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RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1958

on

THE HEALTH OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

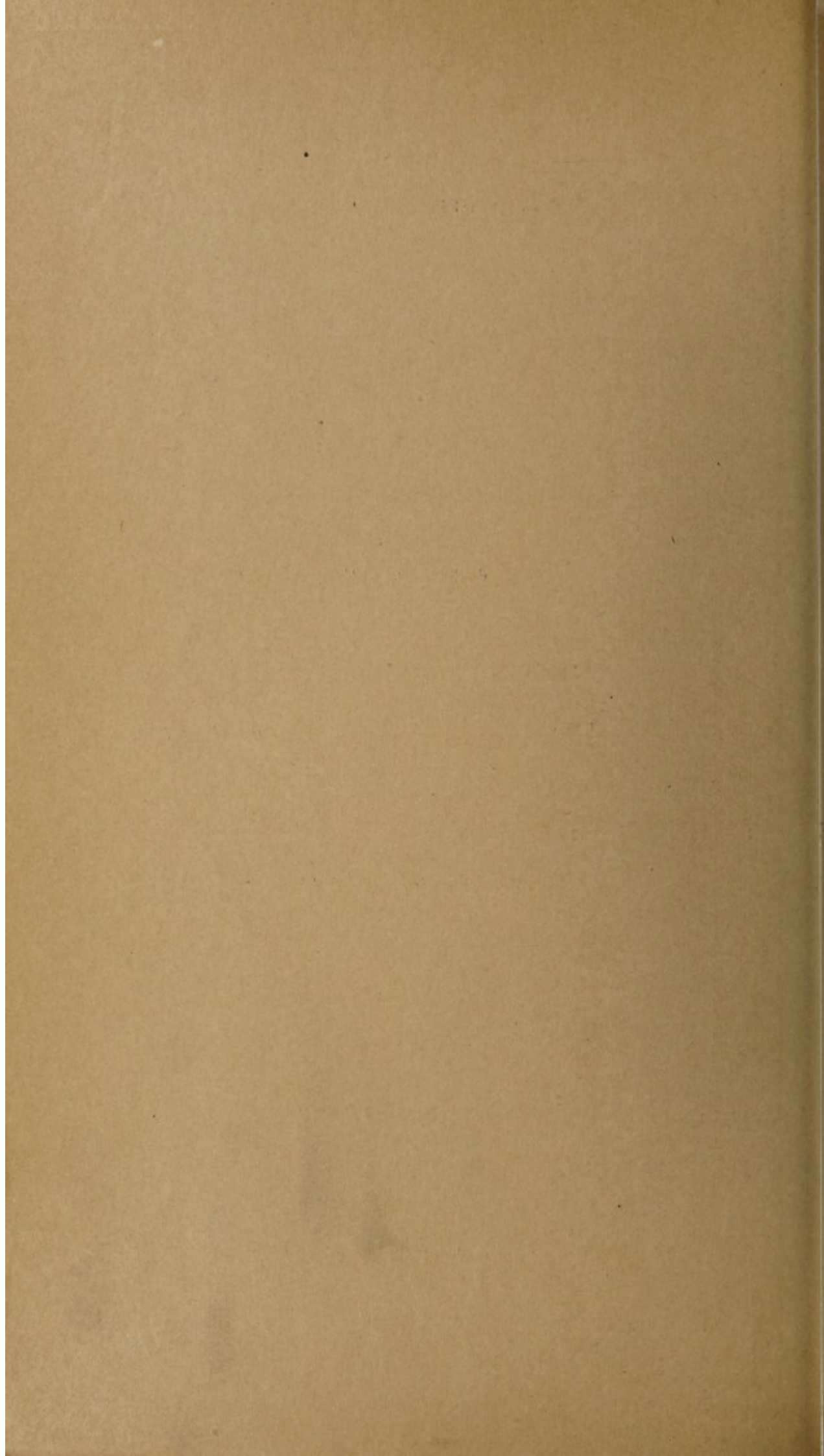
by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



F. H. M. DUMMER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

F. H. M. Dummer



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

1958.

ON THE HEALTH OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. H. M. DUMMER, M.B., Ch.B., C.P.H., D.P.H.

Maidstone Rural District Council

Public Health Committee

Chairman

Colonel Sir George W. Heron, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Members

Mr. H. W. Busbridge.	Brig. D. C. McClure.
Mr. R. A. Coates.	Mr. W. Moore.
Mr. P. A. E. Devenish.	Mr. P. Morphett.
Mr. W. Day.	Major E. W. Tassell, M.C., T.D.
Mrs. N. D. Herbert.	Mr. W. Tipples.
Major De S. H. Lewis-Barned, M.C.	Major F. D. Thomas.
	Mr. J. A. Worley.

Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council:-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-	F. H. M. Dummer, M.B., Ch.B., C.P.H., D.P.H.,
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-	K. T. Jolley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., Public Health Inspectors' Certificate, Certificate of Inspector of Meat & Other Foods, Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-	G. W. White, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspectors' Certificate, Certificate of Inspector of Meat & Other Foods, Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.
CLERK TO THE DEPARTMENT:-	Miss H. Wood (left appointment 30.11.58) Mrs. C. Knight (appointed 15.12.58)

RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

Central Health Office,
13, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone, Kent.
Tel.No:- Maidstone 4072.

Health Department,
26, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone, Kent.
Tel.No:- Maidstone 51163.

To: The Chairman and Members of Maidstone Rural District
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1958.

There are four criteria which are generally taken to indicate a satisfactory state of health in a community. These are, a low death rate, a stable or rising birth rate, a low tuberculosis mortality, and a low infantile mortality. On all these counts Maidstone Rural District is in a favourable position. The comparison can be seen in the following table:-

	England & Wales	Maidstone R.D.C.
Infant mortality rate	22.5	10.13
Tuberculosis death rate	0.09	0.05
Birth Rate	16.4	16.31
Death Rate	11.7	8.56

The pages which follow indicate the wide scope of the health services operating in your District, and show, too, the very considerable routine work which has to be maintained to ensure the efficient operation of these services.

You will see from Mr. Jolley's "Summary of Inspections" that a total of 5,569 visits have been made, which, when divided between only two inspectors, means a very high proportion of the working day used on travelling. The total housing inspections this year have increased by nearly 400, the main reason for this being the concentration on the Slum Clearance Programme.

In the field of infectious diseases, there were no cases of poliomyelitis in 1958, as contrasted with 14 cases in 1957. It would be wrong to draw the inference from this that poliomyelitis vaccine was responsible for the disappearance during the year of this most crippling illness. Poliomyelitis tends to come in waves and it may well be that the absence in 1958 can be explained by the periodicity of the disease.

It is true, however, that since 1957 the amount of community immunity has increased very considerably, and there is now a welcome feeling of security in the protection given by the vaccine. It is, however, a sad reflection on the sense of values of this sophisticated age, that the most extraordinary publicity methods have to be employed before people can assess the price they are willing to pay for health. This would not be so bad if it were merely a question for the adult to choose his or her lack of protection, but when that responsibility is also extended to children it may well be tragic in the omission.

The number of reinforcing immunisations against diphtheria has fallen in 1958 from 255 in 1957 to 155. Once again the warning must be given that our successful immunity from diphtheria lies in the maintenance of the degree of individual protection, and unless this protection is reinforced at regular intervals, it is not unlikely that diphtheria may become the menace which it was two or three decades ago.

I have said before that I regard immunisation against diseases, and particularly immunisation which has proved universally successful, as the birthright of every child. I see no reason to change this opinion.

One of the major public health interests which has arisen during the year has been the concern felt over the hazards of ionizing radiations. Although as a rural district we have not been intimately engaged in the public health aspects of radiation, the Council will recall that this subject has been spoken about in committee on several occasions, and it is one which is obviously going to be of considerable importance in the near future.

This is a subject of great complexity, and we are at a stage in its development making it seldom possible to be dogmatic on any single aspect. I think, therefore, it is worth while to repeat what I have said in reports to other authorities, that we do know that the natural background radiation, even in this nuclear age, is of a far higher degree than any addition attributed to the so-called "man-made radiations".

The interest of local authorities in the future will be centred around the relationship of radiation to food and water, and to the disposal of radioactive waste. This latter problem is complicated, and in certain circumstances might well prove a heavy financial burden. Intense research is going on, however, in order to ascertain a method less cumbersome and less costly than the present one. The field of public health is expanding rapidly, and we would make a mistake if we were to ignore this subject, however remote at the moment it would appear to be to the inhabitants of the rural district.

It is my duty and pleasure to record my appreciation of the very fine work of your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. K. T. Jolley, and the Additional Inspector, Mr. G. W. White. Both have had a great deal to do during the year, and they have carried out their duties in a most efficient and enthusiastic way. The tedious job of duplicating this report has been carried out by Mrs. C. Knight, and I want to thank her for the way she has tackled it.

I am also conscious of the continued support which has been given me in my work by your Public Health Committee and the Council and I would extend my thanks to all members of the Council staff who have been directly or indirectly connected with any health aspect of the services operating in Maidstone Rural District.

I have the Honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. H. M. DUMMER.

25th June, 1959

Medical Officer of Health.

The number of reinforcing immunizations against diphtheria has fallen in 1935 from 925 in 1934 to 100. Once again the surveying must be given that the surveying for immunity from diphtheria lies in the immunization of the region of individual protection, and unless this protection is reinforced at regular intervals, it is not unlikely that diphtheria may become the disease which it was two or three decades ago.

I have said before that I regard immunization against disease, and particularly immunization against diphtheria, as a necessary and successful, as the diphtheria of every child. I see no reason to change this opinion.

One of the major public health problems which has arisen during the year has been the control of diphtheria. The hazards of diphtheria are obvious. Although as a public health problem we have not been intensively engaged in the public health aspects of diphtheria, the Council will recall that this subject has been a topic about as discussed on several occasions, and it is one which is constantly going to be of considerable importance in the near future.

This is a subject of great complexity, and we are at a stage in its development making it rather possible to be dogmatic on any single aspect. I think, therefore, it is worth while to repeat what I have said in regard to other authorities, that we do know that the diphtheria situation is not as simple as it appears, even in this matter, as it is a matter of great importance that we should not be misled by the so-called "anti-diphtheria" movement.

The interest of local authorities in the future will be centered around the relationship of diphtheria to food and water, and to the disposal of diphtheria waste. This latter problem is complicated, and in some cases circumstances might prove a heavy financial burden. In the future research is going on, however, in order to maintain a method less cumbersome and less costly than the present one. The field of public health is expanding rapidly, and we would make a mistake if we were to ignore this subject, however remote we the moment it would appear to be to the immediate of the public health.

It is my duty and pleasure to record my appreciation of the very fine work of your staff under the direction of Mr. E. W. Fisher, and Mr. W. J. Fisher, and Mr. W. J. Fisher. Both have had a great deal to do during the year, and they have carried out the duties in a most efficient and enthusiastic way. The Council has been very glad to have this report and has been very glad to have it. I want to thank you for the way you have carried it.

I am also conscious of the excellent support which has been given me in my work by your public health committee and the Council and I would extend my thanks to all members of the Council staff who have been directly or indirectly connected with my public health work of the service operating in the public health service.

I have the honor to be, Mr. Chairman, Members and Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

F. W. W. DUMMER.
Medical Officer of Health.
23rd June, 1935.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	34,487
Estimated Resident Population 1958	19,040
Number of inhabited houses, (according to rate books at the end of 1958).. .. .	6,525
Rateable value	£198,436
Sum represented by a penny rate	£793.2s.0d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	157	139	296
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population	Crude - 15.54		
	Corrected - 16.31		
Still Births	2	1	3
Still Births rate per 1,000 live and still births -	10.03		
Total live and still births	299		
Infant Deaths.. .. .	1	2	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, total -	10.13		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births,			
	legitimate - 10.71		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births,			
	illegitimate - -		
Neo-natal mortality rate (first 4 weeks) per			
1,000 live births	6.75		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live			
births	5.40		
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	-		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still			
births	-		
Deaths from all causes	145	141	286
Death rate per 1,000 population	Crude - 15.02		
	Corrected - 8.56		
Deaths from measles (all ages)	-		
Deaths from cancer (all ages).. .. .	42		
Cancer death rate per 1,000 estimated resident			
population	2.20		
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages).. .. .	-		
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years)	-		

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The School Health Service, with school inspections and clinics, the Maternity and Child Welfare Service and the Domiciliary Midwifery Service, are now administered by the Kent County Council, and are controlled by the County Medical Officer.

HOSPITALS

The hospitals are administered by the Mid Kent Hospital Management Committee and the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The services of the consultant staff are available at the West Kent Hospital and the County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital. Available also is Preston Hall Chest Hospital, and use is made by patients from the Maidstone area of the hospitals in the Tunbridge Wells area, particularly Pembury and the Kent & Sussex Hospital. Additional beds are in use at Linton Hospital, and the Fant Lane Isolation Hospital caters for post-operative cases from the West Kent Hospital as well as for infectious diseases for which admission is required. The nursing staff for all the hospitals has been difficult to obtain, and there is a shortage of beds for the chronic sick and for the care of old folk. This latter requirement increases year by year and is a reflection of the steadily increasing elderly age group in the population.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service is administered by the County Council and is of great value in providing care for aged and disabled patients, and thus relieving pressure on the available hospital beds. I often find that by the judicious use of this service, elderly people are given the advantage of essential domestic help, and tides them over a difficulty, which, in other circumstances, would undoubtedly require hospitalisation.

It is surprising to find such a large number of elderly people with no near relatives, and often, I am sorry to say, relatives who are unwilling to help out at this dependent stage of life.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious
Disease

The incidence of infectious disease in Maidstone Rural District in 1958 was approximately the same as that for 1957, namely 319 cases compared with 313.

The unusual feature of the year, however, was the increased incidence of Sonne dysentery with 40 cases this year as compared with 3 the previous year. This outbreak began on 1st December, 1958 after a case of a child attending the Nursery at Linton Hospital had been notified. It was necessary to take energetic steps to prevent the untoward spread of infection through the community, but particularly with regard to the in-patients at Linton Hospital. The Nursery was closed for a matter of 6 weeks, and only one case reported from the hospital wards.

Although the number of notifications received was 40, a great deal of work was involved in taking samples from contacts of actual cases, and the total number of samples in all amounted to 463. Sonne dysentery is a highly infectious disease, and there is no known immunising agent for use against it. The greatest attention has to be paid to personal hygiene once the disease has been diagnosed.

Once again there were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year; a state of affairs which is almost entirely due to the maintenance of a level of immunity enjoyed by the community.

Scarlet Fever produced 32 cases in 1958, none of which were serious.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis last year, as compared with 14 in 1957. It should not be assumed that the full explanation of this immunity from poliomyelitis is by any means due to the existence of poliomyelitis vaccine. Poliomyelitis tends to come in waves, and it so happens that the 1958 season in this community was a fortunate one.

At the same time it is true to say that with the increased amount of poliomyelitis vaccination being carried out, the feeling of security against this disease is heightened. The existence of a reasonable barrier in the community will naturally tend to reduce the potential foci of infection, and this position should be even stronger in the coming year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases

The incidence of infectious diseases in Western Rural District in 1938 was approximately the same as that for 1937, namely 319 cases compared with 315.

The unusual feature of the year, however, was the increased incidence of some diseases with 40 cases this year as compared with 3 the previous year. This outbreak began on 1st December, 1938 after a case of diphtheria attended the Nursery at Linton Hospital and from there it was necessary to take measures to prevent the onward spread of infection through the community, but particularly with regard to the patients at Linton Hospital. The Nursery was closed for a matter of 6 weeks, and only one case reported from the hospital since.

Although the number of notifications received was 40, a great deal of work was involved in taking samples from contacts of actual cases, and the total number of samples in all amounted to 455. Diphtheria is a highly infectious disease, and there is no known immunity against the bacteria. The greatest attention has to be paid to personal hygiene once the disease has been diagnosed.

Once again there was no case of diphtheria notified during the year; a state of affairs which is almost entirely due to the maintenance of a level of immunity enjoyed by the community.

Scarlet Fever produced 35 cases in 1938, none of which were serious.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis last year, as compared with 14 in 1937. It should not be assumed that the full extinction of this formerly fatal poliomyelitis is by any means due to the existence of poliomyelitis vaccine. Poliomyelitis tends to come in waves, and it is possible that the 1938 season in this community was a fortunate one.

At the same time it is hard to say that with the increased amount of poliomyelitis vaccination being carried out, the feeling of security against this disease is heightened. The existence of a possible danger to the community will naturally tend to reduce the potential for infection, and this position should be even stronger in the coming year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

DISEASE	Total No. of cases notified	Total No. of deaths
Scarlet Fever	32	-
Whooping Cough	22	-
Measles	203	-
Pneumonia	18	14
Dysentery	40	-
Erysipelas	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-
Pneumococcal Meningitis	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-
TOTALS	319	14

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

DISEASE	Total No. of cases notified	Total No. of deaths
Scarlet Fever	22	-
Whooping Cough	22	-
Measles	203	-
Pneumonia	18	11
Dysentery	40	-
Erysipelas	1	-
Interperal Typhus	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-
Enterococcal Infection	-	-
Acute Rheumatism	-	-
Pharyngeal Infection	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-
TOTAL	312	11

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the Maidstone Rural District who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958:-

Given two injections	24	224	257	221	154	161	162	157	114	97	115	110	286	224	236	364	2,906
Given third injection	-	6	32	22	19	24	18	27	34	25	30	14	9	-	5	16	379
Year of Birth	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	Others	Total

Last year there was a total of 878 persons who had received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis. The figure given above will include some of this number who have now been given a third injection. The total, however, who have received two injections in 1958 is an encouraging one. When one considers the relatively small number of persons who have had a complete course of three injections, it should be remembered that it was not until September 1958 that the Ministry of Health allowed the extension of this scheme to enable a third injection to be given. It is hoped that in the next report the figure in this section will greatly exceed the number for 1958.

Poliomyelitis is such a crippling and insidious disease that it behoves us to take every precaution that is possible to prevent the onslaught of this illness. It is still true that the majority of persons affected by poliomyelitis are under the age of 15 years, and it has been found that when the community barrier against infection reaches a certain level, it is then pushed back further until poliomyelitis is in truth "infantile paralysis".

Maidstone and district in 1957 had a sharp and tragic reminder of the gravity of poliomyelitis, and it must be a source of great security to the population at large to know that vaccination is available. It is now up to the community to use the vaccine and to see that the vaccinal state is maintained.

POLIOVIRUS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the Malabar District who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958:-

Year of Birth	Given third injection	Given two injections
1937	1	1
1938	1	1
1939	1	1
1940	1	1
1941	1	1
1942	1	1
1943	1	1
1944	1	1
1945	1	1
1946	1	1
1947	1	1
1948	1	1
1949	1	1
1950	1	1
1951	1	1
1952	1	1
1953	1	1
1954	1	1
1955	1	1
1956	1	1
1957	1	1
1958	1	1
1959	1	1
1960	1	1
1961	1	1
1962	1	1
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1987	1	1
1988	1	1
1989	1	1
1990	1	1
1991	1	1
1992	1	1
1993	1	1
1994	1	1
1995	1	1
1996	1	1
1997	1	1
1998	1	1
1999	1	1
2000	1	1

Last year there was a total of 578 persons who had received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis. The figure given above will indicate some of the numbers who have now been given a third injection. The total, however, who have received two injections in 1958 is an encouraging one. When one considers the relatively small number of persons who have had a complete course of three injections, it should be remembered that it was not until September 1958 that the Ministry of Health advised the extension of this scheme to include a third injection to be given. It is hoped that in the next report the figure in this section will greatly exceed the number for 1958.

Poliomyelitis is such a crippling and infectious disease that it behooves us to take every precaution that is possible to prevent the outbreak of this illness. It is still true that the majority of persons affected by poliomyelitis are under the age of 15 years, and it has been found that when the community barrier against infection reaches a certain level, it is then pushed back further until poliomyelitis is in a state of "intermittent" state.

Malabar and District in 1957 had a small and tragic reminder of the gravity of poliomyelitis, and it must be a source of great anxiety to the population at large to know that vaccination is available. It is now up to the community to use the vaccine and to see that the vaccine state is maintained.

The following are the Whooping Cough immunisation returns for 1958 based on record cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Whooping-cough Immunisation Primary
1958	58
1957	171
1956	39
1955	11
1954	8
1953	7
1952	1
1951	1
1950	3
1949	-
1948	-
1947	-
1946	-
1945	-
1944	-
Before 1944	-
Totals	299

Although whooping cough is regarded as a relatively mild disease, leading to few complications, it should not be forgotten that in infancy it is still a major cause of disablement, and can be a very grave illness indeed. Here again, a considerable amount of protection, at least against the more serious types of whooping cough, can be afforded through immunisation which is undertaken in the early months of life and reinforced either immediately prior to the first year in school, or during the first school year.

This immunisation gives protection which is well worth while, and should never be neglected on the grounds that the illness is now "almost negligible".

In England and Wales in 1957 (the most recent return) there were 88 deaths from whooping cough, which although it is a low fatality rate, is certainly not one to be ignored.

By the end of 1957 all but 10 of the local health authorities had obtained authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946 to make arrangements for immunisation against this disease. It is considered that the primary injection should be given at about the third month of life in order to mitigate the serious effects which the illness might cause in infancy.

The following are the Whooping Cough Immunization returns for 1958 based on reports received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Whooping-cough Immunization Primary
1958	55
1957	171
1956	35
1955	11
1954	8
1953	7
1952	1
1951	1
1950	2
1949	-
1948	-
1947	-
1946	-
1945	-
1944	-
Before 1944	-
Totals	259

Although whooping cough is regarded as a relatively mild disease, leading to few complications, it should not be forgotten that in infancy it is still a major cause of illness, and can be a very grave illness indeed. Here again, a considerable amount of protection is afforded against the more serious types of whooping cough, and the efforts of the immunization which is undertaken in the early months of life are well rewarded, either immediately prior to the first year in school, or during the first school years.

This immunization gives protection which is well worth while, and should never be neglected on the grounds that the illness is now "almost negligible".

In England and Wales in 1957 (the most recent returns) there were 68 deaths from whooping cough, which although it is a low fatality rate, is certainly not one to be ignored.

By the end of 1957 all but 10 of the local health authorities had obtained authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946 to make arrangements for immunization against this disease. It is considered that the primary infection should be given at about the third month of life in order to mitigate the serious effects which the illness might cause in infancy.

The following are the Smallpox vaccination figures for 1958 based on record cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Smallpox Vaccination	
	Primary	Reinforcing
1958	111	-
1957	91	-
1956	3	-
1955	4	-
1954	2	-
1953	-	-
1952	-	-
1951	-	-
1950	-	-
1949	1	1
1948	1	-
1947	-	-
1946	1	-
1945	-	-
1944	-	-
Before 1944	5	13
TOTAL	219	14

Smallpox Vaccination

Smallpox vaccination, apart from its obvious vital health implication, is almost one of the "social necessities" of these days of modern travel. The risk of primary vaccination in infancy is negligible, but for an adult who is vaccinated for the first time at a late age, inconvenience may be quite considerable.

Since International Certificates of Vaccination are required for travel to almost any part of the world, the advantages of the primary vaccination attended by little or no inconvenience, with a revaccination done in adult life, should outweigh any arguments against smallpox protection.

There are also large areas of the world where smallpox is still an endemic disease, and the risk of bringing in the illness through air travel is still a very real one.

The following are the Smallpox vaccination figures for 1938 based on report cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Smallpox Vaccination	
	Primary	Re-vaccination
1938	111	-
1937	91	-
1936	3	-
1935	4	-
1934	6	-
1933	-	-
1932	-	-
1931	-	-
1930	-	-
1929	1	1
1928	1	-
1927	-	-
1926	1	-
1925	-	-
1924	-	-
Before 1924	3	12
TOTAL	216	12

Smallpox Vaccination

Smallpox vaccination, apart from the obvious value health inspection, is at once one of the "social necessities" of these days of modern travel. The risk of primary vaccination in infancy is negligible, but the adult who is vaccinated for the first time at a late age, inconvenience may be quite considerable.

Since international limitations of vaccination are required for travel to almost any part of the world, the advantages of the primary vaccination attended by little or no inconvenience, with a revaccination done in adult life, should outweigh any arguments against earlier protection.

There are also large areas of the world where smallpox is still an endemic disease, and the risk of bringing in the illness through air travel is still a very real one.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA 1958

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1944).

Year of Birth	Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1954 - 1958.	1953 or earlier
1944	109	125
1945	90	90
1946	104	98
1947	151	84
1948	150	84
1949	186	109
1950	179	108
1951	182	86
1952	142	107
1953	235	10
1954	213	-
1955	210	-
1956	244	-
1957	204	-
1958	25	-
TOTAL	2,424	901

The following are the Diphtheria Immunisation figures for 1958 based on record cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation	
	Primary	Reinforcing
1958	25	-
1957	167	5
1956	40	2
1955	5	-
1954	4	4
1953	9	86
1952	1	35
1951	-	2
1950	1	3
1949	-	8
1948	1	4
1947	-	1
1946	-	-
1945	-	1
1944	-	-
Before 1944	-	-
TOTAL	253	151

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA 1938

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on April 1, 1938, who had completed a course of immunization at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since January, 1934).

Year of Birth	Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1934 - 1937	1938 or earlier
1934	103	125
1935	93	90
1936	104	98
1937	151	94
1938	130	88
1939	128	103
1940	170	128
1941	143	85
1942	143	117
1943	213	10
1944	213	-
1945	244	-
1946	244	-
1947	244	-
1948	24	-
TOTAL	2,124	701

The following are the diphtheria immunization figures for 1938 based on records cards received by the County Medical Officer.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunization	Refusing
1938	25	-
1937	157	5
1936	40	2
1935	5	1
1934	2	1
1933	0	0
1932	1	0
1931	1	0
1930	1	0
1929	1	0
1928	1	0
1927	1	0
1926	1	0
1925	1	0
1924	1	0
1923	1	0
1922	1	0
1921	1	0
1920	1	0
1919	1	0
1918	1	0
1917	1	0
1916	1	0
1915	1	0
1914	1	0
1913	1	0
1912	1	0
1911	1	0
1910	1	0
1909	1	0
1908	1	0
1907	1	0
1906	1	0
1905	1	0
1904	1	0
1903	1	0
1902	1	0
1901	1	0
1900	1	0
TOTAL	252	151

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past seven years is given below:

1952	..	..	..	..	45
1953	..	..	..	..	43
1954	..	..	..	..	53
1955	..	..	..	..	65
1956	..	..	..	..	59
1957	..	..	..	..	55
1958	..	..	..	..	42

Deaths from cancer in 1958, distributed according to sites:

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of stomach	2	3	5
Cancer of lung	4	2	6
Cancer of breast	1	3	4
Cancer of uterus	-	4	4
Other sites	14	9	23
TOTALS	21	21	42

There has been a statistically significant, though unexplained, fall in the number of cancer deaths this year, which at the figure of 42, is the lowest for the past seven years. The cancer death rate for 1958 amounts to 14 per cent of the total deaths, and still remains the second most common cause of death.

The main burden of the cancer death rate locally lies in the age group over 65, although there is a national tendency for cancer of the lung, in particular, to strike in the earlier age group of 45 to 55.

In the above table the incidence of cancer of the breast in a male is not a typing error, but was an actual occurrence.

Despite publicity on the untoward effects of excessive cigarette smoking, the amount of tobacco imported to this country is increasing, and the popular trend towards filter cigarettes does not seem to have stopped the increased incidence of cancer of the lung and bronchus, although admittedly trial has not extended over a long period of time.

TABLE 1

The number of deaths from cancer in the population of the United States during the ten years 1955-1964 is given below:

1955	10,000	10,000	10,000
1956	10,000	10,000	10,000
1957	10,000	10,000	10,000
1958	10,000	10,000	10,000
1959	10,000	10,000	10,000
1960	10,000	10,000	10,000
1961	10,000	10,000	10,000
1962	10,000	10,000	10,000
1963	10,000	10,000	10,000
1964	10,000	10,000	10,000

Deaths from cancer in 1964, distributed according to site:

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of stomach	9	3	12
Cancer of lung	4	3	7
Cancer of breast	1	3	4
Cancer of uterus	-	4	4
Other sites	12	9	21
Total	21	21	42

There has been a statistically significant, though unexplained, fall in the number of cancer deaths from 1955 to 1964, which at the time of 42, is the lowest for the past seven years. The cancer death rate for 1964 amounts to 10 per cent of the total deaths, and still remains the second most common cause of death.

The main burden of the cancer death rate locally lies in the age group over 55, although there is a significant tendency for cancer of the lung, in particular, to strike in the earlier age group of 45 to 55.

In the above table the incidence of cancer of the breast in a male is not a typing error, but was an actual occurrence.

Despite publicity on the untoward effects of excessive cigarette smoking, the amount of tobacco smoked in this country is increasing, and the number of deaths from lung cancer has not been reduced. The incidence of cancer of the lung and pancreas, although relatively small, has not extended over a long period of time.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following new cases and deaths have been notified during the year:-

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL - 8				TOTAL - 1			

Mass Radiography Survey - Staplehurst

Number of persons examined:-

Males	53
Females	61
Total	114

Results:-

Active tuberculosis	nil
Inactive tuberculosis:-	
Males	2
Females	1
Total	3

I am indebted to Dr. D. L. Pugh, the Chest Physician, for the following details of the numbers of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures relate to the area of the Chest Clinic which coincides with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D., and Malling R.D.

- (a) Number of contacts seen during 1958 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis 436
- (b) Number of contacts examined during 1958 of cases notified prior to 1958 457
- (c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis 3
- (d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis 2

TUBERCULOSIS

The following new cases and deaths have been notified during the year:-

NEW CASES		DEATHS	
Primary	Non-primary	Primary	Non-primary
M. 2	F. 1	M. 1	F. -
TOTAL - 3		TOTAL - 1	

Mass Radiography Survey - Standard

Number of persons examined:-

Males	..	..	63
Females	..	..	51
Total	..	..	114

Results:-

Active tuberculosis	..	..	Nil
Inactive tuberculosis	..	..	3
Males	..	..	2
Females	..	..	1
Total	..	..	3

I am indebted to Dr. D. A. Page, the Chest Physician, for the following details of the contacts of persons of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures relate to the area of the Chest Clinic which coincides with the area of the four doctor's practices, Malabar Road, Malabar R.O., Malabar R.O., and Malabar R.O.

(a) Number of contacts seen during 1955 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis .. 438

(b) Number of contacts examined during 1955 of cases notified prior to 1955 .. 187

(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis .. 3

(d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis .. 2

FOOD POISONING

There were 4 instances of food poisoning notified during the year.

Patient A.

A confirmed case of salmonella typhi-murium, a very full investigation was carried out in this case, but notification having not been received until 14 days following the first symptoms, it was not possible to do other than assume the origin of the outbreak. The premises involved were not situated within the Rural District. There were no secondary cases arising.

Patient B.

A suspected case of salmonella typhi-murium which was not confirmed bacteriologically. Here again meals were not consumed in your district.

Patient C.

A case of un-confirmed food poisoning, the bacteriological samples being negative. Again food was not consumed within your district, and the notification was 12 days after the onset of symptoms. It was not possible to ascertain whether originally this case was bacteriologically positive.

Patient D.

This case was notified by telephone at the time of food poisoning was suspected, and the result proved the infection to be of salmonella typhi-murium type. Investigations of the food remained negative. No secondary cases arose.

The latest recorded figures for food poisoning of all types in England and Wales are those of 1957. During that year 7,071 incidents were recorded, this resulted in a total of 36 fatal cases as compared with 44 in 1956.

Salmonella organisms were responsible for well over half of all the cases. The outstanding problem in food poisoning is the control of this salmonella infection. For several reasons it is not always or even in the majority of cases, possible to trace the origin of infection, but in those cases in which a specific vehicle can be recognised, about half of the outbreaks are due to processed and made-up meats. In particular pork pies, brawn, sausages and cold pork.

This has involved a considerable amount of research work, particularly into the study of eggs and egg products, meat and meat products, feeding stuffs and fertilisers being made here and in other countries. No firm conclusions have yet been drawn from these studies, but there has been an indication that if control could be exercised at this initial stage, the incidence of food poisoning generally would drop by a considerable degree.

There were 4 instances of food poisoning notified during the year.

Patient A.

A confirmed case of salmonella typhimurium, a very full investigation was carried out in this case, but no definite source was found. The patient was a young man, 21 years of age, who had been in the hospital for 10 days. It was not possible to find the source of the infection. The patient was not at work at the time of the infection. There were no other cases notified.

Patient B.

A suspected case of salmonella typhimurium which was not confirmed bacteriologically. There were no other cases notified in your district.

Patient C.

A case of salmonella typhimurium food poisoning. The patient was a young man, 21 years of age, who had been in the hospital for 10 days. It was not possible to find the source of the infection. The patient was not at work at the time of the infection. There were no other cases notified.

Patient D.

This case was notified by telephone on the 11th of July. The patient was a young man, 21 years of age, who had been in the hospital for 10 days. It was not possible to find the source of the infection. The patient was not at work at the time of the infection. There were no other cases notified.

The latest recorded figures for food poisoning at all ages in England and Wales are those of 1957. During that year 7,001 incidents were recorded. This resulted in a total of 25 fatal cases as compared with 41 in 1956.

Salmonella organisms were responsible for all over half of all the cases. The outstanding problem in food poisoning is the control of this salmonella infection. For several reasons it is not always so easy to find the source of cases, possible to trace the origin of infection, but in those cases in which a specific vehicle can be recognized, about half of the organisms are due to processed and ready-to-eat foods. In particular, cold meats, brown, sausage and cold meat.

This has involved a considerable amount of research work, particularly into the ways of eggs and egg products, meat and meat products, feeding stuffs and fertilizers being made here and in other countries. In the meantime, there have been many other cases, but there has been no indication that the control could be expected at this initial stage. The incidence of food poisoning generally would drop by a considerable degree.

*1 vol. ~~13~~

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1958
CAUSES OF DEATHS

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.. .. .	2	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough.. .. .	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..	4	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.. .. .	1	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.. .. .	-	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	2
16. Diabetes	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system..	21	26
18. Coronary disease, angina	18	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	1	1
20. Other heart disease	12	15
21. Other circulatory disease	4	5
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	9	5
24. Bronchitis.. .. .	4	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	32	43
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34. All other accidents	5	2
35. Suicide	4	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.. ..	-	-
	<hr/> 145	<hr/> 141

1930
CANCER BY SEX

Number	Rate	Sex
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	Male
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	Male
3. Syphilis	2	Male
4. Glanders	-	Male
5. Warts	-	Male
6. Gonorrhea	-	Male
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	Male
8. Measles	-	Male
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases	1	Male
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	2	Male
11. Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus	2	Male
12. Malignant neoplasms, breast	1	Male
13. Malignant neoplasms, uterus	-	Male
14. Other malignant neoplasms	1	Male
15. Leukemia, all types	-	Male
16. Diabetes	1	Male
17. Vascular diseases of nervous system	2	Male
18. Coronary diseases, atherosclerosis	1	Male
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	Male
20. Other heart disease	1	Male
21. Other circulatory diseases	1	Male
22. Influenza	-	Male
23. Pneumonia	2	Male
24. Bronchitis	4	Male
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	Male
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	Male
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	Male
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	Male
29. Hypertensive or uraemic nephrosis	2	Male
30. Nephrosis, idiopathic, chronic	-	Male
31. Congenital malformations	2	Male
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	Male
33. Women victim of violence	2	Female
34. All other accidents	2	Female
35. Suicide	-	Female
36. Unknown and operations	-	Female
141	141	

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

HOUSING

Number of houses surveyed	565
Number of revisits to houses	1,616
Number of drains inspected.. .. .	250
Number of revisits to drains	475
Visits re Overcrowding.. .. .	8
Number of visits made under the Housing Acts ..	74

FOOD AND WATER

Number of Slaughterhouse and meat inspection ..	506
Number of visits re Water supplies.. .. .	29
Number of visits re Milk and Dairies	19
Number of visits re Food and Drugs Act.. .. .	276

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of visits re Infectious Diseases	333
---	-----

GENERAL

Accumulations.. .. .	55
Keeping of Animals.. .. .	3
House vans and Camping Sites	234
Hop Pickers' Camps.. .. .	251
Factories Act	102
Shops Act	273
Rodent Control.. .. .	243
Miscellaneous	257
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,569</u>

Comparison of Summary figures with 1957

The total housing inspections have again increased this year by nearly 400 inspections. The main reason for this increase is the concentration of this department on the slum clearance programme, both present and future. Under the Rural Housing Survey in 1946/47 the houses under Category 3 indicated considerable repairs and had to be inspected to ascertain whether the general condition had deteriorated to such an extent as to require demolition and re-housing of the tenants.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS

HOUSING

Number of houses surveyed	1,830
Number of visits to houses	2,430
Number of drains inspected	230
Number of visits to drains	470
Visits to overcrowding	8
Number of visits made under the Housing Act	78

FOOD AND WATER

Number of shops, restaurants and mess inspections	200
Number of visits to water supplies	93
Number of visits to milk and dairies	12
Number of visits to food and drugs Act	275

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of visits to infectious diseases	222
---	-----

GENERAL

Accumulations	85
Keeping of animals	2
House name and camping sites	234
Hot flickers, camps	231
Factories Act	102
Shops Act	275
Robust Control	243
Miscellaneous	287
<u>Total: 5,362</u>	

Comparison of Summary Figures with 1937

The total housing inspections have again increased this year by nearly 600 inspections. The main reason for this increase is the continuation of this department on the new clearance programme, both present and future. Under the Rural Housing Survey in 1937-47 the houses under Category 3 (houses containing 10 or more persons and not so inspected to ascertain whether the general condition had deteriorated to such an extent as to require demolition and re-housing of the tenants.

Drainage inspections have also increased slightly because of the extension to the Loose Sewerage scheme. House drainage had to be surveyed before connections were made to the sewer.

Meat inspection visits were up by approximately 100 inspections during the year. The re-occupation of Standen's slaughterhouse and the regular slaughtering which took place in 1958, has resulted in this increase.

The number of visits under the Food and Drugs Act had reduced by over 200 visits. This is due to the fact that in 1957 the new Food Hygiene Regulations had been incorporated and concentration was on bringing food premises in the district up to the required minimum standard. Therefore, in 1958 the total number of inspections required were less, and this also would affect the visits under the Shops Act and Rodent Control because at the time of inspecting food shops under the Food and Drugs Act, subsequent inspections were also made under the Shops Act and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

The number of inspections of house vans and camps were 155 less in 1958. This was because considerable trouble was being experienced with the Twyford Camp in Yalding and a site in Hunton. Routine daily inspections were made with a view to serving statutory notices.

Under Infectious Diseases, the number of visits made had increased from 95 in 1957 to 333 in 1958. The cause of such a considerable increase was the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery affecting Linton Hospital and Loose Primary School.

The total number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Department during 1958 was 5,569. These are inspections made only by the Public Health Inspectors and do not include those made by Mr. Curties, the Rodent Operator. This figure compares favourably with the number of visits made in 1957 and indicates to the Council that every effort is being made by this department to maintain the high standard which has been reached by the slum clearance programme and in shops, factories and of premises incidental to environmental health.

During the year approximately 19,000 miles were travelled by the Public Health Inspectors which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles per visit, an average which is comparable with districts of similar size and population.

Inspection visits have also increased slightly because of the extension to the lower Newryga houses. House drainage had to be surveyed before connections were made to the sewer.

Most inspection visits were up to approximately 100 inspections during the year. The vast majority of Stancha's drainages and the results of the inspections, which took place in 1958, has resulted in this increase.

The number of visits under the Food and Drugs Act has reduced by over 200 visits. This is due to the fact that in 1957 the new Food Hygiene Regulations had been incorporated and concentrated on the following food premises in the district up to the regional district standard. Therefore, in 1958, the total number of inspections required were less, and this also would affect the visits under the Food and Drugs Act. However, as the time of inspection found shops under the Food and Drugs Act, subsequent inspections were also made under the Shops Act and the inspection of houses by local authority.

The number of inspections of houses from and since were 133 in 1958. This was because considerable Stancha was being experienced with the Food and Drugs Act in Yelling and a site in Yelling. During the year inspections were made with a view to serving standard notices.

Under the Public Health Act, the number of visits made had increased from 65 in 1957 to 105 in 1958. The cause of such a considerable increase was the outbreak of some typhoid affecting several houses and some railway school.

The total number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Department during 1958 was 1,000. These inspections were made by the Public Health Department and do not include those made by the Police, the Fire Department. This figure compares favourably with the number of visits made in 1957 and indicates to the Council that every effort is being made by this department to maintain the high standard which has been reached by the aim of inspection programme and in cases, detection and of prevention included in environmental health.

During the year approximately 15,000 miles were travelled by the Public Health Department which is 10 miles per visit, an average which is comparable with statistics of similar size and population.

GENERAL STATISTICS

HOUSING

Informal notices served	47
Statutory notices served	15
Notices completed	36

HOUSING DEFECTS DEALT WITH BY NOTICES

Walls and ceilings repaired	11
Dampness remedied	15
External rendering	10
Repair defective windows and doors	11
Chimney stacks repaired	6
General repairs to roof	9
Provision of piped water.. .. .	2
Cooking facilities repaired	3
Decoration	1
Repair or replacement of floors	7
Provision of dustbin.. .. .	1

DRAINAGE

Overflowing cesspools reported	7
Repairs to cesspools.. .. .	1
Provision of eaves guttering.. .. .	1
Repairs to rain water downpipes	4
Blocked drains	3
Repairs to sinks.. .. .	3
Repairs to closets	2
Provision of land drainage overflow	2
Repairs to under ground water tank	1

NUISANCES

Cats.. .. .	1
Chicken Manure Dump	1
Spraying of cesspool effluent over garden	1
Accumulation of milk bottles	1

GENERAL STATISTICS

HOUSING

17	.....	Infant mortality rate
18	.....	Statutory notices served
19	.....	Notices completed

HOUSING DEFECTS REPORTED BY TENANTS

12	.....	Falls and ceilings reported
13	.....	Windows reported
14	.....	External rendering
15	.....	Repairs defective windows and doors
16	.....	Chimney stacks reported
17	.....	General repairs to roof
18	.....	Provision of piped water
19	.....	Cooking facilities reported
20	.....	Sanitary facilities
21	.....	Repairs to water supply system
22	.....	Provision of drainage

HOUSING

23	.....	Overcrowding reported
24	.....	Repairs to electricity
25	.....	Provision of waste collection
26	.....	Repairs to rain water drainage
27	.....	Blocked drains
28	.....	Repairs to stairs
29	.....	Repairs to floors
30	.....	Provision of lead drainage overflows
31	.....	Repairs to gas and electric meter cases

HOUSING

32	.....	Costs
33	.....	Chinese women tenants
34	.....	Supply of communal refuse bins
35	.....	Sanitization of milk bottles

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by inspectors 333

Reports made to M. O. H. on cases of infectious diseases:-

Scarlet Fever	22
Poliomyelitis	0
Food Poisoning	4
Dysentery	163
ParaTyphoid	0
Small pox contact	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of licenced Slaughterhouses .. 5

Number of premises cleansed during
the year 5

MISCELLANEOUS VISITS

1. During the year, 257 visits were classified as Miscellaneous. These are broken down approximately under the following main headings:-

2. No Access	82
Cleansing	26
Builders	27
Clean Air Act	7
Public Health Laboratory	10
Civil Defence	3
Elections	24

3. Comment on Miscellaneous Visits

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, it is laid down that the Public Health Inspectorate must keep daily diaries, specifying all visits made and reasons for visiting.

The type of diaries used by your Inspectors incorporate a special division of 18 most common causes for visits and a 19th column "Miscellaneous" which must incorporate all other visits not listed by the other headings. This number of "Miscellaneous Visits" during the year was 257 and to give the Council some indication, these figures have been broken down into seven major subjects.

FACTORIES AND WORK PLACES

Factories with mechanical power	79
Factories without mechanical power	11
Inspections of Factories with mechanical power ..	90
Inspections of Factories without mechanical power.	8
Factories with mechanical power - informal notices served.. .. .	10
Factories with mechanical power - informal notices completed	7
Statutory notices served.. .. .	2

It is noted that the number of factory premises has increased from 75 in 1957 to 90 in 1958. This increase is not due to an influx of industry into the area but is covered by the acceptance of the Factory Inspector of certain processes which have normally been included as agricultural, as factory processes, i.e. the preparation of fruit.

Also, the Factory Inspector has now included certain small family concerns as factories, whereas before they were recognised as work places only.

The number of inspections of the various types of factories are approximately the same as for 1957 except that the necessity to serve notices is less.

It was found necessary to serve two statutory notices under the Factories Act, both concerning the sanitary accommodation; the first being the provision of suitable accommodation and the second being the cleansing of sanitation already in existence. In both cases the works were complied with without the necessity for court procedure.

FACTORIES AND WORK SHOPS

Factories with mechanical power	75
Factories without mechanical power	15
Inspection of factories with mechanical power ..	20
Inspection of factories without mechanical power ..	5
Factories with mechanical power - industrial ..	10
Factories with mechanical power - industrial ..	7
Statutory notices served	2

It is noted that the number of factories inspected has increased from 75 in 1927 to 90 in 1932. This increase is not due to an increase in the number of factories but is covered by the expansion of the factory inspection of certain groups which have previously been included as agricultural or factory premises, i.e. the expansion of the factory inspection.

Also, the factory inspection has not included certain small family concerns or factories, which before they were recognized as work places only.

The number of inspections of the various types of factories are approximately as follows: 1932 compared with the necessity to make notices in 1927.

It was found necessary to make two statutory notices under the Factories Act, both concerning the sanitary arrangements, the first being the statutory of suitable accommodation and the second being the cleaning of sanitation directly in relation. In both cases the work was completed with within the statutory for each purpose.

HOUSING

The following information regarding housing in the Rural District is set out in the form asked for by the Ministry of Health.

I	1 (a)	Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	565
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	2,181
	2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses, (included under sub-section 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	0
	3 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	30
	4 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ..	47
	II	Remedy of defects during the year, without the service of formal notice.	
	1 (a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority ..	47
	III	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	A.	Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs	13
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices	
	a.	By owners	6
	b.	By Local Authority in default of owners.. ..	7
	B.	Proceedings under Public Health Act.	
	1.	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	a.	By owners	4
	b.	By Local Authority in default of owners.. ..	0

HOUSING

The following information regarding housing in the Rural District is set out in the form asked for by the Ministry of Health.

I (a) Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under public health or housing acts) 155

(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose 155

2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-section 1 above) which were inspected and reported under the Housing (Rural Districts) Regulations, 1928 and 1929 2

(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose 2

3 (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state as respects health as to be unfit for human habitation 20

4 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-section) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 27

II Number of defects during the year, without the service of formal notices.

1 (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses reported fit in accordance of the formal notice of the local authority 27

III Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Section 8 of the Housing Act, 1927.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs 15

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices

a. By owners 2
b. By local authority in default of owners 7

C. Proceedings under Public Health Act.

1. Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

a. By owners 2
b. By local authority in default of owners 2

C. Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act,
1957.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect
of which demolition orders were made .. 27

2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished
in pursuance of demolition orders.. .. 8

D. Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act,
1957.

1. Number of separate tenements or under-
ground rooms in respect of which Closing
Orders were made 7

2. Number of separate tenements or under-
ground rooms in respect of which Closing
Orders were determined, the tenement or
room having been rendered fit.. .. 2

IV Housing Act, 1957. Part 4 Overcrowding.

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the
end of the year 8

(2) Number of families dwelling therein .. 10

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. 53

B. (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding
reported during the year 7

C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding
relieved during the year 2

(2) Number of persons concerned in such
cases 13

D. Particulars of any cases in which
dwelling houses have again become
overcrowded after the Local
Authority have taken steps for
the abatement of overcrowding.. .. 0

C. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Section 18 orders were made	27
2.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Section 18 orders	8
D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.		
1.	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Section 18 orders were made	7
2.	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Section 18 orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	8
IV. Housing Act, 1957, Part 4 (overcrowding).		
A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	8	
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	10	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	52	
B. (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7	
(2) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2	
(3) Number of persons concerned in such cases	12	
D.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ORIGINAL 1955/59 SLUM
CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Parish	Houses Requiring Action	Action Taken			Families Rehoused
		Demolition Orders	Closing Orders	Repaired	
Barming	4	2	1	-	1
Bearsted	5	-	2	4	2
Boughton Monchelsea	10	3	1	6	10
East Farleigh	14	-	8	9	12
West Farleigh	3	2	-	2	-
Hunton	9	1	5	2	6
Linton	2	1	-	1	1
Loose	8	-	3	2	2
Marden	8	3	2	7	2
Nettlestead	-	-	-	3	-
Otham	-	-	-	2	-
Staplehurst	18	13	1	-	11
Teston	4	-	1	3	1
Yalding.	29	10	6	8	7
TOTALS	114	35	30	47	55

In accordance with the Minister of Housing and Local Government's requirements the Council had to prepare a 5-year slum clearance programme. This original programme included 140 houses which were scheduled as Category 5 under the Rural Housing Survey. The whole programme was revised in 1956 and subsequently divided into two parts, the demolition section including 114 premises to be considered. This section of the programme has now been completed and all families warranting re-housing by the Council have been suitably accommodated.

In many cases where the houses have been vacated, the owner has considered complete renovation, although such work was unreasonable. For this reason, the number of premises actually demolished is only 35. In cases where the properties could not be demolished because of the effect of such action on adjoining property, or where the cottages are farm premises and can be utilised for storage purposes, the premises were closed and not demolished.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ORIGINAL 1954-55
HOMELAND PROGRAM

Period	Number Proposed Action	Action Taken		Period
		Investigation Orders	Planning Orders	
Homeless	4	2	1	1
Evicted	8	-	5	2
Homeless	10	2	1	10
East Partridge	14	-	2	12
West Partridge	2	2	-	-
London	9	1	2	8
London	2	1	-	1
London	2	-	2	2
London	6	2	2	2
Other	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Other	12	12	1	11
Other	4	-	1	1
Other	20	10	6	7
TOTALS	112	38	20	30

In accordance with the Ministerial Housing and Local Government's requirements the Council had to prepare a 5-year plan of housing provision. This original programme included 120 houses which were completed as Category 2 under the Social Housing Survey. The whole programme was revised in 1955 and subsequently divided into two parts, the demolition section including 12 premises to be demolished. This section of the programme has now been completed and all families returning to housing by the Council have been rehoused accordingly.

In many cases where the houses have been vacated, the owner has considered complete renovation, although much work was unnecessary. For this reason, the number of premises actually demolished is only 12. In cases where the properties could not be demolished because of the effect of such action on adjoining property, or where the owners are law owners and only a limited for storage purposes, the premises were also not demolished.

In eight of the original cottages included for demolition it has been found inappropriate to re-house, mainly because the occupants are single persons or very old, and the Council felt that re-housing, possibly in another parish, would have an adverse effect on the occupants.

In these eight cases, the premises are being kept under constant supervision so that the appropriate action may be taken when the occupation need no longer be considered.

There are still a large number of premises of sub-standard quality on which Slum Clearance action should be taken. The Council have already approved extension of the original programme by a further 30 premises, and have ear-marked at least twelve of the new Council houses to be constructed in Staplehurst for Slum Clearance re-housing. In subsequent programmes and extensions only premises which are occupied and incapable of repair at reasonable cost will be considered. Appropriate repair action can be taken on other properties under the Housing Act, 1957.

I feel that the Council can be well satisfied with their programme, and the fact that it has been completed a year before the original period. This has only been possible because of the support you have given your Public Health Department in the necessary enforcement, and the Council's decision to release sufficient alternative Council house accommodation to the families affected by the programme.

old right of the original act was limited to
decision as has been found in the past to be
mainly because the committee are single persons or very
few, and the Council is a body of many, possibly in
another period, would have an adverse effect in the
Council.

In these circumstances, the Committee are being kept
under constant supervision so that the appropriate action
may be taken when the committee meet in 1907, as
contemplated.

There are still a large number of persons of sub-
standard quality on which the Committee action cannot
be taken. The Council have already approved extension
of the original programme by a further 50 persons, and
have arranged to send lists of the new Council members
to be considered in September for this Committee to
consider. In subsequent programmes and extensions only
persons which are accepted and included in the list of
persons to be considered. Appropriate reports
action can be taken on other matters when the Council
meets in 1907.

It is felt that the Council can be well satisfied with
their programme, and the fact that it has been continued
a year before the original period. This has only been
possible because of the action you have given your family
health department in the necessary arrangements, and the
Council's decision to release the family's assistance
Council have recommended to the family's action as to
the programme.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supplies

As previously reported in past annual reports, the piped water supply service to the area is excellent. Water is supplied by two companies, the Mid-Kent Water Company and the Maidstone Water Works Company. Regular sampling of their products indicates that they are bacteriologically and chemically pure and it is estimated that 98% of the domestic dwellings within the area are provided with a piped supply; although every effort is being made, it is not economically possible to connect all the outstanding houses on to the mains because of isolation or contour. These properties depend on local water sources by springs, wells or rain water which are sampled periodically. The purity of the water cannot be guaranteed and at any time, pollution may make the water unsuitable for drinking purposes, therefore, the occupants have been advised to boil all drinking water before use. It is estimated that about 40 premises are still dependent on local water sources.

Scavenging

In your district this service is under the supervision of the Surveyor, and collection is made every two weeks. Although every effort is made and the collection system maintained, in this day and age people of urbanised areas should expect at least weekly collections during the summer months.

Disposal is by crude tipping and the Public Health Department make regular inspections to ascertain that the nuisance caused by such tipping is kept to a minimum. Regular treatments for the eradication of rodents are made by Mr. Curties but with this type of disposal is is practically impossible to maintain a clearance of these tips from infestation.

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year the improvements and extensions of disposal works have made steady progress especially with regard to the main sewage disposal works at Bearsted and Marden. Owing to the restriction on capital expenditure the improvement works consisted mainly of providing further sludge digestion beds which allow the settlement tanks to be emptied more freely. With a steady increase of properties connected to the sewerage practically all the works have become overloaded and such overloading has resulted in unsatisfactory effluents.

Works are still in progress on the Loose Sewerage scheme and the third section was practically completed by the end of 1958. There only remains the final section dealing with the top end of Loose to be constructed and the whole scheme will then be completed. Urgent schemes are still outstanding for Boughton Monchelsea, Teston and Nettlestead, which it is hoped will be started in 1959.

There are still a large number of houses in this area not provided with flush closets and a night sewage service is not provided by the Council. The difficulty of disposing of bucket and chemical closets is still a considerable problem for occupants of such houses. The cesspool emptying is still of considerable expense to the Council and means of disposal of cesspool contents a large problem. To discharge such contents in the sewerage scheme and pass to the treatment works, completely upsets the theoretical working of such plants and causes considerable nuisance of

smell to inhabitants in the vicinity. Where possible, cold digestion tanks have been provided but such installations are expensive and far from adequate in the area at the moment. It is becoming more difficult to dispose of cesspool contents via agricultural land as the farmers can control fertilization of such land much more simply with the treatment by chemicals.

Rivers and Streams

Severe pollution of these waterways is still one of the greatest problems in rural areas. In most cases these are caused by overflowing cesspools, but even worse is the direct discharge of sewage from parishes such as Teston, Nettlestead and Yalding to the River Medway. It is a priority to provide the necessary treatment to these sewer outfalls but these schemes take their place in order of importance.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of the work of this department during 1958. Once again slum clearance activities have increased the number of housing inspections but on the whole the general environmental standard of the district has been maintained at the highest possible level.

Analysis

The following is a representative chemical analysis of the water supply:-

<u>Chemical Examination</u>	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Ammonia saline.	Nil
Ammonia "Albuminoid"	Nil
"Oxygen) in 15 minutes absorbed)	0.06
at 27°C) in 4 hours	0.13
Nitrogen from nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen from nitrates	2.5
Chlorine	21.0
Total Solid Residue	390
Total Hardness (as calcium carbonate)	285
Alkalinity (as calcium carbonate)	
Lead	Absent
Iron in solution	Absent
Total iron	Absent
Zinc	Absent
Reaction (pH value)	7.5
Appearance	Bright and colourless
Sediment	Nil

The water is of high organic purity.

small to intermediate in the vicinity. Where possible, solid digestion tanks have been provided but such installations are expensive and the time required in the area at the moment. It is necessary to provide for disposal of sewage sludge via agricultural land as the farmers can control fertilization of such lands much more easily with the product of anaerobic

Rivers and Streams

Severe pollution of these waterways is still one of the greatest problems in rural areas. In many cases these are caused by domestic sewage but even worse is the direct discharge of sewage from premises such as houses, hotels and farms to the river. It is a priority to provide the necessary treatment to these sewer outfalls and these schemes take their place in order of importance.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of the water supply system during 1958. Once again since activities have increased the number of housing inspections but on the whole the general environmental standard of the district has been maintained at the highest possible level.

Analysis

The following is a representative chemical analysis of the water supply:-

<u>Chemical Examination</u>	<u>Units per Million</u>
Ammonia nitrate	Nil
Ammonia "Nitrosite"	Nil
"Oxygen" in 15 minutes (absorbed)	0.02
at 27°C in 4 hours	0.12
Nitrogen from nitrate	Nil
Nitrogen from nitrite	2.5
Chlorine	21.0
Total Solids Residue	200
Total Hardness (as calcium carbonate)	200
Alkalinity (as calcium carbonate)	
Lead	Absent
Iron in solution	Absent
Total Iron	Absent
Zinc	Absent
Reaction (pH value)	7.5
Appearance	Bright and colorless
Sediment	Nil

The water is of high organic purity.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications approved in 1958	15
Number of applications not approved	5
Number of houses involved in approved applications	15
Amount of grants approved	£3,925
Number of improvements completed in 1958.. .. .	8

The same number of applications were approved as in 1957 and also the same number were not approved. The number of applications in 1957 included 26 premises - therefore, indicating that less cottages were improved in 1958 and the amount of grants approved in 1957 was approximately £1,300 more than in 1958. Improvement works completed were 16 in 1957, showing another reduction of 8 premises. Comparing these figures with those of 1956, indicates that during the last three years there has been a steady decline in the number of Improvement Grants considered by the Council. This decline does not mean that the Council are necessarily refusing more applications, but a survey over the past three years shows that less people are interested in applying.

During 1958 the Council were advised by the Ministry that subsidies for Council Houses would be removed or reduced and at one time the Council had considered stopping Improvement Grants altogether. On the advice of its Officers, they continued to make Grants, although each application was more critically considered.

A copy of the actual report made to the appropriate Committee and circularised to all members of the Council has been enclosed for general information, because it is felt that the general policy of the Government is to recommend these Improvement Grants so that the best is made of existing houses and every attempt to modernise them up to modern standards to be employed.

Report by the Chief Public Health Inspector at the Housing Grants and Loans Committee on the Council's future policy with the making of Improvement Grants

Under the Public Health and Housing Acts, the Council are responsible for the housing conditions in their district. This responsibility has resulted in the expenditure of up to two million pounds since 1945 for the provision of Council Houses. The amount approved for Improvement Grants of direct cost to this Council, which is equivalent to providing approximately six further houses, has encouraged the improvement of ninety-two privately owned houses up to the modern Council House standard.

From the Rural Housing Survey of private premises below thirty pounds rateable value, it can be seen that of three thousand four hundred properties surveyed, two thousand one hundred are still without bathrooms, and one thousand one hundred rely on bucket closets for sanitation. The Council have no authority to enforce the provision of bathrooms, and to enforce conversion to flush sanitation would result in half the cost being met from the rates.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications approved in 1955	15
Number of applications not approved	3
Number of houses involved in approved applications	15
Amount of grants approved	£5,925
Number of improvements completed in 1955	8

The same number of applications were approved in 1957 and also the same number were not approved. The number of applications in 1957 included 82 houses - therefore, indicating that last year's were improved in 1958 and the amount of grants approved in 1957 was approximately £1,500 more than in 1955. Improvements were completed were 15 in 1957, showed another reduction of 8 previous. Comparing these figures with those of 1955, indicated that during the last three years there has been a steady decline in the number of improvement grants considered by the Council. This decline does not mean that the Council are necessarily returning more applications, but a survey over the past three years shows that less people are interested in applying.

During 1958 the Council were advised by the Ministry that applications for Council Grants would be reduced or reduced and as such the Council had considered reducing improvement grants elsewhere. On the basis of 15's Officers, they continued to make grants, although each application was more critically considered.

A copy of the actual report made to the Committee and circulated to all members of the Council has been enclosed for general information, because it is felt that the general policy of the Government is to recommend these improvement grants as they have the best rate of existing houses and every attempt to reduce this up to modern standards is to be applied.

Report by the Chief Public Health Officer to the Housing Grants and Local Authorities Committee's Policy with the Council's Improvement Grants

Under the Public Health and Housing Acts, the Council are responsible for the housing conditions in their district. This responsibility has resulted in the expenditure of up to two million pounds since 1945 for the provision of Council houses. The amount spent for improvement grants of about £500,000, which is equal to the cost of building approximately six further houses, has increased the improvement of fifty-two privately owned houses up to the modern Council house standard.

From the Rural Housing Survey of houses provided below thirty pounds rateable value, it can be seen that of three thousand four hundred private houses, two thousand are improved and still without bathrooms, and one thousand are improved rely on bucket toilets for sanitation. The Council have no authority to enforce the provision of bathrooms, and to enforce conversion to flush sanitation which results in half the cost being met from the rates.

Improvement grants encourage owners to spend more in improving and repairing their premises. They ensure that work is carried out properly under the supervision of an architect or similarly qualified person, and that the condition of the premises remains satisfactory for a period of at least twenty years.

Although Slum Clearance has not been directly affected by the premises so far improved, indirectly it does prevent cottages from deteriorating further and reaching the stage where demolition and re-housing must be considered. Also a very high proportion of the Council's re-housing is caused by general dissatisfaction of farm workers with the premises which they occupy as part of their employment. This dissatisfaction has in the past encouraged such workers to leave the employment of the owners, and make themselves liable to eviction.

Under the Rural Workers Housing Act, 1926/38, farmers were given grant facilities for improvement of their cottages. When the 1949 Housing Act gave such facilities to all privately owned premises of this type, the grant aid under the Rural Workers Housing Act was repealed.

It is still the Ministry's policy that such improvement grants should be included on the Local Authorities' housing programme. With the general reduction in the provision of Council Houses, improvement grants should be encouraged even more.

General Statistics regarding Improvement

Grants made by this Council

Total amount approved by the Council, July, 1954 - February, 1958	£22,772
Direct cost to the Council over twenty years of Loan Charges	£9,600
Direct cost to the Ministry for grants approved.. ..	£28,800

Note:

This total sum of £38,400 includes interest and stems from the original grant of £22,772.

Direct cost to owners of premises improved,
(including repairs, but less grant) £36,455

Number of properties assisted in
modernisation 96

CAMPING SITES AND CARAVANS

<u>Site</u>	<u>Proprietor or Owner</u>	<u>Maximum No. of caravans</u>
Enterprise Camping Site, Barming.	E. L. Paine.	25
Hartridge Farm Site, East Farleigh.	A. V. Chambers.	20
The Retreat, Nettlestead.	Mrs. P. Lamb.	25

Caravan Sites for Seasonal Use only

Medway Wharf Site, Nettlestead.	A. W. Ashe.	10
Twyford Boat Yard Site, Yalding.	J. Wickham.	16
Hampstead Cottage Farm Site, Yalding.	A. Harcourt.	10

Summary of data

Number of inspections	234
Number of licenced sites	6
Number of licenced caravans	4
Applications for licence	4
Applications for licence refused	1

An additional seasonal site was licenced in Yalding accounting for an additional 10 caravans.

The number of inspections was 155 less this year. This reduction in visits is mainly due to the fact that in 1957 there was a considerable number of unlicenced sites in the area and daily inspections had to be made subsequent to the serving of statutory notices for the removal of caravans from unlicenced land.

It is nationally recognised that permanent caravan dwelling is on the increase. So great is the problem that already an official inquiry has been started to go into the questions of why people prefer such accommodation instead of permanent houses and where the law is inadequate. In this district there is an influx of such types of accommodation a few weeks before the commencement of fruit picking when pickers who occupy caravans are scattered over the district on unlicenced sites awaiting farmers' invitations to station their vans on land owned by them.

CAMPING SITES AND CARAVANS

Station No.	Proprietor of Camp	Site
25	Enterprise Camping Site, E. I. Fisher.	Enterprise.
26	Harrison Farm Site, A. V. Harrison.	Harrison Farm Site.
27	Mr. F. Lamb.	Mr. F. Lamb.
Caravan Sites for Seasonal Use only		
10	Madway Wharf Site, A. W. Asher.	Madway Wharf Site.
11	Tyford Boat Yard Site, J. Tyford.	Tyford Boat Yard Site.
12	Harrold Cottage Farm, A. Harrold.	Harrold Cottage Farm Site.

Summary of Data

Number of inspections	234
Number of licensed sites	6
Number of licensed caravans	4
Applications for license	4
Applications for license refused	1
An additional seasonal site was licensed as Yalving accounting for an additional 10 caravans.	

The number of inspections was 134 less this year. This reduction in visits is mainly due to the fact that in 1937 there was a considerable number of unlicensed sites in the area and daily inspections had to be made subsequent to the serving of statutory notices for the removal of caravans from unlicensed land.

It is nationally recognised that permanent caravan dwelling is on the increase. So great is the problem that already an official inquiry has been started to go into the questions of why people prefer such accommodation instead of permanent houses and where the law is inadequate. In this district there is an influx of such types of accommodation a few weeks before the commencement of trials picking when pickers who occupy caravans are scattered over the district on unlicensed sites awaiting further invitations to station their vans on land owned by them.

Subsequently, a similar problem arises when the fruit and hop-picking period is over and the employers no longer require such casual labour and the caravans are ejected from the farmers' land. For some weeks contraventions of the Public Health Act, section 264 are most apparent until the 'vans are removed to their winter quarters outside the district. It is still felt by officials dealing with this problem that Council's should seriously consider providing permanent sites for such caravans where they can be properly controlled. Satisfactory water supply and sanitation provided, and general nuisance through these causes would then be reduced to a minimum. Even this answer to the problem would be aggravated by the general dislike of the County Council planning authority for caravans within the County.

HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Total number of Hop Pickers' Camps in use ..	80
Number of huts in use (estimated)	3,200
Estimated number of pickers	13,000
Number of Inspections	251

Approximately the same number of inspections were made this year as in 1957. During the season it was found necessary to serve only one or two informal notices on owners of such camps, all of which were complied with satisfactorily. During the season each occupied camp was inspected at least three times, once before and twice during occupation.

In an attempt to reduce the number of wasted visits to ascertain if camp sites would be used, every farmer with a hop quota was circularised a copy of the Hop Pickers' Byelaws and his attention drawn to the Byelaw referring to prior notification of occupation of Hop Pickers' camps. The response was not very satisfactory as general interest in this seasonal activity is steadily declining with the provision of mechanical picking.

It is estimated that 13,000 pickers were imported into the area during the last week of August and the third week in September and no major problem arose.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises in the District

Cafes and Restaurants	13
Food Shops (excluding butchers)	97
Butchers' Shops	16
Licenced premises	59
<u>Total</u>	<u>185</u>

Number of Visits and Inspections

Cafes and Restaurants	17
Food Shops (excluding butchers)	180
Butchers' Shops	47
Licenced premises	29
<u>Total</u>	<u>273</u>

There has been an increase of two additional food premises during 1958, the number of licenced premises reduced by one and cafes reduced by one and an increase of other food shops by four. The total number of visits to all food premises are 160 less than in 1957. This reduction is due to the extensive number of visits required in 1957 to implement the Food Hygiene Regulations. All premises were surveyed and notices served where contraventions were found.

The very high standard of food shops in your district has been maintained during this period and I can now report that there is a constant hot water supply provided in all premises where food is handled, sold or stored.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF SHOPS

Number of shops	209
Number of inspections of shops.. .. .	285

During the year of 1958, 285 inspections were made of shops within the district.

No proceedings were taken against occupants of any shops, and no representations were received from any organisation with regard to the administration of the Shops Acts.

Each of the 209 shops within the district were inspected at least once and it was only necessary to make five intimations for contraventions. In each case the contravention was corrected without the necessity for further statutory action.

INVESTIGATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SHOPS

Number of Food Establishments in the District

Hotels and Restaurants	10
Food Shops (excluding restaurants)	97
Restaurants, Bars	16
Ice cream parlors	17
<u>Total</u>	<u>140</u>

Number of Visits and Inspections

Hotels and Restaurants	17
Food Shops (excluding restaurants)	105
Restaurants, Bars	27
Ice cream parlors	17
<u>Total</u>	<u>166</u>

There was a total of 140 food establishments in the district during 1950, the number of licensed premises. The number of food shops was 97, the number of restaurants, bars and ice cream parlors was 43. The total number of visits and inspections was 166. The number of visits to food shops was 105, the number of visits to restaurants, bars and ice cream parlors was 61. The number of inspections of food shops was 105, the number of inspections of restaurants, bars and ice cream parlors was 61.

The very high standard of food shops in your district has been maintained during the period and I am sure that there is a constant and active working in all premises where food is handled, sold or served.

INVESTIGATION AND ACTIVITIES OF SHOPS

Number of shops 97
 Number of inspections of shops 105
 During the year of 1950, the inspections were made of shops within the district.
 No proceedings were taken against owners of any shops, and no proceedings were taken against any organization with regard to the establishment of the shops.

Food of the shops within the district was inspected at least once and it was only necessary to make two inspections for certain shops. In some cases the establishment was notified against the necessity for further satisfactory action.

MILK SUPPLIES

Examination of Milk Samples (Bacteriological)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of samples examined</u>	<u>No. found un- satisfactory</u>
Sterilised	19	0
Tuberculin Tested	3	1
Pasteurised	14	0
	36	1

Dairies and Milk Shops

Details of registration and licences are given below:-

Dairies registered	9
Registered Dairies situated outside the area.. .. .	5
Retailers (excluding Dairies)	22

Dealers Licences

Sterilised Milk.. .. .	31
Pasteurised Milk	13
Tuberculin Tested Milk	14

Supplementary Licences

Sterilised Milk.. .. .	3
Pasteurised Milk	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk	4

36 samples were taken as against 44 in 1957 and every retailer within the area was sampled at least once. Only on one occasion was a sample unsatisfactory. This was a Tuberculin Tested Milk which was quickly followed by another sample which satisfied the appropriate tests. The number of registered dairies in the area has reduced by two, and the retailers, excluding dairies, has increased by the same amount.

WILK SAMPLES
(Investigation of Milk Samples)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>No. of samples examined</u>	<u>No. found satisfactory</u>
Sterilized	19	0
Thermophilic Tested	5	1
Pasteurized	14	0
	38	1

Dairies and Milk Sheds

Details of registration and inspection are given below:-

Dairies registered	2
Registered dairies situated outside the area	0
Dairies (excluding Dairies)	32
<u>Subsidiary dairies</u>	
Sterilized Milk	31
Pasteurized Milk	13
Thermophilic Tested Milk	14
<u>Subsidiary dairies</u>	
Sterilized Milk	0
Pasteurized Milk	0
Thermophilic Tested Milk	0

23 samples were taken on August 22 in 1937 and every retailer within the area was sampled at least once. Only on the occasion was a sample unsatisfactory. This was a Thermophilic Tested Milk which was previously found to be satisfactory which satisfied the requirements. The number of registered dairies in the area has reduced to two, and the registration, excluding dairies, has increased by the same amount.

MEAT INSPECTION

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Carcases</u>	<u>Per cent.</u>
Ballard	613	38.0
Boorman (Staplehurst) ..	437	27.0
Boorman (Marden).. ..	318	19.5
Standen	248	15.5
<u>Total -</u>		<u>100.0</u>
1,616		

Total Carcases examined

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. examined	742	599	18	3	254	1,616
No. passed	696	584	18	2	235	1,535
Completely condemned	2	5	0	0	0	7
Partially condemned	44	10	0	1	19	74

Tuberculosis

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. examined	742	599	18	3	254	1,616
Completely condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partially condemned	11	0	0	0	1	12

Other Diseases

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Other Bovine	Total
No. examined	742	599	18	3	254	1,616
Completely condemned	2	5	0	0	0	7
Partially condemned	33	10	0	1	18	62

WAT INSPECTION

Station	Inspector	Per cent
Ballard	315	32.5
Boorman (Greenhouse)	437	31.0
Boorman (Harden)	315	28.5
Stanton	305	22.5
Total - 1,372		100.0

Water - 1,372

Station	Inspector	Per cent	Other	Total
No. examined	315	32.5	325	1,010
Not passed	437	31.0	335	1,112
Completely condemned	3	0.2	0	3
Partially condemned	42	3.0	10	52

Thermometers

Station	Inspector	Per cent	Other	Total
No. examined	315	32.5	325	1,010
Completely condemned	3	0.2	0	3
Partially condemned	11	0.8	1	12

Other Diseases

Station	Inspector	Per cent	Other	Total
No. examined	315	32.5	325	1,010
Completely condemned	3	0.2	0	3
Partially condemned	33	3.0	19	52

PIGS FOR DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION

Mr. Boorman (Staplehurst) 88

Concerning the Deadweight Certification of pigs only one centre remained during 1958 and that was withdrawn by the Ministry leaving no Deadweight Certification centres within the area.

It has been the general policy of the Ministry to withdraw the permission for such Certification from all small country areas and centralise this service at the large abattoirs where full time Ministry Certification Officers are employed.

MEAT INSPECTION

There was a slight increase of approximately 200 carcasses examined during the year but the number of carcasses which were wholly condemned or parts found unfit showed a reduction. This indicates that the standard of meat within the area has improved. During the year, four slaughterhouses were in constant use, the remaining licenced premises, owned by Mr. Haggett, has not been used during the whole period of 12 months. In 1958, the Slaughterhouses Act and subsequent regulations became law, and, as yet, it has not been possible to bring the premises in the area up to the required standard. The contraventions are small and every effort is being made to structurally alter the premises to comply with the Act. Mr. Ballard has provided new hanging rails, hoisting and other slaughtering equipment.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN DETAIL

	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Cows	Bovine
Boorman - Staplehurst					
No. examined	221	115	4	0	97
Completely condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Partially condemned	6	0	0	0	1
Boorman - Marden					
No. examined	135	114	0	2	67
Completely condemned	0	4	0	0	0
Partially condemned	15	5	0	0	5
Ballard - Marden					
No. examined	139	370	14	0	90
Completely condemned	1	1	0	0	0
Partially condemned	3	5	0	0	13
Standen - Coxheath					
No. examined	247	0	0	1	0
Completely condemned	1	0	0	0	0
Partially condemned	20	0	0	1	0
Haggett - Hunton					
No. examined	0	0	0	0	0
Completely condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Partially condemned	0	0	0	0	0

MEAT INSPECTION

<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>		
<u>Reason</u>	<u>Completely condemned</u>	<u>Partially condemned</u>
Tuberculosis	0	12
Necrosis	0	1
Absecesses	0	3
Liver Fluke	0	2
Pleurisy	0	11
Moribund carcase	4	0
Ascaris Lumbricoides	0	4
Nephritis	0	2
Pneumonia	0	6
Pericarditis	0	5
Parasitic infection	0	11
Cirrhosis	0	1
Traumatism	0	2
Cysticercus bovis	0	10
Peritonitis	0	1
Melanosis	0	1
Suppurative Mammary Gland	0	1
Toxaemia	2	1
Cysts	0	1

The incident of Tuberculosis in carcasses is even less than in 1957.

The only major increase is parasitic infection, mainly affecting sheep lungs and pleurisy of the same organs.

Cysticercus bovis also shows an increase over 1957 but it was not found necessary to condemn any whole carcase. This is a cystic stage affecting Man which has become more apparent since the war. It is believed that the re-infection in this country by this parasite was caused through the use of European prisoners-of-war on farms. Some of these prisoners had tape worms and infected the pasture land used for grazing purposes by the cattle.

MEAT INSPECTION

Reasons for condemnation

Reason	Number of cases	Percentage
Salmonellosis	12	100
Acidosis	1	8
Adenitis	2	17
Edema	2	17
Infarction	11	92
Septicemia	0	0
Acute inflammation	4	33
Myocarditis	2	17
Pneumonia	2	17
Peritonitis	2	17
Septicemic infection	11	92
Cystitis	1	8
Tracheitis	2	17
Uterine infection	10	83
Pericarditis	1	8
Malnutrition	1	8
Suppurative mammary gland	1	8
Toxemia	1	8
Cyema	1	8

The incidence of salmonellosis in swine is even less than in 1937.

The only other incident in swine is peritonitis, mainly affecting those found and observed of the same origin.

Septicemic infection also shows an increase over 1937. But it was not found necessary to condemn any whole carcasses. This is a systemic stage affecting the whole carcass. Some more advanced cases were seen. It is believed that the peritonitis in this category is due to the fact that the carcasses through the use of various antiseptics and disinfectants. Some of these carcasses had been found and reported. The positive result was for finding carcasses by the inspector.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT during the year ended 31st December, 1958.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
A pricot Jam	1
Aspirin	1
Bile Beans	1
Bitter Beer	1
Cocoa.. .. .	1
Delrosa (Rose Hip Syrup)	1
Essence of Coffee and Chicory.. .. .	1
French Coffee (Coffee and Chicory Mixture)	1
Honey.. .. .	1
Kola	1
Mandarin Oranges in Syrup.. .. .	1
Maralyn (Milk Plus)	1
Marmalade.. .. .	1
Mild Beer.. .. .	1
Milk	23
Orange Squash.. .. .	1
Orstrax Tonic.. .. .	1
Peaches Halves in Syrup	1
Persomnia.. .. .	1
Pineapple Cubes in Syrup	1
Plum Jam	1
Pork Sausages.. .. .	1
Pure Honey	1
Serocalin.. .. .	1
Strawberries in Heavy Syrup	1
Tea	2
Vitacup	1
Whisky	1
Total -	<u>51</u>

Summary

Milk	23
Drugs.. .. .	6
Spirits	1
Other samples.. .. .	<u>21</u>
	<u>51</u>

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>A nalysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Pork Sausages	Fat 27%, Lean 44%, Total meat 71%. SO ₂ 210 parts per million.	Preservative notice was not visible at the time of purchase. Butcher advised.

ICE CREAM

<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test Group</u>	<u>Pathogenic organisms cultivated</u>
23	I	0
3	II	0
2	III	0
10	IV	0

There has been a reduction of premises registered for the sale of ice cream from 63 in 1957 to 60 in 1958. 38 samples were taken and as the results indicate, all were satisfactory except 10. During the year, a whole batch of 6 samples were classified under grade IV, and although these samples were from different shops, they were re-sampled again immediately and again proved to be grade IV. At the request of the Public Health Laboratory Service, they were taken again and were satisfactory. It was indicated by Dr. J. H. C. Walker of the Laboratory that the samples themselves were sound but there had been some difficulty in the laboratory when the tests were made. Therefore, although the figures indicate 10 unsatisfactory samples, this did not indicate that the product or the registered premises were not up to standard.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Inspections and Surveys made under Rodent Control

No. of visits made for all purposes	1,897
No. of agricultural premises visited.. .. .	437
Number of treatments made	397
Estimated number of rats destroyed	4,399
Estimated number of mice destroyed	1,744

There was a reduction of 544 visits made by Mr. Curties in 1958 as against 1957. A analysis shows this is due to a considerable less number of complaints by householders. The number of visits and treatments of agricultural premises has increased because of the greater number of contracts held by the Council.

It appears that the Council's policy to concentrate on farm premises is now beginning to show results, indicated by the remarkably less number of household complaints. With the removal of the Ministry subsidy in 1959, they are concerned that Councils will relax their efforts to exterminate rodents, and, therefore, Ministry Officials are now recommending annual contracts for Local Authorities with business owners and farmers. Your Council have already recommended to increase it's Contract Service extensively to cover the lost subsidy and this relieve the ratepayer of any additional burden.

Once again, I should like to draw the Council's attention to the keenness and efficiency of it's Rodent Operator, Mr. Curties.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, and Analysis of Mortality, 1958

	Rate per 1,000 population	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population				Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Related Births
		All causes	Tuberculosis	Cancer of Lung	Other Cancer		
England and Wales	16.4	11.7	.09(P)	.43(P)	1.63(P)	22.5	21.6
Hollingbourn R.D.C.	17.14	10.86	.23	.17	1.07	21.89	21.42
Maidstone R.D.C.	16.31	8.56	.05	.31	1.89	10.13	10.03
Malling R.D.C.	16.49	10.71	.16	.43	1.21	20.58	16.86
Maidstone Borough	15.58	9.71	.14	.35	1.75	27.15	17.40
Kent County Council	15.51	11.85	.09	.46	1.64	20.05	18.97
(P) - Provisional Rates							

(2) - Laboratory Data									
Description of Sample	Date	Time	Location	Depth	Temperature	Specific Gravity	Moisture Content	Liquid Limit	Plastic Limit
1.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
2.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
3.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
4.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
5.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
6.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
7.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
8.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
9.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
10.000 gms. of soil	10.21	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

GENERAL SUMMARY

Estimated resident population, 1958	19,040
Area (in acres)	34,487
Density (persons per acre) .. .. .	.552
Annual Birth-rate per 1,000 population	
Crude	15.54
Corrected	16.31
Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population	
Crude	15.02
Corrected	8.56
	Male Female Total
Births	157 139 296
Deaths	145 141 286
Excess of births over deaths	10
Tuberculosis death-rate	
Pulmonary .. .. .	.05
Non-pulmonary	nil
Cancer death-rate per 1,000 population	2.20

