made for supplies to new properties and services were replaced at 21 existing properties.

Nine samples of this supply have been taken, 8 for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical analysis. The reports in all cases were quite satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES

New Milton, Milford-on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle

The West Hampshire Water Company continue to extend their mains as required and during the year has laid 5,054 yards of new main. During this same period 173 new tappings have been carried out. The new main consisted of 4,023 yards of 8 inch, 72 yards of 6 inch, 443 yards of 3 inch, and 518 yards of 1½ inch.

Regarding wellwater supplies; of the 23 properties mentioned in the 1951 report as being served by wells, 10 have now been connected to the mains supply, 6 at Bashley, 1 at Wootton, and 3 at Hordle.

Twelve samples of well water have been taken, 7 were found to be unsatisfactory, in 3 of these cases the main was not available and the water was satisfactory following cleansing of the wells. The remaining properties served by the 4 unsatisfactory well supplies were connected to the mains.

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Following action by the Health Department a further 16 houses were connected to the main sewer, 15 by informal action and 1 after the service of a Statutory Notice. Whilst there are still a number of houses without main drainage, the majority are provided with proper and efficient cesspool drainage systems. There are 70 properties within 100 feet of a sewer and not connected thereto. Of these 38 have satisfactory cesspool drainage systems, leaving 32 premises where the means of drainage is unsatisfactory.

A check-up on the drainage of properties in the High Street, Milford-on-Sea, revealed that 15 properties are not connected to the main sewer, and effluent is chiefly disposed of by means of the stream. Coloured water tests showed that in the cases of 8 properties with cesspool drainage the effluent emptied into the stream and in 3 other cases the waste water from sinks also discharged to the stream. Efforts to come to some arrangement whereby proper main drainage facilities could be provided failed. It seems evident that there is sufficient sewage discharging into the stream to cause heavy pollution at times.

ANALYSIS OF SEWER CONNECTIONS

District	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	Total
New Milton	18	17	9	12	25	81
Milford-on-Sea	6	12	4	2	5	29
Everton and Hordle	40	18	14	8	7	87
Pennington	8	14	17	8	4	51
Lymington	3	5	1	8	3	20
Total Connections	75	66	45	38	44	268

In addition to the above figures 26 new Council houses were connected to the main sewer.

Total connections to new sewers (excluding Council houses).

Everton and Hordle	238	} 663
New Milton	93	
Pennington	211	
Milford-on-Sea	121	

Regarding properties outside the sewered area: the sanitary conditions of 6 houses have been improved by the provision of proper cesspool or septic tank drainage systems.

Defects to drainage systems were found in 29 cases and 26 of these were remedied during the year.

The nuisance arising from the inadequacy of the sewerage system in Old Milton is still existing and the temporary works carried out with a view to alleviating annoyance to the residents cannot be considered as satisfactory. The provision of a relief sewer is a matter of urgency on public health grounds and it is hoped that the necessary permission will soon be given for these works to be carried out with the minimum of delay.

The legal formalities preparatory to the making up of the roads and the provision of sewers in West Way and Greenlands Estate, Pennington, have now been cleared and the provision of proper drainage facilities for these two streets should be completed by the summer of 1953. I again wish to remind the Council of the advisability of dealing with the unsewered parts of Hordle mentioned in my Report of 1951.

Public Cleansing:—

Refuse collection and disposal is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. In the built-up parts of the district there is a weekly collection of refuse, in the shopping areas two collections weekly, and in the more rural parts of the area there is a fortnightly collection.

The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at a central site situated in the Hordle district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1951.

DESCRIPTION	Inspections	Action reqd.	Remedied	NOTICES	
				In-formal	Statu-tory
Milk & Dairies	111	6	6	5	—
Dwellinghouses:					
(Housing Act)	21	3	3	3	—
(Public Health Act)	283	41	28	18	1
Council House Applications	158	—	—	—	—
Civil Building Licences	212	—	—	—	—
Drainage Visits and Tests	431	29	26	8	—
Water Supplies	120	8	5	9	—
Camp Sites and Moveable Dwellings	393	9	8	—	—
Schools	22	1	—	—	—
Factories Act	169	18	15	8	—
Business Premises : Offices	28	5	4	—	—
Food & Drugs Act	352	36	29	18	—
Food Inspections	117	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts	114	11	11	—	—
Slaughterhouses/ Knackers Yard	14	1	1	—	—
Refuse Site	3	—	—	—	—
Dustbins	8	5	5	—	—
Complaints and Nuisances	136	52	46	—	—
Infectious Diseases	38	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	30	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation	68	—	—	—	—
Pets Act	3	—	—	—	—
Sea Water Baths	6	—	—	—	—
House Pests	18	6	6	—	—
Miscellaneous	30	2	2	—	—
<hr/>					
Total	2905	233	195	69	1
Rats and Mice	2665	399	381x	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	119	36	20	—	—
<hr/>					
Grand Total	5689	668	596	69	1

x Indicates treatments given.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

There are 133 registered factories in the district, and 169 inspections were made during the year. Details of defects, and results of action, are as follows:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	DEFECTS	
			Found	Remedied
Power Factories ...	90	135	18	15
Non-Power Factories ...	43	34		

Analysis of Defects

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness ...	6	4
Sanitary Conveniences: unsuitable or defective ...	7	6
Fire Escapes ...	1	1
Defective Drainage ...	3	3
Fumes (Cellulose) ...	1	1
Total ...	18	15

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

84 complaints were received by the Health Department during the year, action was required in only 52 cases. The following is the analysis of defects dealt with.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Housing Defects ...	20	14
Defective Sanitary Fittings ...	3	3
Drainage defects ...	14	14
Re Food ...	4	4
Fumes ...	4	4
Insanitary deposits ...	2	2
Miscellaneous ...	5	5
Total ...	52	46

MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 7 registered dairies and 12 registered distributors of milk within the Borough. The dairies have been maintained in a satisfactory condition and a total of 111 inspections were made. Proper hot and cold water washing facilities have now been provided at all dairies, three having provided these during the year. Three minor defects were also satisfactorily dealt with.

The Borough of Lymington is now a specified area and only designated milk can be retailed in the district.

There are now five licensed pasteurising establishments in the Borough, four pasteurise under the Holder process (milk retained at a temperature between 145°F and 150°F for at least 30 minutes), and the other by the High Temperature Short Time method (milk retained at a temperature of not less than 161°F for at least 15 seconds).

By delegated powers from the County these plants are licensed by this Council and are kept under observation by officers of the Health Department.

Inaccuracies in the readings of thermometers on the pasteurising plants continue to be found following checking by a master thermometer and adjustments were made. Dairymen are generally reluctant to heating the milk above the minimum temperature in the quite natural desire to maintain a good cream line, therefore a slight error in the thermometer leads to under-pasteurising. It is quite probable that heating to 147°F in the case of the Holder process would not materially affect the cream line.

Samples of the pasteurised milk have been taken regularly throughout the year, and also specimen samples of washed bottles have been taken to test the efficiency of the washing arrangements at the dairies. The bottle samples are sent in batches of 6 from each dairy, and the mean bacterial count is taken. A count of under 600 is considered satisfactory, over 600 but less than 2,000 as fairly satisfactory, and a count of over 2,000 is considered unsatisfactory.

The following are the results of the samples taken at the dairy establishments.

Dairy A.—Sixteen samples of milk were taken, 14 being pasteurised and 2 T.T. pasteurised. One sample failed to pass the Phosphotase test. This milk was underheated due to error in the thermometer reading. One batch of milk bottles were tested. Washing is done at this dairy by hand, using detergent. The count was satisfactory, being 141.

Dairy B.—Twelve samples taken, 7 pasteurised and 5 T.T. pasteurised. All complied with the standard required. Milk bottles are machine washed, one batch of bottles was submitted for testing and the count was the satisfactory one of 60.

Dairy C.—Twelve samples of T.T. pasteurised milk taken and all were satisfactory. Milk bottles are machine washed, one batch was taken for testing and the count was 23—satisfactory.

Dairy D.—Thirteen samples of pasteurised milk taken, and all were satisfactory. Bottles at this dairy are machine washed, one batch taken for testing and the count was 600. This rather high count was probably due to insufficient steam pressure in the washing machine, and this was remedied, further samples taken in 1953 being satisfactory.

Dairy E.—Eight samples of milk were taken, 6 pasteurised, 1 T.T. pasteurised, and 1 of raw milk. All the reports were satisfactory. One batch of milk bottles were tested and the count was the very high one of 4,100. A new washing machine had been installed here and the trouble was due to lack of experience in handling the machine. Samples taken in 1953 were satisfactory.

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, ETC.

One slaughterhouse has ceased as such and there are now 3 slaughterhouses used for occasional slaughter of pigs, and there is one licensed Knackers Yard in regular use. These premises are kept in reasonably good condition.

There is no change in the distribution of meat sold in the Borough, the supplies being obtained from the Poole area, where the Government Slaughterhouse is situated. 117 visits were made for the purpose of examining meat, and other foodstuffs, and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Beef	...	...	...	Bone Taint, etc	...	489lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	Decomposition	...	124lbs.
Lamb	...	...	...	"	...	27lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	Tainted	...	8lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	Bone Taint, etc.	...	100lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	Out of Condition	...	54lbs.
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	Sour	...	5lbs.
Rice	...	...	...	Out of Condition	...	40lbs.
Fish (various)	...	...	...	Decomposition	...	13 st.
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	Stale	...	36
Rabbits	...	...	...	Decomposition	...	4
Ice Cream Bricks	...	...	...	Softened	...	70
Meat Pies	...	...	...	Stale	...	5
Puddings	...	...	...	Moulds	...	7
Sauces	...	...	...	"	...	12bot.
Pastry	...	...	...	"	...	8pkt.
kins of Meat	...	...	...	Blown, leaking, etc	...	281
" " Ham	...	...	...	" " "	...	37
" " Jams	...	...	...	" " "	...	21
" " Fruit	...	...	...	" " "	...	405
" " Peas/Beans	...	...	...	" " "	...	16
" " Milk	...	...	...	" " "	...	18
" " Fish	...	...	...	" " "	...	36
" " Vegetables	...	...	...	" " "	...	140
" " Soups	...	...	...	" " "	...	2
" " Puddings	...	...	...	" " "	...	2
" " Frozen Egg	...	...	...	" " "	1 (44 lbs.)	
" " Coffee	...	...	...	Out of condition	...	1

In accordance with the instructions all fats and meats are returned to the Wholesalers. Where possible other foods were disposed of locally for animal feeding.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1938 — FOOD PREMISES — ICE CREAM

There are 229 food premises in the Borough comprising:—

Restaurants, Hotels, Snack Bars, etc. ...	50
Fishmongers	13
Butchers	23
Greengrocers	26
Grocers	74
Bakers	15
Sweet Shops	28

During the year 352 inspections have been made of these premises, and a very satisfactory standard of cleanliness is being maintained. Improvements continue to be made in the provision of proper constant hot water washing facilities, four of the twenty premises reported last year as not having entirely satisfactory washing arrangements now have improved the position. 13 food premises still heat water by gas rings, and 2 by electric kettles.

During the year four food premises have installed hot water systems with proper washing facilities, redecoration work has been carried out at 20 premises and sanitary and other defects have been dealt with at another 5 places where food is prepared for sale.

Regarding the byelaws relating to the protection of food, the position in the Borough is, I think, quite good; occupiers of shops have all taken steps to comply with reasonable requirements and have co-operated with the officers of the Health Department.

There is still only one manufacturer of Ice Cream in the Borough, supplies to shops being obtained from this and thirteen other manufacturers whose premises are outside the Borough of Lymington. 105 premises are registered for the Sale of Ice Cream, but only 76 of these actually trade in this commodity. There are 28 retailers in the Lymington area, 31 in New Milton area, 9 in Milford-on-Sea, and the other 8 in the remaining parts of the district.

81 samples of Ice Cream were taken, 9 of these were not tested owing to a breakdown at the Laboratory. The results of the analysis were entirely satisfactory, 63 were in Grade 1, and 9 in Grade 2, there were no samples graded 3 or 4. The following table indicates the results of samples taken during the last 4 years, and this does show a very decided improvement. 8 samples were taken from the manufacturer in the Borough, 5 were grade 1, and 3 grade 2.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

Year	No. of samples	Grade				Percentage Satisfactory
		1	2	3	4	
1949	45	16	9	9	11	55.5%
1950	83	44	21	13	5	78.01%
1951	47	41	2	2	2	91.5%
1952	72	63	9	—	—	100%

Whilst the bacterial cleanliness of Ice Cream has improved, sampling of this very popular commodity should continue, and perhaps a higher standard aimed at in its nutritional value.

I wish to again mention the co-operation between the Ministry of Food and the Health Department. The Ministry continue to ask for our observations as to the suitability of food premises proposed to be used, and this has ensured that the buildings are satisfactory for the particular trade, and provided with the necessary facilities for the preparation of food under hygienic conditions.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are 18 licensed camping sites in the Borough and in addition 37 licences were issued regarding individual caravans. The licensed camping sites allow for 1,199 moveable dwellings and it is estimated that during the height of the season there is a population of about 4,000 occupying this type of dwelling. Seven camp sites are used only during the summer months, the remainder having a proportion of the caravans occupied all the year round. Probably about 15% of the moveable dwellings in the Borough are used as permanent homes.

Two applications for camp site licences and five for individual caravans were refused on Public Health grounds. No appeals against these refusals were received.

Camping holidays appear to be more popular than ever, but this I think may be due to financial reasons rather than from any other benefits which may be derived from this form of holiday. A family holiday in a caravan or tent, is, I believe, more economical than the more formal type of holiday making, and this Borough must accept the fact that camping within its boundaries has come to stay. So far as the Council is concerned, and so long as the Public Health Act 1936 is complied with, there can be no reasonable grounds for refusing a licence. Other objections such as on the question of amenities, etc., are primarily for the consideration of the Town Planning Authority.

From a health point of view there has been little to complain about, site owners generally speaking, have tried to meet our requirements, and there have been few sanitary nuisances requiring action by the Health Department. One Camp Site with chemical sanitation is causing concern to nearby residents, one of the troubles evidently being the emptying of chemical closets at times which are considered unreasonable and even objectionable. Visits by officers of the Health Department have not confirmed that there is any Public Health nuisance, nevertheless, the smell of the chemical at certain times of the day might be of considerable annoyance. There should be no complaint on this ground when the new conditions of licence are in full operation. These new conditions will tighten up quite considerably, the sanitary standard required at camping sites.

I referred in my last report to the need to strengthen the powers of local authorities to ensure proper control over camp sites and camping generally. This is important in an area such as the Borough of Lymington, which is becoming more and more popular to the

holiday-makers. The relevant provision of the Public Health Act 1936 give fairly wide powers, but several years of administration has shown weaknesses, particularly in regard to the permissive period of camping without licence and also the absence of any specific provision in the Act for the withdrawal of a camp licence on non-compliance with conditions, etc. Daily visits were made at two camp sites, and it was found that land just outside the boundaries of the licensed areas had been used for camping for longer than the permissive period under the Act. The penalty for this, on conviction, is obviously no deterrent.

HOUSING

A total of 674 visits were made during the year, including 153 investigations in reference to Council house applications, and 212 enquiries regarding applications for building licences.

In the matter of re-housing families in Council controlled property, 38 families living in overcrowded conditions were re-housed. There still remain very many families on the housing list who are sharing homes, but the points scheme has worked reasonably well in bringing to the front the more urgent cases.

During 1952 a further 26 houses were built by the Council and 32 others completed under licence. The total number of Council houses is now 1,087. Requisitioned properties number 9, housing 20 families.

304 inspections were made regarding house repairs, and most defects were satisfactorily remedied by the owners on request. Some were dealt with after the service of an Informal Notice, and in one case the service of a Statutory Notice was found necessary.

The question of repairs and improvements to houses let at pre-war rentals remains difficult. Owners are reluctant to carry out work other than that really necessary to keep the property wind and weatherproof. I do not think the conditions relative to Grants for Improvement of Properties under the Act of 1949 is sufficiently attractive to owners, and so long as the present restrictions on rentals of pre-war houses remains there seems little prospect of any lasting and satisfactory solution of the problem of the decay of the older houses. Many of these could be re-conditioned quite satisfactorily and provide good homes for families for many years.

17 other visits were made regarding house pests, and 6 houses were treated for flea infestations.

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949, has now been in operation for 3 years. This Act places the responsibility of rodent control on local sanitary authorities. The duty of the local authority includes the inspection of agricultural land, to take proper steps in regard to its own property, including sewers, refuse sites, etc., and to ensure that owners and occupiers of property within the area comply with the Act. There are obvious difficulties in an area of this kind where there is such a variation in the character of the district.

The following table indicates the work carried out:—

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business Industrial etc.	Total
1. No. of properties inspected during 1952 as a result of:—					
(a) notification or	1	304	—	42	347
(b) otherwise ...	7	361	35	141	544
2. No. of properties found to be infested by rats:					
Major ...	1	3	4	—	8
Minor ...	3	369	22	38	432
3. No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	18	—	15	33
4. No. of infested properties treated by the local authority ...	4	379	4	53	440
5. No. of "block" control schemes carried out ...	—	16	—	8	24

The poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic, Red Squill, Antu, and Warfarin. In banks Cymag Gas has been occasionally used. A total of 1,889 poison baits have been laid. It is estimated that 4,063 rats and 281 mice have been destroyed.

In addition to the above, the Rodent Officer has destroyed 12 wasps nests and 6 hornets nests. This service is much appreciated and a small charge is made.

The preceding has involved 2,665 visits by the Rodent Officer. The office was notified of infestations by rats or mice, in 305 instances, these being chiefly in respect of dwelling houses where free treatment is given.

In concluding this section, the full purpose of the Act is not being carried out in this Borough, but the Rodent Officer is doing a very satisfactory job of work and his experience and interest in this duty has help materially in providing a service to the community which has been appreciated by many.

LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATHS

These Baths are kept under observation during the season, two samples were taken and the reports were satisfactory. This open air sea water swimming pool has been kept in satisfactory condition and improvements are carried out as finances permit. Special facilities for swimming are available with the County Education Authority and to private schools for the benefit of the children. Visiting organisations are granted similar facilities. Several of the leading London Clubs pay annual visits for water polo matches against the Lymington team.

The pool is emptied and filled at midnight tide every fortnight from the river, and chlorination is carried out as required.

During the season approximately 14,000 tickets were issued to bathers and nearly 8,000 tickets to spectators; these are apart from season tickets issued mainly to residents. Judging by the spectators tickets the water polo matches which take place every week-end are a decided attraction and the Lymington Boys' Water Polo Team was again successful in retaining the Junior County Championship, this being for the third year in succession. The Lymington Club was also top of Division 1 of the Hampshire Water Polo League, and also won the County Intermediate Water Polo Championship. It seems a pity that in the absence of an indoor swimming pool that these activities are necessarily curtailed during the winter months. Perhaps the provision of an indoor swimming pool might be borne in mind by the Council when "economics" permit, and I feel sure this would be of advantage to the school children in the Borough.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

Lymington river is controlled by the Lymington Harbour Commissioners on which Board the Lymington Borough Council are represented.

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise vessels entering Port .	80	—
Vessels from Foreign Parts ...	—	—

A position between Oxey Lake and Spit Buoy is the mooring station for suspected ships in the case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, and Typhus. Other infectious diseases are regarded as exempt from detention. No infectious cases were reported during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The diseases notified were:—	1951	1952
Measles	103	23
Whooping Cough	74	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2
Poliomyelitis	3	1
Scarlet Fever	10	19
Pneumonia	13	6
Typhoid Fever	1	—
Para-Typhoid	1	1
Erysipelas	2	1
Dysentery	1	19

All the cases of Dysentery, with one exception, occurred in an Approved Home. One case of Whooping Cough died in Southampton Isolation Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS

Fifteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified in the Borough during the year, a decrease of 9 over 1951.

Excluding three cases transferred from other areas, 10 of the cases were pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

165 children under the age of 5 years and 82 between 5 and 15 years received the completed protective treatment during the year. A further 460 children received boosting doses, these were chiefly done at the schools and I wish to express my thanks to the head teachers for their help and co-operation.

It is estimated that 77% of the children in the Borough under 15 years of age have received the protective treatment against Diphtheria, the percentage being about the same as in 1951.

CONCLUSION

With the exception of the high infant mortality rate already alluded to, the health of the residents in the Borough during 1952 has been good.

I must take this opportunity to express my thanks to Mr. Raw and the other members of the staff of the Health Department for the help they have given me during the year, a help which I much appreciate.

I also wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support.

E. CROFT WATTS,
 Medical Officer of Health.

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J. YIMINETON

The first of the three parts of the book is devoted to a general survey of the history of the subject. It is a very interesting and well-written account of the progress of the science from its earliest beginnings to the present day. The author's knowledge of the subject is shown in the clear and concise way in which he deals with the most important facts and theories.

The second part of the book is devoted to a detailed study of the various methods of investigation which have been employed in the history of the subject. It is a very valuable and well-written account of the progress of the science from its earliest beginnings to the present day.

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