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1931.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.


P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Maidstone.

Maidstone :

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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1931-1932.

Chairman.

Alderman F. G. LAURENCE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor C. GORDON LARKING, J.P.)

Alderman A. T. EPPS, J.P.

„ J. TOMLIN, J.P.

Councillor H. G. TYRWHITT-

Councillor T. HUNTER.

DRAKE, J.P.

„ S. J. LYLE.

„ R. W. BEALE.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

„ J. A. GIBB.

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1931-1932.

Chairman.

Alderman F. G. LAURENCE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor C. GORDON LARKING, J.P.)

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DRAKE, J.P.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

„ R. W. BEALE.

Dr. E. GRACE GARRATT.

„ J. A. GIBB.

Mrs. B. W. HAYNES.

„ T. HUNTER.

Mrs. H. J. RING.

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1931.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year 1931.

I am glad to be able to report that the health of the Town has been good and there has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic.

Further progress is being made in the provision of houses for the workers and towards the demolition or re-conditioning of the unfit houses which still exist in the Borough.

While the National Emergency makes the strictest economy imperative, I hope that the sanitary services of the Borough will not be allowed to suffer.

This being the first Annual Report which I have presented to you, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Corporation and the Officers for the warm welcome which was given to me on taking up my duties in Maidstone.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
13, TONBRIDGE ROAD,
MAIDSTONE,
29th April, 1932.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

C. PYE OLIVER, Junr., B.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

W. A. N. Baker, M.C., A.R.S.I., Special Meat Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

R. H. Wigmore, Cert. R. San. I. (Resigned April, 1931).

Health Visitors.

Miss M. Evelyn Harris—Holds the Certificates of the Royal
Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and Inspector of
Nuisances, General Nursing and C.M.B.

Miss Reid—Holds the Certificate of Norland Institute and
C.M.B.

Public Analyst.

E. M. Hawkins, Canterbury, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Veterinary Officer.

C. Crowhurst, M.R.C.V.S.

Matron of Sanatorium.

Miss G. M. Bates.

Clerks.

F. W. Drury and G. S. Adams and
H. Moule (appointed 2/11/31).

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—4,008 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

Estimated 1931—For Birth Rate 42,320.

(Mid-year) For Death Rate 42,080.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

1921..... 8,172.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS,
INCLUDING DWELLING PORTIONS OF SHOPS.

1931 . . . 9,950.

RATEABLE VALUE AS AT 31/12/31.

£352,319.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.

£1,468.

Social Conditions, Including the Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

Maidstone is a busy industrial centre and agricultural town situate on either side of the slow flowing non-tidal River Medway. The greater portion of the town lies on the east side of the river, through which flows a small rivulet the Len. The town lies at the foot of a range of chalk hills which protect it from the north and north-east winds, and in consequence the climate is mild and genial. To the south-west is the valley of the River Medway. The prevailing winds are in this direction, there is thus ample opportunity of free change of air. The town lies low, and in consequence of the fortunate direction of this valley much benefit is derived from this free-interchange.

In the main, the geological formation is that of the Hythe beds of the Lower Greensand, which in many places crops out close to the surface with Atherfield Clay at no great depth beneath. These formations are overlaid with Drift consisting of gravel alluvium or brick earth. Near the river, however, the Lower Greensand is wanting, and the underlying Atherfield Clay is exposed.

The most important local industries are those of paper-making, brewing, engineering and general manufacturing of food preparations. It is also the centre of a large motor bus passenger traffic service.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Totals.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	621	335	286
Illegitimate	23	8	15
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...	15·2		

	Totals.	Male.	Female.
STILLBIRTHS.	24	13	11

Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births ... 35·9

	Totals.	Male.	Female.
DEATHS... ..	473	250	223

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population... 11·2

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and Childbirth :—

From Sepsis	—
„ other causes	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	46·6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	45·1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	87·0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

During the year 1931, the general health of the Borough of Maidstone has been good, and there have been no epidemics or outbreaks of sickness calling for special comment.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General—No nursing is provided by the Local Authority, but two District Nurses made 4,313 visits during the year.

(b) Infectious Diseases—Arrangements with the Kent County Nursing Association for the home nursing of cases of measles in young children still exist, but it has not been necessary to call upon the Association for this service.

MIDWIVES.

There are 8 midwives practising in the Borough under the administration of the County Medical Officer of Health for Kent.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The water supply from the various sources is examined chemically every month by the Analyst of the Maidstone Waterworks Company and copies of each analysis are forwarded to this department. Samples are also taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination.

Analysis of the gas supplied to the Borough continue to be forwarded every month by the Gas Company.

Samples of milk and foodstuffs are forwarded to the Public Analyst at Canterbury. Details of his analysis are given later on in the report.

Clinical matter (sputum, swabs, etc.), are sent to the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone, for bacteriological examination.

Legislation in Force.

No local Act, special Orders, general adoptive Acts and bye-laws relating to public health have come into force during the year 1931.

Hospitals.

GENERAL.

The West Kent General Hospital, which is now well equipped and up-to-date, is largely resorted to by the inhabitants of the Borough and considerable use is also made of the Public Assistance Institution at Coxheath.

SPECIAL.

Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose and Throat.—These cases are catered for by the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital. Children found at School Medical Inspection to be suffering from visual defects or from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are referred for treatment to the Ophthalmic Hospital.

Orthopaedics, massage and electro-therapy and artificial sunlight.—Special departments are established at the West Kent General Hospital and cases are referred there from the School Medical Department.

Maternity.—The Corporation has entered into an arrangement for two beds at the West Kent General Hospital for Maternity cases, admitted through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. These beds are used to the utmost and I consider that it is most desirable that the number of beds available should be increased.

Infectious Diseases.—The Borough Sanatorium in Fant Lane receives cases of infectious disease among residents in the Borough. This hospital, which has been established for 50 years, is in some respect antiquated and some expenditure is necessary to bring it up to modern requirements and to provide for the isolation of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, enteric fever, puerperal fever, etc.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

The Corporation does not provide institutional accommodation for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children. St. Faith's Home, Bearsted, which is outside the Borough, makes some provision for unmarried mothers and their children and, apart from this home, the only accommodation is in the Public Assistance Institution.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Cases of infectious diseases are removed to the Isolation Hospital by a motor ambulance provided by the Local Authority.

For non-infectious, maternity and accident cases, the local St. John Ambulance Brigade provide ambulance transport on a voluntary basis. The Brigade is equipped with excellent motor ambulances and the enthusiasm and devotion of the members deserves the appreciation and gratitude of the inhabitants of the Borough.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

During the year under review, there have been no changes in the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, which has continued to do excellent work. The low infantile death rate is gratifying evidence of the success of this work. The attached table gives details of the attendances, etc. An effort has been made to secure a closer linking-up of the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Departments, and to this end the records of the visiting of infants and pre-school are now designed to give a continuous medical history, which is carried on in the school medical inspection records, until the child passes out of the school attendance period. This continuity is further helped by the pre-school clinic, now held at the Old Palace, where children, before they attain school age are seen, defects noted and suitable treatment advised. In this connection, I would emphasize that the Maternity and Child Welfare work and the School Medical Service cannot be regarded as separate and distinct departments, but must be complementary and correlated services and urge the desirability of the Nurses employed by the Corporation undertaking both Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical work.

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1931.

No. of first visits paid to the homes of Infants	...	...	506
" return " "	...	...	2133
" return " Children	...	...	4863
" first visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	180
" return " "	...	...	71
" visits <i>re</i> removal, death of child, stillbirth, etc.	...	...	509
Attendances of Mothers at Old Palace	...	...	4284
" Infants " "	...	...	2665
" Children " "	...	...	2820
" Mothers at Barming	...	...	778
" Infants " "	...	...	333
" Children " "	...	...	619
" Mothers at Mangravet	...	...	798
" Infants " "	...	...	558
" Children " "	...	...	603
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	101
" Barming	...	...	23
" Mangravet	...	...	23
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	52
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	165
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	506
Number of Health Talks given at Old Palace	...	...	40
" " Barming	...	...	15
" " Mangravet	...	...	12
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	2980
" " Barming	...	...	482
" " Mangravet	...	...	556
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	...	...	54.3
" Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	29.5
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	...	...	20.25
" Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	...	20.95
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet	...	...	25.23
" Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	24.17
Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	363
" Infants " "	...	...	279
" Children " "	...	...	213
" Mothers " Barming	...	...	65
" Infants " "	...	...	43
" Children " "	...	...	45
" Mothers " Mangravet	...	...	56
" Infants " "	...	...	43
" Children " "	...	...	52
Pre-School Clinic Attendances (3-5 years of age)	...	...	129
Individual Children	...	...	76
Average Attendance	...	...	11.72

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1931—*continued.*

Cooking Classes held ...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Attendance of Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Individual Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Sewing Classes held ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Attendance of Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Individual Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	...	14

SCHOOL CLINICS.

The School Medical Officer attends weekly at the School Clinic at 13, Tonbridge Road and minor ailment clinics are held daily at the same place, at South Borough School and at Mangravet. A further minor ailment clinic, to serve the Schools in the East part of the town, is proposed.

DENTAL CLINICS.

These are held at 13, Tonbridge Road, and during the past year the new clinic at South Borough School was opened. Four sessions are held weekly and in addition to the school children, pre-school cases referred from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre are treated.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINICS.

Maidstone is very fortunate in having a well-equipped and efficient department at the West Kent General Hospital, under the care of Mr. Alan Todd, M.S., F.R.C.S., Honorary Surgeon, and it is now a common matter for children to be referred to this department for treatment. One of the School Nurses attends the Clinic on Fridays, with the cases referred from the School Medical Department.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

A Dispensary is held at Station Road, Maidstone, under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health for Kent.

VENEREAL DISEASES CENTRE.

None is provided in the Borough, the nearest being at Rochester.

DAY NURSERIES.

There is none in the Borough at present, but the amount of employment of married women is increasing and as projected industrial developments would appear to be in the direction of further demand for female rather than male labour, this seems likely to become more general, and I can foresee that a day nursery will become necessary.

Maternal Mortality.

The measures which have been taken towards the reduction of maternal mortality in the Borough include the provision of the ante-natal clinic which is held weekly at the Old Palace. Investigations into the circumstances of maternal deaths and into cases of puerperal pyrexia and puerperal fever are made by the Medical Officer of Health, and the County Bacteriological Laboratory carries out the necessary laboratory investigations. The services of a Consultant, under the scheme of the Corporation, are available, if asked for, by the Medical Practitioners, and the arrangement with the West Kent General Hospital allows for the admission to hospital of difficult and complicated cases, though the number of beds available could be with advantage increased. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Corporation has authorised the supply of milk for expectant mothers where necessary.

Health Visiting.

The Corporation have appointed one Health Visitor, while a second is provided from the funds of the Maternity and Child Welfare Association. These two Officers carry out the visiting of infants under one year and of children from 1 to 5 years. The arrangement is not entirely satisfactory and I consider that it would be an advantage if both of these Visitors were directly employed by the Corporation. An economy of time and travelling would be effected and over-lapping of duties which at present exists, would be avoided if it were arranged that all the nurses employed in the Borough combined the duties of Health Visitor, Visitor under the Infant Life Protection Act and School Nurse.

Children Act, 1908.

In the Borough of Maidstone, the Health Visitors are not the appointed visitors under the Act, but this duty is performed by the School Nurses. I consider that this work should be part of the Health Visitors' duties and there is in this, a further argument in favour of the combination of duties mentioned above.

Return relating to the Administration of Part I. of the Children Act, 1908, during the Year 1931.

I. Notification :—

(i) Number of foster parents on the Register :—

(a) at the beginning of the year	29
(b) at the end of the year	39

(ii) Number of children on the Register :—

(a) at the beginning of the year	25
(b) at the end of the year	29
(c) who died during the year	—
(d) on whom inquests were held during the year	—

II. Visiting :—

(1) Number of Visitors holding appointments under Section 2 (2) at the end of the year :—

(a) Health Visitors	—
(b) Female, other than Health Visitors	2
(c) Male	—

(ii) Number of persons or societies authorised to visit under the proviso to Section 2 (2)

—

III. Number of cases (if any) in which proceedings were taken during the year :—

(i) Under Section 1 (7)	—
(ii) Under Section 2 (5)	—
(iii) Under Section 2 (6)	—
(iv) Under Section 3	—
(v) Under Section 4	—
(vi) Under Section 5 (2)	—
(vii) Under Section 6 (2)	—
(viii) Under Section 7	—
(ix) Under Section 8 (1)	—

Total ... —

IV. Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year :—

(i) Under (a) of Section 3	—
(ii) Under (b) of Section 3	—
(iii) Under (c) of Section 3	—

Total .. —

V. Number of orders obtained during the year :—

	<i>From a Justice.</i>	<i>From the Local Authority.</i>
(1) Under (a) of Section 5 (1)	—	—
(ii) Under (b) of Section 5 (1)	—	—
(iii) Under (c) of Section 5 (1)	—	—
Totals... ..	—	—

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The supply of water by the Maidstone Waterworks Company has continued to be satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity. Analyses of the water from each source have been made, at least monthly, and the results are given in detail later in the Report, while the mean results for 1931, are tabulated below. All results are stated in grains per gallon.

Average results, 1931.						BOARLEY.	COSSINGTON.	FORSTAL.
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	25·6	23·8	29·5
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	1·61	1·52	2·64
Nitrogen (Nitric)	...	...	...	...	...	0·34	0·25	0·17
Nitrogen (Nitrous)	...	...	...	...	...	0·00	0·00	0·00
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0·00	0·00	0·00
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0·00	0·00	0·00
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	0·010	0·018	0·013
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	clear	clear	clear
Smell	...	...	...	...	...	none	none	none

The gathering grounds at Boarley and Cossington, with the reservoirs at Boarley, Detling, and Barning, continue to be subjected to a daily patrol by an employee of the Waterworks Company. These, together with the reservoir at Loose and the pumping station at Forstal, have been inspected by myself, in company with Professor Eyre; Dr. Greenwood, the County Medical Officer; and Mr. Harden, the Engineer.

The grounds were found to be in a most satisfactory condition; the reservoirs are well protected and the pumping station and bore-hole were also in a most commendable state. Bacteriological examinations have been made by Professor Eyre, while I have also arranged for independent bacteriological analyses to be made at the County Laboratory, the results of which are entirely satisfactory. A summary of the bacteriological examinations will be found in the appendix to this report.

Boring operations in the chalk at Boxley have been carried out and a satisfactory supply obtained, but this additional source of supply is not required at present and the boring was undertaken to determine the site for future developments, if and when necessary.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The area of the Borough of Maidstone is drained by the River Medway and its tributary, the Len. The Medway is undoubtedly polluted to a considerable extent and while some of this pollution arises outside the Borough, in the upper reaches, it is rather a case of the proverbial dwellers in glass houses, for the industrial works in the Borough area cause a regrettable amount of pollution, by the discharge of trade waste. Inspections of the rivers have been made and samples taken for analysis. The management of the paper mills at Tovil have been interviewed and suggestions made for minimising the amount of waste pulp allowed to reach the river and it is hoped that an improvement will be obtained.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district of Penenden Heath and Sandy Lane is being sewered and drained by the construction of a sewer from Penenden Heath to Ringlestone. This sewer is now in the course of construction and apart from this, there have been no extensions of the sewerage system in the year under review.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in the Borough (approximately) is as follows:—

W.C's. into drainage system	...	...	9952
W.C's. into cesspools	...	...	41
Earth closets or privy middens	...	...	4
Pail closets...	...	...	67

SCAVENGING.

Since June, 1930, the disposal of refuse has been made by the "Bradford" system of controlled tipping. The system itself has been satisfactory but the shortage of earth for covering has proved a serious difficulty and cartage of this material to the site would entail a large expense. The Corporation has therefore resolved to build a Separation and Incineration Plant and plans have been prepared. A Public Inquiry has been held and sanction to proceed with the erection of the plant has been obtained from the Ministry of Health.

Premises & Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

The following premises are controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations:—

- 7 Common Lodging Houses.
- 16 Slaughter Houses.
- 4 Houses let in Lodgings.
- 9 Cowsheds.
- 36 Dairies and Milkshops.
- 1 By-Products Factory, comprising bone boiler, fat melter and tallow melter.

Smoke Abatement.

Several owners of factories in the town have been interviewed with a view to minimising the emission of black smoke from the chimneys.

Factories and Workshops.

173 inspections have been made and 12 written notices issued.

The number of defects found were 12 and they were all remedied together with one case of Defective Sanitary Accommodation found in 1930 and remedied in 1931.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are four premises in the Borough in which rag flock is used and inspections have been made at regular intervals.

Schools.

There are in the Borough 18 Public Elementary Schools or Departments and in these the average roll of scholars in 1931 was 5,124. The school buildings are for the most part of an excellent type and the more recently constructed schools leave very little to be desired from the standpoint of structure and equipment. All the schools are supplied from the public water supply and all with the exception of Willington Infants School are connected with the town sewer system. There have been no serious outbreak of notifiable or non-notifiable disease among the school children during 1931, and school closure has not been necessary.

There is also a Junior Technical School, which can accommodate up to 200. The Maidstone Boys Grammar School, which has accommodation for 440 boys, is housed in new and up-to-date buildings, but the Maidstone Girls Grammar School is not in such a happy position. The original accommodation in the Girls Grammar School in Albion Place is 150. Other premises in Albion Place afford room for 60, at Brunswick House for 80 and at the Wesleyan School for 40, a total of 330, and the girls in attendance number 450. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs and the provision of the new Girls Grammar School which has been proposed, is urgently required.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries).	63	1	—
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	101	11	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	9	—	—
TOTAL	173	12	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : *				
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	1	1	—	—
Other Nuisances	7	7	—	—
Sanitary Accommo- dation. { Insufficient	1	1	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defective...	1	2	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ...	1	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to out- work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL	12	13†	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† Includes 1 case of defective sanitary accommodation found in 1930 and remedied in 1931.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	3
Bakehouse inspections	79
Chimneys repaired	15
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided	29
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	47
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections	72
Common Lodging House inspections	22
Coppers repaired	37
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	6908
" tested with smoke	60
" " water	58
" inspection chambers provided	21
" " " airtight covers provided	27
" reconstructed	37
Stoneware drains laid	1012 ft.
Iron	—
Drains trapped from sewer and ventilated	2
Dustbins provided	101
Factory, workshop, workplace and outworkers' premises inspected	173
Fresh air inlets provided	3
Grates renewed or repaired	11
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars	2
" floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	89
" shooting or guttering provided or repaired	57
" roofs repaired	147
" No. of rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and dis-tempered	298
" walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method	40
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	164
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	357
" " under Housing Act, 1925	—
" of work in progress	1132
Miscellaneous defects remedied	149
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	10
Overcrowding abated	34
Poultry or animals removed	2
Re-inspections of houses	1214
Schools inspected	10
Sink or other waste pipes removed, disconnected or trapped	40
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	34
Slaughterhouse inspections	927
Stairs repaired	23
Stonework gullies provided	21
Strainers provided to gullies	29
Tippers repaired, renewed or cleansed	12
Walls and Ceilings repaired	293
W.C.'s, additional, provided	3
" flushing apparatus provided or repaired	149
" new pans and traps provided	55
" structural defects remedied	73
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and cords renewed	72
" sills renewed or repaired	6
" frames renewed or repaired	73
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	31
Preliminary Notices served	222
Statutory Notices served	174

Housing Statistics.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	421
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	421
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	—
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	398
II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	231
III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.	
A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17, 18 AND 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	13
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	398
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	146
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 19 AND 21 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

HOUSING STATISTICS (continued).

E.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	—
F.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

Housing Conditions.

Maidstone, in common with other towns of like age in the country shows considerable variation in the housing conditions in the different districts. The houses in the out-lying and newer parts of the town are of modern construction and good type, while in the central parts of the town there are courts and alleys which are ripe for demolition when accommodation for the inhabitants is available.

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

The Corporation have erected 1,398 houses of the cottage type in various parts of the Borough and the provision of further houses on two sites, one in the Northern and one in the Western end of the district is in hand. Some of these houses are for the re-housing of dispossessed tenants from houses which are for demolition and for whom accommodation must be found. Apart from such needs, the question arises as to whether the public provision of houses has not gone far enough ; and the continuance of control of the rentals of existing houses is not an unmixed blessing for by preventing the normal interchange of houses, the shortage of housing for those seeking accommodation is accentuated.

OVERCROWDING.

There is still a considerable amount of overcrowding in the Borough. A large number of cases were outstanding at the beginning of 1931 and 22 cases were reported during the year. During the year under review, 34 cases were dealt with by being allotted Council houses.

FITNESS OF HOUSES AND UNHEALTHY AREAS.

As reported in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1930, a survey of the bad housing conditions was made and action decided on by the Council. With the developement of the new housing estates which will provide accommodation for the dispossessed tenants, it will be possible to deal with these houses, by demolition of those which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost and by reconditioning the remainder.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These premises are regularly inspected, and kept in a sanitary condition; 72 inspections were made during 1931.

MILK; and CREAM not sold as PRESERVED CREAM.

—	(a) Number of samples examined for the presence of a preservative.	(b) Number in which a preservative was reported to be present.
Milk	57	—
Cream	4	—

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1928.

During the year 83 samples were taken, comprised as follows :—

Article.	Number.	Number Genuine.	Article.	Number.	Number Genuine.
Milk	57	53	Lard	2	2
Scotch Whisky ...	2	2	Camphorated Oil	1	1
Butter	2	2	Tinct. of Iodine	1	1
Margarine	2	2	,, Quinine	1	1
Condensed Milk...	4	4	Paragoric	1	1
Cream	4	4		—	—
Certified Milk.....	6	5		83	78

PROSECUTIONS.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

MILK SAMPLES.

(1)	9 %	deficient in fat or cream.....	Vendor fined £2.
(2)	50 %	„ „ „	„ £3.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Filling and sealing a quart milk bottle in the street . Fined 2/6

DESTRUCTION OF UNSOUND FOOD.

8,450 lbs. of different kinds of food have been destroyed, which includes 364 lbs of fish, 1897 lbs. of tinned foods, 1 cow and 2 pigs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 13 Registered and 3 Licensed in the Borough. They are inspected regularly for cleanliness, etc., and also when slaughtering is in hand for inspection of meat. 927 inspections were made during 1931.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

Seventy-eight cases were notified of which 71 were admitted to the Borough Sanatorium. The disease has been of a mild type and I am of opinion that in this fact lies the explanation of its continued prevalence. Several cases occurred in which the disease was not discovered until the period of desquamation and I suspect that there have been other cases in which the disease was missed altogether, but which would have a share in the spread of infection.

There was one return case of scarlet fever during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Fifty-seven cases were notified and all were admitted to hospital. It is the practice in the Borough to swab all the immediate contacts of a case of diphtheria and any found to be positive are removed to hospital, where measures for the disinfection of the nose and throat are taken. I am convinced that this procedure is of value, though the figures of admissions to hospital on account of diphtheria are consequently increased, and I am sure that the practice has assisted in checking the spread of the disease. It is my custom to swab a case which has been positive until three consecutive negative swabs have been obtained, and I am sure that this degree of caution is justified.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available for the use of medical practitioners at the Public Health Office, Tonbridge Road, the Borough Police Station, Palace Avenue, or the Sanatorium, Fant Lane, either by night or by day.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever respectively.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health in 1931, under the Public Health (Prevention of Small-pox) Regulations, 1917.

The returns of school absences through illness and the reports of the school nurses afford to the Medical Officer of Health, who is also the School Medical Officer, early and valuable information of the prevalence in infectious diseases both notifiable and non-notifiable.

Cancer continues to take heavy toll of the population and as yet, the remedy is to seek. In 1928, 66 deaths occurred from this cause, in 1929, 67; in 1930, 53; and during the past year, 64.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

This work is carried out at the County Laboratory and a great and increasing use is made of the facilities afforded, both by the Public Health Department and by the practitioners in the district, and practically any laboratory investigation that could be desired is available.

The number of specimens examined during 1931 is set out in the Table below :—

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	53	346	399
Enteric Fever	1	32	33
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	41	283	324
Various	2	3	5
	97	664	761

CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

No facilities exist for this purpose for adults, but accommodation is provided at one of the schools for children attending

the Public Elementary Schools but the necessity for using this has not arisen in the past year. In two cases of scabies, arrangements were made for the steam disinfection of bedding at the Isolation Hospital.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of houses where infectious diseases occur is regularly carried out and articles of bedding and clothing which have been exposed to infection are removed to the Borough Sanatorium, where they are sterilised by passing through the steam disinfectors. Rooms are disinfected as a routine procedure after the death or removal of cases of tuberculosis and this is also done on request in cases where non-notifiable diseases have occurred.

During 1931, 8,917 articles and 225 rooms were disinfected.

Infectious Diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases made during the year were as follows :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	78	71	—
Diphtheria	57	57	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	5	5	1
Puerperal Fever... ..	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	4	—
Pneumonia	27	9	20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Erysipelas... ..	12	7	—
Totals	188	156	34

Tuberculosis.

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 36. The number which had not been notified was 3.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus .08 to 1.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was necessary in regard to any employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action as to compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital was taken during the year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1931.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1-5	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
5-10	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
10-15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	3	2	1	2	—	1	1	1
20-25	3	5	—	—	6	3	—	1
25-35	11	13	—	1	5	2	—	—
35-45	9	5	—	—	5	2	—	—
45-55	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
55-65	4	2	—	—	4	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	38	29	4	4	22	10	4	3

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year under review only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases.			Vision un-impaired.	Vision im-paired.	Total Blind-ness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	---	1	1	—	—	—

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	4	8	40	10	6	6	2	—	2	78
Diphtheria	—	2	4	3	5	21	12	5	3	—	2	—	57
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	5
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	6
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	4	3	10	3	27
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	12
Totals.....	2	2	5	7	13	63	23	13	20	7	23	10	188

Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10-15	15-20	25-35	35-45	46-65	65 and over	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	5	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	3	1	8	9	30
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	5	1	1	1	2	...	...	2	4	1	8	9	34

TABLE II.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1931. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS
AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	...	...	...	...	12	3	3	1	19	3	2	4	1	30
{ Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Convulsions	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
{ Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	5
{ Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Enteritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Gastritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Rickets	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
{ Premature birth	...	...	...	...	7	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
{ Other Causes	...	...	...	...	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	5
Nett Live Births in the year				{ Legitimate	...	...	...	621						
				{ Illegitimate	...	...	..	23						
Nett Deaths in the year				{ Legitimate	...	...	...	28						
				{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	2						

TABLE III.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1930.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Block, West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	2
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	48
(4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by	
(a) Midwives	48
(b) Doctors	—
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Medical Officer attends daily and sees all cases.
(7) Number of cases notified as—	
(a) Puerperal Fever	Nil.
(b) " Pyrexia*	2 Both influenza during an epidemic.
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	Nil.
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	10 Two for two days' supplements only.
(10) (a) Number of cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil.
(b) Result of treatment in each case	—
(11) (a) Number of Maternal deaths	Nil.
(b) Causes of death in each case	—
(12) (a) Number of Fœtal Deaths—	
(i.) Stillborn	3
(ii.) within 10 days of birth	—
(b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable)	1 Placenta Praevia. 32 weeks. 2 Anencephalic. Term. 3 P.M. A full term infant well developed with no obvious cause of death. Maternal Wasserman negative. There had been a blood stained discharge during pregnancy, and the placenta showed signs of premature separation.

* i.e. rise of temperature to 100·4° F. for 24 hours or its recurrence within, that period.

TABLE IV.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.
Cossington and Forstal (Mixed Water Supply).

Number of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth in 48 hours	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 6 days.	
	6	Liquefying 1	Total ... 17

McConkey's Bile Salts Glucose Broth.

Number of Tests.	Acid and Gas.	Acid.	No Growth.
..... tubes 0.1 c.c. water	—	—	—
Ten „ 0.1 c.c. „	0	0	10
Ten „ 1.0 c.c. „	0	1	9
Four „ 10.0 c.c. „	1	1	2
One „ 50.0 c.c. „	1	0	0

OTHER TESTS.

B. Coli was absent from 100 c.c's of this water (Organisms giving acid and gas in 10 c.c's and 50 c.c's McConkey's media proved not to be B. Coli.

B. Enteritidis sporogenes —

Streptococci —

TABLE V.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.
Boarley Water Supply.**

Number of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth in 48 hours... ..	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 6 days.	
	9	Liquefying 5	Total .. 11

McConkey's Bile Salts Glucose Broth.

Number of Tests.	Acid and Gas.	Acid.	No Growth.
..... tubes 0.01 c.c. water	—	—	—
Ten „ 0.1 c.c. „	0	0	10
Ten „ 1.0 c.c. „	0	2	8
Four „ 10.0 c.c. „	1	1	2
One „ 50.0 c.c. „	0	0	0

OTHER TESTS.

B. Coli was absent in 100 c.c's. of this water.

B. Enteritidis sporogenes —

Streptococci —

TABLE VI.
Boarley Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Solid Residue.	Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.		4 hour at 80° F.	4 hours at 80° F.	Nitric.	Nitrous.			
28.1.31.	0.00	0.00	1.65	0.001	0.005	0.40	0.00	27.4	17.0	0.000
25.2.31.	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.005	0.007	0.40	0.00	26.6	17.2	0.020
25.3.31.	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.002	0.006	0.35	0.00	25.0	16.4	0.005
22.4.31.	0.00	0.00	1.65	0.002	0.004	0.35	0.00	25.6	16.4	(circled.) 0.010
20.5.31.	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.001	0.002	0.35	0.00	25.0	17.0	0.000
17.6.31.	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.003	0.005	0.30	0.00	25.4	16.5	0.010
14.7.31.	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.008	0.017	0.35	0.00	26.6	17.6	0.010
12.8.31.	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.004	0.014	0.34	0.00	25.4	17.6	0.000
9.9.31.	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.005	0.010	0.32	0.00	25.4	16.8	0.000
7.10.31.	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.006	0.009	0.29	0.00	25.6	16.5	0.010
4.11.31.	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.014	0.015	0.28	0.00	24.8	16.5	0.030
2.12.31.	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.006	0.009	0.32	0.00	24.2	16.2	0.020
30.12.31.	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.003	0.011	0.33	0.00	25.4	16.2	0.010
Mean results for 1931.	0.00	0.00	1.61	0.005	0.009	0.34	0.00	2.56	16.8	0.010

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VII.
Cossington Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Solid Residue.	Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.		4 hour at 80° F.	4 hours at 80° F.	Nitric.	Nitrous.			
28.1.31.	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.001	0.002	0.25	0.00	24.8	15.3	0.005
25.2.31.	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.005	0.010	0.25	0.00	25.6	15.3	0.020
25.3.31.	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.000	0.001	0.30	0.00	21.8	15.5	0.010
22.4.31.	0.00	0.00	1.45	0.002	0.004	0.30	0.00	22.9	15.5	0.020
20.5.31.	0.00	0.00	2.25	0.003	0.008	0.20	0.00	39.4	23.0	0.010
30.5.31.	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.004	0.019	0.30	0.00	23.4	15.5	0.020
6.6.31.	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.004	0.013	0.28	0.00	23.4	14.4	0.020
6.6.31.	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.004	0.013	0.19	0.00	23.2	16.4	0.030
17.6.31.	0.00	0.00	1.45	0.003	0.005	0.25	0.00	21.6	16.5	0.010
14.7.31.	0.00004	0.00	1.45	0.008	0.010	0.26	0.00	22.8	16.5	0.020
12.8.31.	0.00	0.00004	1.45	0.004	0.012	0.28	0.00	22.8	15.6	0.000
9.9.31.	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.003	0.005	0.30	0.00	21.8	15.5	0.020
7.10.31.	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.002	0.006	0.21	0.00	21.4	15.5	0.030
4.11.31.	0.00	0.00	1.45	0.005	0.012	0.18	0.00	21.2	15.5	0.030
2.12.31.	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.012	0.017	0.21	0.00	21.2	16.0	0.030
30.12.31.	0.00	0.00	1.45	0.004	0.009	0.22	0.00	21.2	15.4	0.010
Mean results for 1931.	0.00	0.00	1.52	0.004	0.009	0.25	0.00	23.8	16.1	0.018

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VIII.
Forstal Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Solid Residue.	Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.		4 hour at 80° F.	4 hours at 80° F.	Nitric.	Nitrous.			
28.1.31.	0.00	0.00	2.75	0.000	0.011	0.20	0.00	41.0	23.0	0.050
25.2.31.	0.00	0.00	2.75	0.003	0.021	0.16	0.00	39.8	23.9	0.000
25.3.31.	0.00	0.00	2.75	0.002	0.004	0.15	0.00	40.2	23.2	0.005
22.4.31.	0.00	0.00	2.65	0.000	0.002	0.15	0.00	38.1	22.2	0.010
20.5.31.	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.003	0.008	0.20	0.00	39.4	23.0	0.010
17.6.31.	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.005	0.010	0.20	0.00	39.4	22.0	0.010
14.7.31.	0.00	0.00	2.60	0.003	0.005	0.21	0.00	38.2	23.0	0.010
12.8.31.	0.00	0.00	2.60	0.002	0.014	0.16	0.00	39.8	22.0	0.000
9.9.31.	0.00	0.00	2.65	0.003	0.008	0.20	0.00	39.4	21.7	0.020
7.10.31.	0.00	0.00	2.60	0.007	0.011	0.17	0.00	38.8	21.6	0.010
4.11.31.	0.0004	0.00	2.65	0.012	0.016	0.14	0.00	39.4	22.7	0.020
2.12.31.	0.00	0.00	2.65	0.006	0.012	0.12	0.00	39.6	22.2	0.020
30.12.31.	0.00	0.002	2.60	0.009	0.014	0.17	0.00	40.4	22.0	0.010
Mean results for 1931.	0.00	0.00	2.64	0.004	0.011	0.17	0.00	29.5	22.5	0.013

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE IX.
Vital Statistics for 1931 and previous years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	Averages for 10 years	1931
Death-Rate ...	11.8	11.1	10.6	10.4	9.5	11.2	12.3	10.6	12.6	11.7	11.2	11.2
Birth-Rate ...	18.9	18.0	18.3	15.9	15.9	15.7	15.1	15.9	15.9	16.1	16.6	15.2
Infant Mortality Rate	76	57	55	52	62	51	39	40	50	58	54	47
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.69	.89	.77	.92	.68	.82	.74	.59	.81	.96	.79	76
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.19	.13	.23	.15	.15	.19	.25	.17	.20	.25	.19	.17
Diphtheria ...	.19	—	.03	.08	.03	—	.02	.02	.07	—	.04	.07
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	.03	.03	—	.05	.07	—	—	.02	—

TABLE X.

**Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality
during the year 1931.**

(The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population, but for London and the towns to civilians only).

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Enteric Fever	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales	15·8	0·67	12·3	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·01	0·06	0·07	0·36	0·54	6·0	66
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16·0	0·67	12·3	0·00	0·00	0·10	0·01	0·07	0·08	0·33	0·48	8·4	71
159 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000–50,000)	15·6	0·73	11·3	0·00	0·00	0·07	0·01	0·05	0·05	0·36	0·43	4·0	62
London	15·0	0·50	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·03	0·02	0·07	0·06	0·26	0·57	9·7	65
Maidstone	15·2	0·57	11·2	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·00	0·00	0·07	0·24	0·52	0·0	47

TABLE XI.

**List of Articles and Rooms Disinfected
during 1931.**

Month.	Blankets.	Sheets.	Counterpanes.	Mattresses.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Curtains.	Bed-chair Cushions.	Beds.	Clothing, etc.	Rooms.	Totals.
January ...	204	43	39	39	92	25	19	31	50	516	21	1079
February ...	113	20	20	21	55	12	10	18	32	378	16	695
March ...	248	59	44	39	121	19	15	24	79	419	31	1098
April ...	183	35	31	32	124	13	7	24	72	309	21	851
May ...	164	35	26	32	78	17	23	30	40	407	18	870
June ...	129	33	23	31	63	19	14	15	33	343	21	724
July ...	149	17	18	31	90	13	6	21	68	199	14	626
August ...	245	41	37	37	129	25	14	42	62	462	33	1127
September	93	15	12	10	44	8	5	7	22	172	10	398
October ...	165	30	24	17	60	13	5	17	31	282	18	662
November...	130	27	21	20	75	14	11	13	39	245	15	610
December ...	109	12	10	10	70	8	2	10	29	135	7	402
Totals ...	1932	367	305	319	1001	186	131	252	557	3867	225	9142

METEOROLOGY.

The detail of meteorological observations is set forth in Table VIII.

The mean reading of the barometer for the year is 29·76, the highest monthly mean being for December 30·13, and the lowest for July 29·52.

The hottest month was July, giving a mean of the maximum readings of the thermometer in the shade of 71°, and the mean of the minimum readings of 53°, while the coldest month was January, with a mean of the maximum readings of 41° and a mean of the minimum readings of 32°.

The prevailing winds were S.W., there being 120 days on which the wind was in this quarter.

The total rain-fall for the year was 24·32 inches, the heaviest amount falling in April, viz., 4·16 inches, while during March the amount registered was only ·25 inches, this being the driest month of the year.

There were 178 days in the year on which ·01 of an inch or more rain fell.

TABLE XII.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGY 1932, RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.
(Taken Daily at 9 a.m.)

MONTH.	RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.							
	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ...	2	4	8	1	1	7	...	8
February ...	2	...	7	4	2	7	...	6
March ...	1	5	7	...	7	6	4	1
April ...	1	4	10	2	4	7	...	2
May ...	...	3	2	7	2	12	1	4
June ...	...	4	3	3	1	16	1	2
July ...	...	...	2	1	3	21	...	4
August ...	2	4	6	...	4	10	2	3
September ...	2	3	11	2	...	9	...	3
October ...	...	4	8	3	2	8	3	3
November ...	...	3	1	4	10	10	1	1
December ...	2	4	5	2	2	7	2	7
Totals ...	12	38	70	29	38	120	14	44

MONTH.	Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.).	Average Thermo- meter (Min.).	RAINFALL.	No. of Days on which '01 fell.
January ...	29.68	41	32	1.78	22
February ...	29.92	43	32	2.20	23
March ...	29.81	46	32	0.25	8
April ...	29.68	53	39	4.16	18
May ...	29.61	63	45	2.34	14
June ...	29.72	71	52	1.35	10
July ...	29.52	71	53	2.03	18
August ...	29.60	67	52	3.52	19
September ...	29.91	61	45	2.19	13
October ...	29.92	56	40	0.53	6
November ...	29.63	50	38	3.53	15
December ...	30.13	44	35	0.44	12
Averages & Totals for the Year	29.76	56	41	24.32	178

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Population (estimated 1931)—For Birth Rate	42,320
For Death Rate... ..	42,080
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	8,172
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931) according to Rate Books and including dwelling portion of shops ...	9,950
Average Number of Persons per House (1921)	4·6
Average Number of Persons per House (1931)	4·3
Area { East Maidstone, 2,019 acres } West „ 1,989 „ }	4,008 acres
Density	10·5 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15·2
Annual Death Rate „ „	11·2
Phthisis Death Rate „ „	·76
Other Tubercular Diseases Death Rate „ „	·17
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	46·6
Live Births ... { Males, 343 } Females, 301 }	644
Deaths ... { Males, 250 } Females, 223 }	473
Excess of Births over Deaths	171

Elevation.—The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.

