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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

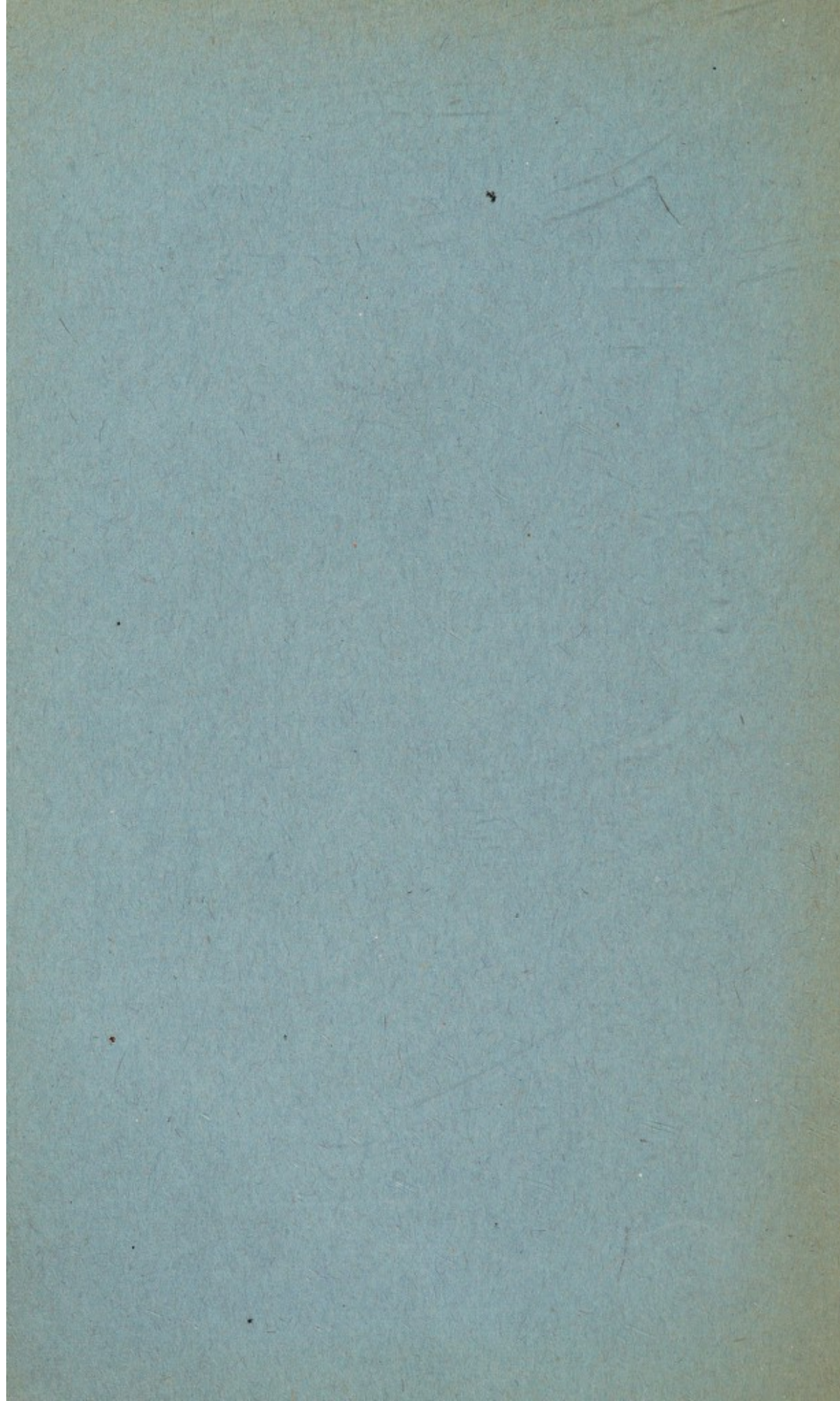
AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1920.

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., D.P.H.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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PRINTERS : "THE EAST KENT TIMES," LTD., RAMSGATE.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

(1920—1921).

Chairman : Alderman T. S. CHAYNEY.

His Worship the Mayor.	Councillor J. C. GRUMMANT.
Alderman J. W. CHAPMAN.	„ H. T. HOLLANDS.
„ H. C. CHILD, J.P.	„ J. S. LANGLEY.
„ A. W. LARKIN.	„ F. C. LLEWELLYN.
„ C. R. WOOD, J.P.	„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.
„ J. W. WOODHALL.	„ T. H. PRESTEDGE.
Councillor W. COLEMAN, J.P.	„ J. ROE.
„ W. H. BRADLEY.	„ A. D. SACKETT.
„ H. G. BUSH.	„ DAME JANET
„ R. V. CROW.	„ STANCOMB-WILLS.
„ MRS. DUNN.	„ H. TERRY.
Councillor T. WOTTON.	

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. DUNN.

His Worship the Mayor.	Councillor Dame JANET
Alderman T. S. CHAYNEY.	„ STANCOMB-WILLS.
„ H. C. CHILD, J.P.	Mrs. BURGESS.
Councillor H. T. HOLLANDS.	Miss E. CHANING-PEARCE.
„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.	Mrs. A. DANIEL.
„ H. TERRY.	Mrs. KEEL.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman A. W. LARKIN.

Vice-Chairman : Rev. E. L. A. HERTSLET.

His Worship the Mayor.	Councillor J. ROE.
Alderman J. W. CHAPMAN.	„ Dame JANET
„ T. S. CHAYNEY.	„ STANCOMB-WILLS.
„ H. C. CHILD, J.P.	Mr. E. F. G. CHAPMAN.
Councillor W. COLEMAN, J.P.	Rev. J. A. FOX.
Councillor Mrs. DUNN.	Miss L. WHITING.
„ J. S. LANGLEY.	Mr. C. WICKS, J.P.

HEALTH OFFICE,

26, ALBION PLACE,

RAMSGATE.

May, 1921.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Ramsgate.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1920 on the Health and Sanitation of the Borough and on the School Medical Service. The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education.

A glance at the table of comparative statistics will show that the Vital Statistics for the Borough compare favourably with those for the country as a whole. The birth rate for the year, 28 per 1,000, is a very marked increase over the rate 17 per 1,000 for 1919; the number of births registered, 824, being greater than in any previous year.

It is satisfactory to be able to record a low incidence of infectious diseases and reduced infantile mortality.

I would take the opportunity to acknowledge the loyal co-operation of all members of the staff of the department, and would express my gratitude to the Chairmen of Committees and Members of the Council for their kindness and courtesy to me during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. BANNISTER,

*Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.*

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Staff of the Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health,

School Medical Officer and Bacteriologist :

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.S., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

W. T. SMITH, Assoc. R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

E. YOUNG, Assoc. R.S.I.

Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.I.

Health Visitors :

MISS A. ASHWELL.

MISS M. CRUISE. * †

MISS E. HALFORD. * †

MISS R. HOWELLS.

* Certified Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

† Certified Health Visitor, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerk :

J. BETTRIDGE.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Summary of Statistics for 1920.

Area of Borough in Acres (excluding Foreshore) ...	2,278
Population, Census, 1911	29,605
Population, 1920, as estimated by the Registrar	
General	29,338
Births	824
Net Birth Rate	28·08
Deaths	399
Net Death Rate	13·6
Infantile Mortality, per 1,000 Births	70·3
Phthisis Death Rate	0·92
Death Rate from all Tuberculous Diseases (in- cluding Phthisis)	1·22
Rainfall	19·21 ins.
Sunshine	1,665·3 hrs.
Rateable Value of the Borough	£153,373
Rates ... {	General District Rate ... 8s. 10d.
	Poor Rate ... 7s. 10d.

WATER SUPPLY—

A constant service from deep borings in the chalk.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

By an efficient water carriage system.

The following TABLE has been drawn up to render possible a comparison as regards Vital Statistics of 1920, between Ramsgate and England and Wales as a whole, 96 Great Towns, 146 Smaller Towns (populations 20,000 to 50,000), and London.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England & Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000).	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2
RAMSGATE	28.08	13.6	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.34	0.06	0.03	0.34	7.2	70	11.2	91.8	4.0	4.2

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE, situated in the most favoured position in the Isle of Thanet, has a South aspect. It covers an area of 2,306 acres, and is roughly triangular in shape, having the sea along the whole of its base, which extends from the adjoining district of Broadstairs on the north-east to the Borough boundary west of Pegwell. With the exception of a small area near the Royal Harbour, the Borough may be said to stand on high ground with a fine outlook on the sea and views of the Kent coastline and hills towards the South Foreland. The many natural advantages include a sub-soil of chalk, comparative freedom from rain and fog, abundant sunshine, an equable temperature, and protection from north and east winds. A large expanse of particularly fine clean sand covers most of the foreshore. Ramsgate consequently has been long famous as a health resort, and is at present essentially a seaside health and pleasure resort and residential town. With the exception of the various activities in connection with a large and increasing fishing industry and some minor industries, the inhabitants are chiefly occupied in catering for the wants and pleasures of residents and the large number of visitors during the season. The low rainfall, much bright sunshine, and breezes from the open sea render Ramsgate an ideal place for recuperation for those run down in health. The natural advantages and amenities of the town render it a favourite place of residence for persons retiring from active life, and induce a certain number of parents to take up their permanent residence here with the object of restoring their delicate children to robust health.

For administrative purposes the Borough is divided into two Parishes, Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Intra; and into six Wards: East Cliff, West Cliff, East Central, West Central, Sir Moses Montefiore and St. Lawrence.

Meteorology.

The following tables give information in reference to some of the meteorological observations made in the Borough:—

The Borough Surveyor has kindly furnished the records of Sunshine, taken on the roof of the Municipal Offices, and the Gas and Water Engineer those of Rainfall and Temperatures, taken at the Southwood Water Works:—

SUNSHINE, 1920.

Month.	Total sunshine in hours.	Daily average in hours.
January ...	46.5	1.5
February ...	107.1	3.69
March ...	151.8	4.89
April ...	104.1	3.47
May ...	237.8	7.66
June ...	211.5	7.05
July ...	185.6	5.98
August ...	182.8	5.89
September ...	117.8	3.92
October ...	194.0	6.25
November ...	98.3	3.27
December ...	28.0	0.90

RAINFALL, 1920.

Month.	Total in Inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours.	No. of Days with .01 or more
January ...	2.16	.33 on 29th	16
February ...	0.60	.34 on 20th	5
March ...	0.50	.14 on 14th	10
April ...	2.17	.24 on 1st	18
May ...	1.10	.50 on 28th	11
June ...	1.01	.53 on 20th	6
July ...	2.06	.40 on 5th	17
August ...	2.07	1.04 on 18th	9
September ...	3.38	1.10 on 20th	15
October ...	0.92	.33 on 1st	6
November ...	0.62	.14 on 28th	9
December ...	2.62	.38 on 5th	21
Total ...	19.21		

MEAN TEMPERATURES, 1920.

January ...	deg. 41.6	July ...	deg. 60.6
February ...	41.3	August ...	57.4
March ...	44.2	September ...	54.5
April ...	47.1	October ...	49.8
May ...	54.3	November ...	41.7
June ...	58.8	December ...	40.6

Lowest Mean Temperature, 25 degs., on 12th December.

Highest Mean Temperature, 69 degs., on 17th July.

Hospital Accommodation; Medical and Nursing Assistance, Etc.

The Ramsgate General Hospital is a modern institution conducted on most up-to-date lines and established for the treatment of the sick poor resident in the Borough and neighbouring districts and for disabled seamen of all nations brought to the Port of Ramsgate. The Institution is largely supported by voluntary contributions, but owing to increased expenses it was necessary to pass rules for in-patients to pay a small sum towards their maintenance, and for casualty patients to pay a small fee towards the cost of treatment, the Executive Committee having power to reduce or excuse payment in cases of poverty.

The Honorary Staff consists of two physicians, three surgeons, and a dental surgeon, and the Hospital has 40 beds, an excellent operating theatre, X-ray department, etc.

The seventy-third Annual Report gives the following particulars of the work carried out during the year ended 31st January, 1921: In-patients treated—Medical cases 101, Surgical cases 558, Operations performed 414. Casualty cases dealt with numbered 1,358, and 228 X-ray examinations were made. In-patient days during the year were 10,044.

The Poor Law Infirmary is at Minster, some five miles from the centre of the Borough, and the Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospitals are at Haine, just outside the Borough boundary.

The Thanet Hostel for Unmarried Mothers, which was established in the Borough last year, continued its useful work, and during the year thirteen mothers and fifteen infants were admitted.

The provision of hospital accommodation for maternity cases and for young children still remains an urgent need.

The Annual Report of the work of the Ramsgate Creche, Hereson Road, shows that during 1920 the attendances numbered 4,213, as compared with 2,330 in 1919.

The Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Dispensary afforded medical treatment and benefits to 1,117 patients during the year.

Nursing assistance was provided for 37 acute medical, for 45 acute surgical, and for 60 chronic cases, involving 4,602 visits by the nurses of the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence District Nursing Association.

Among other agencies affording relief and assistance in necessitous cases may be mentioned the Central Help Committee, the Parochial Soup Kitchen, the Thanet Women's Aid Society, which continued to do good work during the year. Assistance by supplying milk at less than cost price to necessitous mothers and to young children was also given through the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, administered by the Town Council.

Out-relief was given by the Guardians during the year to 322 adults and 185 children at a total cost of £2,935 17s. 6d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population of the Borough at the Census taken in 1911 was 29,605.

The Registrar-General estimates the population in 1920 as 29,338, and on this figure the birth rate and death rates are calculated. In recent years the estimates of population were based mainly on the rationing returns supplied by the Ministry of Food, but the basis of estimates for 1920 is not stated, and the obtaining of an accurate enumeration of the population of the Borough from the Census of 1921 is for many reasons highly desirable.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year as having occurred in the Borough was 806, and 18 infants were born outside the Borough to residents of the Borough. The total number of births to be credited to the Borough for 1920 is consequently 824, the greatest number in

its history, giving a birth rate of 28·08 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 17·0 per 1000 in 1919, and with a rate of 25·4 per 1000 for England and Wales in 1920. The records of the Borough show that the birth rate for 1920 has not been exceeded since 1885, in which year there were 672 births registered, this on an estimated population of 23,483 for that year, giving a birth rate of 28·6 per 1,000.

Of the infants born to residents of the Borough in 1920, 426 were boys and 398 girls; 47 were illegitimate births, a percentage of 5·7, as compared with 9·4 per cent in 1919 and with 10·1 in 1918.

The natural increment in the population of the Borough, by the excess of births over deaths, during the year was 425, as compared with a natural increment of 126 in 1919.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year as having occurred in the Borough was 350, and of these 25 were deaths of non-residents, and should be deducted; 74 deaths of residents took place outside the Borough, and these should be added.

The net number of deaths of residents during the year was consequently 399, 196 males and 203 females, giving a net death rate of 13·6 as compared with a rate of 13·2 for the Borough in 1919 and with a rate of 12·4 for England and Wales in 1920.

For a famous residential health resort, to which many persons of advanced age come to spend the remainder of their lives, and to which others with incurable disease contracted elsewhere come to reside in the hope of prolonging life, a death rate of 13·6 as compared with a rate of 12·4 for the country as a whole, may be considered quite satisfactory.

The Mortality Table shows the relatively large numbers of deaths from organic heart disease, 45; cancer, 40; phthisis, 27; many of which were deaths of persons whose residence in the Borough was not of long duration.

Inquests.

Inquests were held by the Coroner for the district as to the causes of death of fourteen persons who died in the Borough during the year:

SUICIDES.....	6	ACCIDENTS	5
By Hanging ...	1	Fracture of Skull ...	1
By Drowning ...	1	Drowning ...	2
By Poisoning ...	1	Overlaying ...	1
By Falling from a		Injury (Shock) ...	1
Height ...	1	OTHER CAUSES ...	3
By Burning ...	1	Gangrene (Neglect) ...	1
By Strangulation ...	1	Inattention at Birth ...	2

Uncertified Deaths.

During the year fifteen deaths which occurred in the Borough were "uncertified," i.e., were registered although a certificate as to the cause of death by a medical practitioner was not given nor an inquest held. The local Registrar of Deaths does not register such deaths until the Coroner intimates, after having enquired into the circumstances, that he does not consider an inquest to be necessary.

The percentage of uncertified deaths in the Borough was 4·2, which compares unfavourably with the percentage of 1·2 for England and Wales, 0·7 for the 96 great towns, and very unfavourably with the figure for London, 0·2. The ages at which the uncertified deaths occurred and the causes to which they were attributed were as follows:

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Age.
Heart Disease	3 months, 38, 55, 65, 69
Senile Decay and Heart Failure ...	70, 78, 80
Heart Failure	43, 57, 60
Bronchitis	11 days, 79
Cerebral Haemorrhage	63
Alcoholism; ulcerated liver...	36

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 56 deaths of infants under one year were registered as having occurred in the Borough, and three infants of residents died outside the Borough. The infantile mortality rate, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births registered during the year was consequently 71·60, as compared with a rate of 74 for the Borough in 1919, and with a rate of 80 for England and Wales in 1920. Owing to inaccurate information having been in error supplied by the local Registrar to the Registrar General as to the age at death of one infant, the registration of whose death was also made irregularly, the official figures for the Borough as regards infant deaths do not exactly correspond with those here given, showing a total of 58 instead of 59 deaths of infants under one year, and an infant mortality rate of 70·3 per 1,000 births. The following table shows the number and ages at death of infants in the Borough during the past ten years.

	Under 1 week	1 week to 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths in first year of life.
1911	10	9	10	12	9	7	57
1912	17	12	14	11	7	10	71
1913	12	9	10	9	6	5	51
1914	14	9	7	8	9	6	53
1915	8	4	7	9	3	5	36
1916	16	8	6	4	4	4	42
1917	10	8	8	6	5	4	41
1918	11	7	5	5	1	10	39
1919	13	9	2	3	7	3	37
1920	12	9	16	13	3	6	59

Eight of the 59 deaths were of illegitimate infants, and as 47 illegitimate births were registered during the year, the mortality rate among illegitimate infants was 170 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 65·6 per 1,000 among legitimate infants. The causes of death of the illegitimate infants were registered as : Premature birth 4, Leukaemia 1, Meningitis 1, Syphilis 1, Want of attention at birth 1.

Zymotic Mortality.

In calculating the Zymotic death rate, account is taken only of the deaths caused by the seven principal Zymotic diseases, *viz.*, Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever (and Typhus and Continued Fever), and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

To these diseases in 1920 were attributed 22 deaths : Measles 4, Whooping Cough 10, Diphtheria 2, Diarrhoea 6, giving a Zymotic death rate of 0·75 per 1,000, as compared with 0·35 in 1919, the increase being chiefly due to the greater number of deaths from whooping cough.

Deaths from Cancer.

Forty deaths of residents in the Borough were registered as due to Cancer and other forms of malignant disease, 17 being men and 23 women; the death rate consequently was 1.36 per 1,000, as compared with 1.4 in 1919. One death occurred between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years, six between 25 and 45, ten between 45 and 65, and twenty-three at over 65 years of age.

With the exception of organic heart disease, which caused 45 deaths, a greater number of deaths in the Borough during the year was attributed to Cancer than to any other disease. The average yearly death rate for the twelve years 1908-1919, was 1.47 per 1,000. It must, however, be borne in mind that many persons in whom this disease has developed in other localities and others in failing health in whom the disease is developing, come to reside in this Borough, famous as a health resort, in the hope of prolonging life.

AGES AT DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES.

The total number of deaths from all causes at various ages was as follows:—

Under 1 year	...	...	59
1 and under 2 years	...	...	12
2 and under 5 years	...	...	10
5 and under 15 years	...	...	17
15 and under 25 years	...	...	14
25 and under 45 years	...	...	50
45 and under 65 years	...	...	60
65 years and over	...	...	177

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and previous Years.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1911	29,653	547	554	18.7	408	13.8	67	73	57	103	414	14.0
1912	29,848	641	647	21.7	427	14.4	66	73	71	110	434	14.6
1913	30,043	550	556	18.6	399	13.3	60	77	51	92	416	13.9
1914	30,078	551	553	18.4	380	12.6	49	74	53	96	405	13.5
1915	25,899	501	515	17.1	426	16.5	68	91	36	70	449	17.3
1916	24,798	494	502	18.6	414	16.7	71	75	42	84	418	16.9
1917	21,362	382	384	16.1	387	18.1	48	75	41	107	414	19.4
1918	19,483	338	336	15.4	315	16.1	15	108	39	116	408	20.9
1919	28,214	485	500	17.0	329	11.6	33	78	37	74	374	13.2
1920	29,338	806	824	28.08	350	11.9	25	74	58	70	399	13.6

TABLE II.
MORTALITY TABLE.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1920.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified ... 388 Uncertified ... 11)	388 11	57 2	12 —	10 —	17 —	14 —	50 —	57 3	171 6	44 1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	10	3	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	27	—	—	—	2	6	14	4	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	40	—	—	—	—	1	6	10	23	4
Rheumatic Fever	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Meningitis	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	45	1	—	—	—	—	4	12	28	5
Bronchitis	26	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	19	1
Pneumonia (all Forms)	17	5	2	1	—	—	3	3	3	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Alcoholism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	12	—
Puerperal Fever... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	21	20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	10	1	—	—	2	1	—	3	3	1
Suicide	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	145	15	5	4	4	4	15	14	84	20
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	399	59	12	10	17	14	50	60	177	45

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—1920.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Cause 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	Certified	...	...	12	2	5	1	20	16	12	3	6	57
	Uncertified	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Small-pox				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-Cough				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3
Diphtheria and Croup				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Convulsions				...	...	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
Laryngitis				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis				...	1	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)				...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	5
Diarrhœa				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Enteritis				...	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	1	5
Gastritis				...	1	1	1	3	1	1	...	...	5
Syphilis...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Rickets				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation (overlying)				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth				1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis				...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations				2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth				7	1	...	...	8	5	1	...	...	14
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus				...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Other Causes				2	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
				12	3	5	1	21	16	13	3	6	59

Net Births in the year { Legitimate, 777.
 { Illegitimate, 47.

Net Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants, 51.
 { Illegitimate Infants, 8.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

A constant supply of excellent water, derived from deep borings in the chalk, was maintained throughout the year. From the Corporation's Pumping Station, situated in the north of the Borough, the water is pumped to a high level reservoir, from which, by gravitation, it is distributed to all parts of Ramsgate, and is also the source of a constant supply to several villages in the neighbourhood. There are neither rivers nor surface streams in the district.

The consistent good quality and pureness of the water throughout the year is proved by the satisfactory reports of the chemical analyses carried out by the Public Analyst and at the Borough Laboratory, and by the results of periodical bacteriological examinations carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory. The water is free from plumbo-solvent action. The amount of hardness, which is mostly temporary hardness, of total solids and of chlorides, continues to decrease steadily, otherwise the chemical composition of the water has remained constant for many years past.

A sample of water taken on the 15th June, 1920, and submitted to chemical analysis at the South Eastern Analytical Laboratory, Canterbury, was reported on as follows:

WATER ANALYSIS—BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

All numerical results expressed in grains per gallon.

Description of Sample	...	From Public Supply, Letter E.
Appearance	...	Clear
Colour	...	Green blue
Smell	...	Normal
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	9.94
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	...	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.78
Ammonia	...	Trace only
Albumoid Ammonia	...	0.0020
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	...	0.036
Hardness before boiling (total)	...	22.5
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	...	5.9
Total Solid Matter	...	45.43
Microscopical Examination of Deposit	...	Slight and unimportant
Chlorine as "Salt"	...	16.38

REMARKS.—The above results are satisfactory throughout, and indicate water organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The Microscopical Examination is also satisfactory.

The "Chlorine" and "Total Solid Matter" have slightly increased since the last examination.

(Signed) ERNEST M. HAWKINS,

Public Analyst, Borough of Ramsgate.

The following is given as typical of the findings of bacteriological examinations of samples of water taken from the public supply and examined at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory:—

Sample of Water taken from tap at 26, Albion Place, Ramsgate,
on 15th August, 1920.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION.

Number of Organisms per c.c. which grew on ...	Gelatine in 3 days at Room Temperature.		On Agar at 37 in 48 Hours.
	Total 47	Liquefying 3	0

MC CONKEY'S BILE-SALT GLUCOSE PEPTONE LITMUS SOLUTION.

Number of Tests.	Acid and Gas.	Acid.	No Growth.
Five tubes 0.1 c.c. Water ...	0	0	5
Five „ 0.5 c.c. „ ...	0	0	5
Five „ 1.0 c.c. „ ...	0	2	3
Five „ 5.0 c.c. „ ...	0	3	2
Three „ 10.0 c.c. „ ...	0	2	1
Two „ 25.0 c.c. „ ...	0	1	1
One „ 50.0 c.c. „ ...	1	0	0

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Borough has an efficient water carriage system which has the great advantage of simplicity, owing to the fact that the formation of the land rendered it possible to lay the sewers so that the sewage flows freely by gravitation from all parts of the town to the sea. Pumping plants, tank sewers, etc., are consequently absent from the system. The sewers, which are ventilated and regularly flushed with water, unite near the Harbour and form the outfall sewer in which the sewage is conveyed to a point over 1,250 ft. from the shore. This site was chosen for the outfall many years ago after extensive float experiments had proved that at whatever state of the tide sewage may be there discharged, it is carried by currents straight out to sea.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse.

The Corporation undertakes the daily collection throughout the year of refuse from all premises in the town. Each morning all house and some trade refuse is collected in covered carts and conveyed to the four-wheeled Horsfall Destructor in an outlying portion of the town. This work is carried out by the Works Department, and the Borough Surveyor informs me that 7,644 tons of refuse were collected during the year, the average amount each month being 637 tons. In addition, 2,731 loads of road sweepings and 618 loads of gulley mud were collected. By such frequent collections of refuse and by efficient street cleansing the Corporation do all possible to prevent any nuisance or danger to health from accumulations of offensive matters in the proximity of dwellings or shop premises, and endeavour to maintain the high reputation of the Borough as regards the cleanliness of its streets. It is therefore a truly regrettable matter that any resident should fail to willingly co-operate in the interests of the general public health, and that it should ever be necessary to compel owners and occupiers of premises to provide and use the prescribed impermeable receptacles with movable covers for the deposition of refuse, and so comply with the Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws. The deposition of refuse in pervious or uncovered receptacles can never be conducive to that healthiness on which the prosperity of the town mainly depends, and is frequently a disgusting and dangerous practice which should be rigidly repressed.

It is, however, gratifying to be able to state that considerable and much-needed advance in this matter was made during the year by the decision of the Council to in future insist that all premises in the Borough shall have proper receptacles for refuse. As a beginning, the inspection of 1,912 houses showed that only 524 had suitable receptacles, and during the year 1,388 new refuse receptacles were provided—959 on preliminary notices being served, 414 on statutory notices being served, thirteen were provided by the local authority and cost recovered from the owners, and in two cases legal proceedings were taken under Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, and cost of receptacles provided recovered.

Special arrangements were made during the year for dealing with fish offal, and at considerable cost, only partly recovered by payments by fishmongers, the Corporation entered into an agreement with a local contractor for the daily removal of all fish offal from shops between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

There are no ashpits in the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following tabular statement summarises the work carried out during the year by the Inspectors, and has been prepared by Mr. W. T. Smith, Inspector of Nuisances. The necessary supervision of all the work carried out under the various notices served, including some left over from the previous year, made considerable demands on the time of the Inspectors, and the following particulars show the large amount of labour involved in supervising the sanitary condition of dwelling houses and other premises in the Borough.

INSPECTIONS

Under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	2,330
Of houses, number inspected under H.T.P., etc., Acts				251
In connection with infectious diseases	...	...	...	203
Of common lodging houses	...	...	...	48
— Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	82
— Cowsheds	...	...	...	27
— Milkshops	...	...	...	96
— Dairies	...	...	...	38
— Factories, workshops and workplaces	...	...	...	237
— Marine store dealers' premises	...	...	...	28
— Premises at which are conducted offensive trades...	...	...	...	56
— Ice cream vendors' and fish hawkers' premises	...	...	...	57
— Slaughter houses and knackers yards	...	...	...	152
— Fish market	...	...	...	20
— Stables	...	...	...	51
— Bakehouses	...	...	...	88
— Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles	...	...	...	3,377
— Licensed piggeries	...	...	...	46
— General Inspections with Medical Officer	...	...	...	10
— Premises with reference to rat infection	...	...	...	92

NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Statutory notices served	...	...	...	445
Preliminary notices served or letters written	...	...	...	337
Nuisances abated on notice or letter	...	...	...	465
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	...	...	...	186
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	291
Complaints referred to Works Department	...	...	...	12
Frivolous complaints received	...	...	...	19

COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

A record of all complaints received is kept at the Health Office, and during the year 322 complaints were made. Nineteen of these were frivolous, or concerning matters which could not be dealt with by the Health Department under the several Acts. Of the 303 complaints, eleven were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department :—

Offensive odours from street gulleys	...	...	5
Choked street gulleys	...	...	2
Choked drain from public urinals	...	...	2
Defective sewer ventilating pipe	...	...	1
Unauthorised building in back yard	...	...	1

And one to the Gas and Water Department :—

Coal gas escaping from street main into basement of house	1
---	---

The remaining 291 may be roughly classified as follows :—

Choked drains	...	...	...	...	37
Smells from drains	...	...	...	...	38
Refuse dumped	...	...	...	...	18
Unsound articles of food	...	...	...	...	42
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	10
Damp houses	...	...	...	...	5
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	18
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	6
Defective or insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	11
Improper keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	12
Leaky roofs	...	...	...	...	16
Accumulation of manure	...	...	...	...	8
Choked or defective waste pipes	...	...	...	...	7
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	6
Defective stoves, cooking ranges and coppers	...	...	...	...	14
Rats on premises	...	...	...	...	13
Offensive refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	20

With three exceptions, the nuisances discovered during the year were abated upon service of informal or statutory notices. Legal proceedings were taken against the owner of a dwelling-house having a defective head wall which was not weatherproof, causing the house to be extremely damp. The Justices made an order for the owner to complete the necessary work required in fourteen days, and to pay £1 8s. costs. The work was then completed within the time specified.

In two cases it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings for the recovery of costs of suitable refuse receptacles which had been supplied under Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, by the local authority, owing to the non-compliance with the statutory notices served on the owners to provide same. In one case the money was paid before the case came into the Court for hearing, and in the other the Justices made an order for payment of the amount claimed, with 10s. 6d. costs.

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAINAGE OF PREMISES.

Houses, Drains Tested :—

After infectious disease	93
On complaint or alteration of drainage	65
Number of houses redrained	17
Number of houses, drains repaired	71
New inspection chambers built	22
New gullies fixed	28
New covers to inspection chambers provided	14
Inspection chambers rendered	14
Defective soil or ventilating pipes renewed or repaired	53
New pedestal closets or closet basins or traps fixed ...	51
New flushing cisterns to w.c.'s provided	18
New water closets erected	6
Fresh air inlet valves renewed or repaired	60
Cesspools and underground rainwater cisterns abolished	9
Cesspools constructed	1

Housing.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out :

Defective flushing cisterns repaired	78
Blocked drains cleared on notice	57
New stoneware sinks provided	14
Sink waste pipes renewed and trapped	61
Rainwater pipes or guttering repaired or renewed ...	33
Defective roofs repaired	57
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	25
New floors laid or repaired	16
New sanitary refuse receptacles provided	1,388
Rainwater pipes disconnected from the drain	2
Cesspools and underground rainwater cisterns abolished	9
Dampness in walls abated	16
Stoves, ranges or coppers repaired or renewed	58
Broken plaster of walls and ceilings repaired	22
Broken sashcords renewed	53
Accumulations of rubbish removed	18
Miscellaneous defects	17

With Respect to Refuse Receptacles.

Houses inspected	1,912
Number found with suitable receptacles	524
Number without suitable receptacles	1,388
Number provided on preliminary notice	959
Number provided on statutory notice	414
Number supplied by the local authority on default and the costs recovered from owners	15

With Respect to Overcrowding.

Rooms measured as to overcrowding	14
Overcrowding abated	3

With Respect to Dirty Houses.

Houses cleansed	...	...	...	8
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	9
Dirty closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	16
Interior of water closets cleansed	...	...	...	8
Interior of washhouses limewashed	...	...	...	5

With Respect to Water Supply.

Corroded water service pipes renewed to houses	...	29
Water service pipes repaired	...	26

With Respect to Keeping of Animals.

Removal of animals improperly kept	...	9
Stable yard paving repaired	...	3
Pigstyes cleansed and limewashed	...	14
Inspection of Piggeries	...	46
Notices or letters written, or verbal instructions re removal of manure	...	18

With Respect to Schools.

Sanitary Conveniences, Inspections	...	36
------------------------------------	-----	----

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH HOUSES IN WHICH INFECTIOUS
DISEASES OCCURRED.

Drain Testing.

Disease.	No. of Houses the drains of which were Tested.	No. found to have Slight Defects.	No. found to have Serious Defects.	No. found to have no Defects.
Scarlet Fever ...	70	18	10	42
Diphtheria ...	20	7	4	9
Enteric Fever ...	3	1	1	1

The defects discovered were remedied upon service of intimation notices. An entirely new drainage system was found necessary at seven dwelling houses.

Disinfection.

In connection with 119 cases of Infectious Disease which were removed to the Isle of Thanet Joint Isolation Hospital, Haine, and other diseases and conditions, the following disinfecting work was carried out :—

Disease or Cause.	Number of Houses.	Number of Rooms.
Scarlet Fever ...	95	96
Diphtheria ...	32	35
Enteric Fever ...	3	3
Phthisis ...	32	54
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	5
Cancer ...	8	8
Vermin ...	4	5
Other causes ...	8	11
Total ...	183	217

Also 171 sets of bedding, clothing, etc., were removed from houses, disinfected at the station, and returned. The Corporation's Disinfecting Station, in which is installed a Manlove Alliott Steam Disinfector, is in Broad Street, and to it are conveyed, in a special covered van, all articles removed for disinfection. The Public Mortuary is on the same premises as the Disinfecting Station. During the year the Police placed in the Mortuary the bodies of fifteen persons who had been killed by accidents or had died from other causes.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.

The number of Common Lodging Houses on the register is five. Forty-eight visits of inspection were made during the year ; all were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner. Six defects were discovered and remedied.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There were forty-four of these houses on the register at the end of the year, and 82 inspections were made. To some of these houses it has been found necessary to make frequent visits in order to ensure their being kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness, past experience having shown that the common staircases, backyards and sculleries are frequently neglected in this respect. In some of the houses rooms are let furnished, and during the year three dirty or verminous mattresses were, with the consent of the owners, destroyed. Sixteen minor sanitary defects were remedied, ten dirty rooms cleansed, and overcrowding discovered in two rooms was abated. On no occasion were offences discovered for which prosecutions were necessary.

Regulations in Respect of Underground Sleeping Rooms.

No regulations for securing the proper ventilation and lighting of underground rooms, under Sec. 17, Sub-Section 7, of the Housing and Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909, have been adopted in the Borough.

Many basement rooms in the Borough are at present used as sleeping rooms, and while it is highly desirable that only such of these as would comply with the model regulations should continue to be so used, it is questionable whether the present is the most opportune time to adopt these regulations, and it is extremely doubtful whether, if adopted, it would be possible to enforce them in this Borough while the present shortage of housing accommodation continues to exist.

Slaughter Houses.

During the year the slaughter houses on the register were as follows :

		In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920
Registered	...	14	14	14
Licensed	...	1	1	1
		—	—	—
Total	...	15	15	15

At the end of the year five of the registered slaughter houses were closed or their use temporarily discontinued as slaughter houses. There was also one licensed knacker's slaughter house, this being one less than in 1919, the owner during the year having discontinued the use of the building for such purpose. 152 inspections of these premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, these visits being as far as possible made when killing was in progress. All the premises were kept in a satisfactory condition, verbal instructions to occupiers were given in seven instances to carry out limewashing, and these were complied with. In one case a registered slaughter house was considerably improved by extensive alterations in structure and to floors being carried out voluntarily by the owner. No action under the Bye-Laws was necessary during the year.

The slaughter-houses are situated in different parts of the town, killing taking place on different days and hours, and owing to limited accommodaton in some of them and poor artificial lighting, efficient examination of the meat is at times rendered difficult. The provision of a central abattoir would enable the inspection of meat killed in the Borough to be carried out more efficiently than is possible at present, but should the question of providing such a public abattoir arise in the future many difficulties will present themselves in this area, and there would appear to be little use in even discussing the matter unless the full co-operation of the butchers and of neighbouring local authorities could in some way be secured.

Under the heading of " Food Condemned " will be found particulars as to carcasses, etc., surrendered during the year.

Offensive Trades.

During the year Bye-Laws for the regulation of the trades, businesses, or manufactures which have been declared to be offensive trades within the Borough, were submitted to and subsequently confirmed by the Ministry of Health. The number of offensive trades carried on during the year in the Borough was 22, as follows :—

	Premises.	Inspections.
Fish Friers	15	48
Marine Store Dealers ...	5	28
Fat Melters and Bone Boilers ...	2	8

No permit to establish an offensive trade in the Borough was granted during the year. There remain in the Borough only four fried fish shops fitted with an old type of stove; the continuance of some of these under existing arrangements is very objectionable, and on the Bye-Laws becoming operative powers will be available to have marked improvements effected.

Keeping of Pigs.

During the year in two instances special permission was granted by the Council, subject to the observance of certain directions, to keep pigs closer to the nearest dwelling than the distance prescribed in the bye-laws. Applications for such permission were refused in two instances. At the end of the year pigs were being kept on sixteen premises in the Borough under special permits.

One instance of pigs being kept near dwellings in contravention of the bye-laws without special permission of the Council was discovered during the year, and on the occupier's attention being drawn to the matter the pigs were removed.

Generally speaking, these premises were kept in a satisfactory condition. Forty-six inspections were made and no nuisance in connection with them arose during the year.

Sanitation of Schools.

The two public elementary schools provided by the local Education Authority are of much more recent construction than the seven non-provided schools, and their equipment and general sanitary conditions are quite satisfactory. The type and arrangement of the sanitary conveniences in some of the older schools leave much to be desired; improvements and renovations in this respect should be carried out, all boxed-in types should be replaced by modern pedestal wash-down closets supplied with flushing cisterns. The caretakers in general maintain the schools in a fair state of cleanliness, although upon occasions complaints have had to be made. During the year 36 inspections of the sanitary conveniences in schools were made by the Sanitary Inspector. The ventilation of class-rooms is a matter largely dependent upon the head teachers, some of whom experience much more difficulty than others in maintaining efficient ventilation owing to the less advantageous arrangement of windows, heating, etc., in the older schools.

All schools have lavatory basins and water from the public supply. These matters are again referred to in the report on the school medical service. It may here be stated that the Medical Officer of Health being also the School Medical Officer, no difficulties arise in co-ordinating the public health administrative work with the school medical work, consequently the arrangements for preventing the spread of infectious diseases in schools, for the exclusion of children found to be unfit to attend school, etc., work quite smoothly.

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses on the register at the end of the year was forty; of these eight are underground bakehouses. Two of the bakehouses, including one of the underground bakehouses, were not used during the year. Some of the underground bakehouses are not quite satisfactory as regards lighting and ventilation, and frequent inspections are necessary to ensure that the means provided for ventilation are utilised to the fullest extent. In general, the sanitary conditions of the bakehouses are good. During the year, one of the bakehouses was considerably improved by reconstruction, having been enlarged and a new steam oven installed, and two others were improved by having floors of red paving tiles substituted for worn or broken cement concrete floors.

The number of notices served in connection with bakehouses during the year was thirteen—six in reference to limewashing, four in reference to floors, and three in reference to water closets.

Eighty-eight inspections of bakehouses were made during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1920, for the Borough of Ramsgate, on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

TABLE I.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories : (including Factory Laundries) ...	55	4	—
Workshops : (including Workshop Laundries) ...	147	10	—
Workplaces ; (Other than Outworker's premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	35	4	—
Total	237	18	—

TABLE II.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Act :—		
Want of Cleanliness	9	9
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of Drainage to Floors	4	4
Other Nuisances	10	10
Sanitary Accommodation. { Insufficient	4	4
{ Unsuitable or Defective	6	6
{ Not Separate for Sexes	1	1
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act : —		
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse	1	1
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	6	6
Other Offences	4	4
Total	45	45

TABLE III.

HOMEWORK.

Outworkers' Lists. Section 107.						
NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers.					
	Sending twice in a Year.			Sending Once in a Year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Con-tractors	Work-men.		Contractors	Workmen.
Making Wearing Apparel	28	—	44	14		22
Furniture and Upholstery	2	—	4	1		2
Other Trades	—	—	—	—		—
Total ...	30		48	15		24
Notices served on Occu- piers as to keeping or sending lists :—						
Making Wearing Apparel	12					
Furniture and Upholstery	1					
Total ...	13					

TABLE IV.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	40
Dressmakers and Milliners	12
Tailors and Bootmakers	22
Laundries	7
Building Trade	31
Upholsterers	4
Engineers and Whitesmiths	15
Printers	8
Miscellaneous	31
Total	170

TABLE V.

OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	2
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	2
Other	—
Underground Bakehouses ;—	
Certificates granted during the Year	—
In use at the end of the Year	7

FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

Most of the Milk consumed in the Borough is rail borne, the remainder being supplied by dairy farmers in neighbouring rural districts and by the owners of the milch cows, average number 115, in the five cowsheds in the Borough. On the whole supplies during the year were adequate, but the price remained high, and this undoubtedly affected the quantity consumed. The cows kept in the cowsheds in the Borough were inspected on two occasions by the Council Veterinary Inspector, and no action was taken during the year as to tuberculous milk.

DAIRIES.

Number on the Register on 31st December, 1920	12
Notices Served on Occupiers	5
Inspections	38

COWSHEDS.

Number on the Register on 31st December, 1920	5
Notices Served on Occupiers	4
Inspections	27

MILKSHOPS.

Number on the Register on 31st December, 1920	22
Notices Served	4
Inspections	96

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

All samples of milk and cream were taken in accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

(1)—*Milk, and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.*

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Pre- servative.	(b) Number in which Preserva- tives reported to be present, and percentage of Preserva- tives found in each Sample.
Milk	40	nil.
Cream	2	1 (0.29%)

Sample No. 377 contained Boric Acid. The Vendor was sent a cautionary letter.

(2.—*Cream sold as Preserved Cream.*

(a) Instances in which Samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives are correct :

(i.) Correct Statements Made	...	2
(ii.) Statements Incorrect	...	Nil
(iii.) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on Statutory label.	
Sample No. 376 ... 0.32	Not to exceed 0.4 % Boric Acid	
Sample No. 378 ... 0.39	Not to exceed 0.4 % Boric Acid	

(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream :

(i.) Above 35 per cent ...	...	...	...	2
(ii.) Below 35 per cent ...	...	...	...	Nil
				—
Total ...	...	...	...	2
				—

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed ... Nil

(d) Particulars of each case in which regulations have not been complied with and action taken ... Nil

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

Arrangements were in force during the year by which, after investigations as to financial circumstances, necessitous mothers were supplied with milk for themselves or their infants in accordance with the terms of the Order. The total cost to the Council for fresh milk was £87, and for dried milk was £16 10s.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Reference has already been made, under the heading "Slaughter Houses," to the inspections made during the year of meat killed in the Borough and to the difficulty of efficient supervision in the absence of a public abattoir. All meat in butchers' shops in the town is also supervised, and it is gratifying to be able to again state that throughout the year local butchers were especially careful as to the quality of meat they sold to the public, and at once gave intimation of any meat, offal, etc., of doubtful quality. No seizure of meat or other foodstuffs was made during the year. The unsound meat voluntarily surrendered was, after treatment with paraffin, sent to a salvage contractor in the district.

Supplies of fish during the year were ample.

The arrangement by which vendors of shellfish have cockles, etc., sterilised at the Council's Shellfish Station, was continued, and a total of 47,542 gallons of cockles were dealt with during the year. If intended for consumption in the Borough no charge is made for this sterilisation, but if intended for export to other districts the Council during the year fixed a nominal charge of one shilling per bushel, and £19 11s. 3d. was paid during the year in respect of this sterilisation.

During the summer months considerable trade is done by vendors of ice cream from stalls and barrows on the sands and other places in the Borough. The premises on which this ice cream was made and stored, and the stalls from which it was sold were inspected, 22 visits of inspection were made to thirteen vendors, and fairly satisfactory conditions found.

It is highly desirable that local authorities should have legal powers to control the conditions under which this commodity and other foodstuffs are produced, stored, exposed for sale, and distributed.

UN SOUND FOOD.
VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED DURING 1920.
Carcasses Condemned for Tuberculosis.

Animals Affected.	No. of whole Carcasses with all internal organs condemned.	No. of Animals of which parts of Carcasses and all organs are condemned.	Weight. Total weight in lbs.
Cows	2	1	1919
Pigs	2	—	186

Foods Condemned for Other Reasons.

Article.	Condition.	Total weight in lbs.
1 Cow	Strangulation	392
1 Sheep	Emaciated	51
3 Pigs	Dropsical	290
1 Pig	Erysipelas	90
Beef, imported, fore and hind quarters	Decomposed	593
Mutton and Lamb, imported frozen	Decomposed	117
Bacon, imported sides	Decomposed	39
Fish (dried)	Unsound	516
Fish (wet)	Unsound	406
Rabbits, imported frozen	Decomposed	77
Corned Beef, tinned	Decomposed	183
Tongue, tinned	Decomposed	6
Ducks and Geese	Decomposed	192
Cheese	Unsound	20
Butter	Rancid	17
		2989

Total Weight Condemned - 2 tons 5 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lbs.

Other unsound food articles were : 43 tins of Preserved Fruit, 19 tins of Preserved Fish, 264 tins of Condensed Milk, 10 jars of Preserved Meat, 1 packet of Cheese, and 5,984 Imported Eggs.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year 87 samples, 63 formal and 24 informal, were taken by the Sanitary Inspector, who is the officer appointed under the Acts, and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

Article.	Sample.	Found to be Genuine.	Found to be Adulterated.	Total.
Milk	Formal	37	3	40
Butter	Formal	—	2	2
Butter	Informal	5	1	6
Margarine	Formal	6	—	6
Medicine	Formal	1	5	6
Lard	Informal	4	—	4
Coffee	Formal	—	1	1
Coffee	Informal	4	1	5
Cream	Formal	4	—	4
Self-Raising Flour	Informal	3	—	3
Vinegar	Formal	3	1	4
Mustard	Informal	3	—	3
Pepper	Informal	3	—	3

Particulars of the twelve formal Samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine, and action taken in regard to each of these samples :—

Identification No. of Sample	Article.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.	Result.
374	Milk	7% deficient in milk fat.	Legal proceeding instituted.	Cases dismissed. Vendor in each case successfully set up case of HUNT v. RICHARDSON as the defence.
375	Milk	9% deficient in milk fat.	Legal proceedings instituted.	
415	Milk	1% deficient in milk fat.	Vendor cautioned.	
341	Medicine	11% deficient in Quinine Sulphate, 3% excess of Ferrous Sulphate.	Vendor cautioned.	
342	Medicine	8% deficient in Quinine Sulphate.	Vendor cautioned.	
343	Medicine	7% deficient in Quinine Sulphate.	Vendor cautioned.	
344	Medicine	19% deficient in Ferrous Sulphate, 15% excess of Quinine Sulphate.	Vendor cautioned.	
345	Medicine	5% deficient in Quinine Sulphate, 10% deficient in Ferrous Sulphate.	Vendor cautioned.	
369	Coffee	17% Chicory.	Legal proceedings instituted.	Fined £1.
391*	Butter	3.78% of water in excess.	Legal proceedings instituted.	Case dismissed on warranty defence.
392	Butter	4.63% of water in excess.	Legal proceedings instituted.	Dismissed on payment of 6/- costs.
400	Vinegar	30% extraneous water.	Legal proceedings instituted.	Fined £2.

* The case having been dismissed against the vendor of sample No. 391 on warranty defence, legal proceedings were instituted against the wholesale firm who gave the false warranty and the case was dismissed on payment of £2 16s. 0d. costs.

Reference was made in the annual report for 1919 to the unsatisfactory state of the law under which vendors of milk of inferior quality escape penalties if they satisfy magistrates that nothing was done to the milk after it left the cows—so that improper food may be given to increase the quantity of milk at the expense of quality, milking may take place at proper or improper intervals, and cows may be milked dry or the richest portions may be left, and, as a Justice in the High Court remarked, a farmer at present in distributing milk is entitled by law to give a preference to his calves over the babies of his customers.

It seems strange that such an unsatisfactory state of affairs should be allowed to continue, especially as the real facts may be abstraction of fat or adulteration after milking, and that a remedy is not applied by fixing an absolute legal standard of quality below which it should be an offence to sell or deliver milk.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL, OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table gives the Diseases notifiable and the number of cases notified during the year 1920 :

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages	Age—Years.						Total Cases Notified in each Ward.						Total removed to Hospital.	
		Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over	Sir Moses Montefiore	West Cliff	West Central	East Cliff	East Central		Saint Lawrence
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	92	1	15	69	7	...	...	...	30	14	4	3	17	24	85
Diphtheria ...	35	...	7	19	6	3	...	...	19	...	1	4	2	9	35
Enteric Fevers :															
Typhoid Fever ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia :															
Primary ...	6	1	2	1	...	1	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	2	...
Influenzal ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...
Malaria ...	34	...	...	...	7	26	1	...	12	5	1	9	5	2	...
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	2	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	2	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	...	1	...	1	...
Tuberculosis :															
Pulmonary ...	114	..	2	23	15	66	7	1	42	11	13	19	12	17	...
Other Forms ...	25	1	1	15	4	4	...	...	13	1	4	5	...	2	...
Totals ...	335	15	27	131	43	106	9	4	129	40	24	44	39	59	123

ISOLATION HOSPITAL - Isle of Thanet Joint Hospital at Haine.

In the above figures allowance has been made for notifications which were subsequently altered.

The incidence of the infectious diseases in the Borough was low, and calls for no special remarks. The measures adopted in dealing with cases on notification were outlined generally in the Annual Report for 1919, and need not be repeated.

Scarlet Fever.

Of the 92 cases notified, 85 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Eight of the cases were imported in the summer months. On the whole the cases were of a very mild type of the disease, and no deaths resulted.

Diphtheria.

Of the 35 cases notified, 33 were removed to the Isolation Hospital, to which were also sent two "carriers."

The insidious nature of the disease, failure on the part of parents to seek medical advice sufficiently early, facilities afforded for early diagnosis at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory, and supplies of Antitoxin stocked at the Health Office were referred to in last year's Report. During the year 512 swabs from noses and throats were examined at the Borough Laboratory as to the presence of diphtheria bacilli, and 71 of these were reported as positive.

During the year a total of 94,000 units of diphtheria antitoxin were supplied to local medical practitioners, the total cost to the Council in respect of 18,000 units for use in cases in which it would not otherwise have been obtainable owing to necessitous circumstances, in accordance with the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, was £1 5s. 6d.

Enteric Fevers.

Two cases of Typhoid Fever occurred during the year, one of which was in a visitor, who developed the disease within a week after arrival in the Borough; the other was a resident, who had not eaten any shellfish, and the source of infection could not be ascertained.

One case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred, a definitely imported case, the patient becoming ill five days after arrival in the Borough. These three patients were removed to hospital, and all made good recoveries.

During the year the co-operation of collectors and vendors of shellfish still continued, as outlined in last year's Report, in connection with sterilisation at the Council's Shellfish Station, and during the year 47,542 gallons of cockles were sterilised thereat.

Smallpox.

No case of smallpox occurred in the Borough during the year. Intimations were received of the arrival in the Borough of seven persons who had possibly been exposed to infection on ships which arrived at ports in this country from abroad. These persons were visited and kept under observation until the period of incubation had passed. The introduction of this disease into the Borough might prove a very serious and a very expensive matter, owing to the large proportion of the population unprotected by vaccination. The proportion of unvaccinated persons in the Borough probably corresponds with the average proportion in other parts of the country, and a great number of parents here, as elsewhere, avail themselves of the provision of the Vaccination Act of 1907, through which they are exempted from penalties on making a statutory declaration of conscientious objection to the vaccination of their children.

Vaccination.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

I am indebted to the Clerk of the Guardians for the following particulars, as to the vaccination of children whose births were registered in the district during the year 1920. Up to 31st March, 1921, 92 of those children were not entered on the vaccination register owing to such causes as deaths, removal, etc., and of the remaining 727 children 272 only were successfully vaccinated, while exemption certificates were received in respect of 455 ; 62 per cent of these children consequently remained unprotected by vaccination.

In previous Annual Reports opinion has been expressed that the number of unvaccinated children in the Borough is steadily increasing, and the records as to the vaccinal condition of children examined at Routine Medical Inspections during 1920 in the public elementary schools seem to support this opinion.

	1919.	1920.
Unvaccinated " Entrants "	... 63 per cent ...	58 per cent
" " Intermediates "	... 47 per cent ...	52 per cent
" " Leavers "	... 10 per cent ...	22 per cent
" of all children examined ...	38 per cent ...	40 per cent

Tuberculosis.

The total number of notifications of new cases received during the year was 139, and of these 114 were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 25 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. 130 notifications were made on Form A., 4 on Form B., 4 on Form C., and 1 on Form D.

During the year 36 deaths of residents were certified as due to all forms on tuberculosis, 27 from pulmonary and 9 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, the mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis thus being 0·9 per 1,000, and from all forms of tuberculosis, including phthisis, 1·2 per 1,000 of the population.

During the year the attention of some of the local medical practitioners was drawn to the requirement of the regulations to notify cases of tuberculosis immediately on becoming aware of the nature of the disease from which the patient is suffering.

Upon receipt of a notification of a case of Tuberculosis, the patient is visited, advice is given as to the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection, and an inspection as to the sanitary condition of the premises is made. In the event of the death or removal of a patient the premises are disinfected. As the Kent County Council are responsible for curative measures, information is given to the County Medical Officer each week of all cases of Tuberculosis notified—the Tuberculosis Officer is thus enabled to arrange as necessary for the examination of contacts, for ascertaining whether patients are leading hygienic lives, etc. The County Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Borough and neighbouring districts is at Charlotte Cottage, Market Place, and during the year was open on one day in each week.

Venereal Diseases.

During the year the facilities available under the Public Health (V.D.) Regulations, 1916, for the free diagnosis and treatment of these diseases were improved for patients resident in the Borough by the opening of a centre at Eton House, St. Peter's Road, Margate.

Pneumonia.

Seven cases were notified, of which one was a case of influenzal pneumonia. All were attended throughout their illnesses by local medical practitioners.

Malaria.

Thirty-four cases were notified during the year ; all were cases of recurrence, often very slight, of the disease, which was contracted abroad.

Dysentery.

Four cases were notified during the year. All were cases of slight recurrence of the disease which was contracted abroad while on military service. These patients and a patient notified by the Ministry of Health as a carrier of the disease, were visited, and advised as to precautionary measures.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

One case was notified during the year. The case was typical clinically, and the diagnosis was confirmed by lumbar puncture and examination of the fluid at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory. The patient was a boy aged 12 years, a pupil at a large local school, who died two months after onset.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Twelve cases were notified. Each case was treated by a medical practitioner, and nursing assistance in carrying out the treatment prescribed was rendered in eight of the cases by the Council's Health Visitors. Subsequent enquiries showed that in ten of the cases no permanent injuries to the eyes resulted. Two of the children progressed favourably up to the time of their removal from the Borough, three weeks and five weeks after birth respectively.

The Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Beyond the fact that Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent in the Borough in the early months of the year, none of these diseases call for any special observations. One department of one public elementary school was closed for a short period owing to the large number of absentees suffering from Measles or Whooping Cough.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births Act.

During the year 812 births were notified ; of these 783 were live births and 29 were still births. In addition, there were 13 births which were not notified. Failure to notify births in accordance with the requirements of the Act has now become much less frequent in this Borough. In each instance of failure the attention of the party responsible is drawn to the omission, and an explanation requested. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee accepted pleas of ignorance of their duties under the Act on the part of parents, and of forgetfulness on the part of medical practitioners, and no legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

Parents and doctors notified 422 births, and midwives 390 ; 19 of the still-births were notified by doctors and 10 by midwives. As has been stated under " Vital Statistics," the number of births registered

during the year was 806, and 18 births were transferred to the Borough, the total, 824, giving a birth rate for the year of 28·08 per 1,000, as compared with a rate of 17 per 1,000 in 1919.

Work of Health Visitors.

In view of the development of the work and the increase in the number of births, towards the end of the year a second Health Visitor was, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, appointed. During the year 2,416 visits were made to 813 homes of expectant mothers and children under 5 years; 1,904 visits were made to 729 individual infants under one year of age; 419 visits to children between 1 and 5 ; and 93 visits to 69 individual expectant mothers. Except in cases in which visits are not indicated, efforts are made to visit all births which occur in the Borough. Mothers are invited to attend with their infants at the Centre, at which the Health Visitors are present, on the days it is open.

Instruction to mothers on the hygiene of child life is given, and as both Health Visitors hold a sanitary inspector's certificate, efficient supervision is exercised over sanitation of homes at ante-natal and post-natal visits. Any defects found are at once reported, and steps taken to have them remedied. The great importance of breast-feeding and the need for feeding at suitable and regular intervals is always impressed on mothers. In this connection investigation is made both at the homes and at the Centre as to the period during which breast-feeding is continued, the result of these enquiries in reference to children who were born in 1919 being as follows: Of 451 of these children, 145 were breast-fed for 9 months ; 72 were breast-fed for 6 months ; 94 for 3 months ; and in the case of 115 attempts at breast-feeding were made.

Enquiries are made as to the circumstances attending still-births, but it cannot be said that much practical good results therefrom. Suitable cases are invited to attend the ante-natal clinic with a view to the detection of conditions which might tend to cause abortions or still-births, and efforts being made to prevent a recurrence, but it is difficult to get such cases to attend.

The twelve cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum which were notified during the year were visited, and in eight of these nursing assistance was rendered by the Health Visitors. Ten of the cases recovered with vision unimpaired, and the other progressed favourably up to the time of their departure from the Borough.

In addition to the ordinary visitations the Health Visitors during the year visited 151 cases of Measles and 44 cases of Whooping Cough rendering nursing assistance as indicated.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

Arrangements were in force during the year by which, after investigations as to financial circumstances, necessitous mothers were supplied by the Council with milk for themselves or their infants in accordance with the terms of the Order. Mothers who were granted supplies of milk were as a rule certified at the Centre to be in need of it for themselves or their infants, owing to health reasons, by the Medical Officer of the Centre; in other cases certificates were given by the Medical Officer of Health. The total cost to the Council during the year for fresh milk supplied was £87, and for dried milk £16 10s.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

Previous annual reports describe the arrangements made by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Maternity Association at their premises, Curtis House, Cliff Street, in connection with the Mothercraft Club.

At the end of the year the Association, in view of the development of the work, had under consideration the extension of premises, and subsequently, with the approval of the Ministry, rented Cliff House, which adjoins the existing centre.

Two of the Council's Health Visitors, one of whom acts as Nurse Superintendent, attend at the Centre on the days it is open, and during the year 42 sessions were held on Wednesdays, lectures were given to mothers on each alternate week, and garment-making and needlework classes held. The Medical Officer of the Centre, a local medical practitioner, attended and conducted the consultation clinic on 41 Fridays. The total number of consultations during the year was 654, giving an average attendance of 16 at the clinic. The number of individual expectant mothers who attended the Centre during the year was 46, and 400 individual children made 2,176 attendances.

Since the end of the year the Committee have made arrangements for the holding on alternate Wednesdays of a consultation clinic for children between 1 and 5, and for expectant mothers.

The Infantile Mortality during the year is referred to under Vital Statistics.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1.—*Staff.*

The Staff of the Health Department consists of :—

One Medical Officer of Health, who is also School Medical Officer and Borough Bacteriologist.

One Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

One Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Four Health Visitors.

Two Clerks.

Two Disinfectors.

2.—*Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.*

The Isolation Hospitals for the Borough are those used in conjunction with the other Local Authorities of the Isle of Thanet, and are situate at Haine, just outside the Borough boundary. There are two blocks for Scarlet Fever, containing a total of 68 beds and 6 cots ; one block for Diphtheria, containing 14 beds and 5 cots ; and one block for Enteric Fevers, containing 14 beds and 5 cots ; making a total of 112 beds. In addition, there is an observation block with 8 beds. There is also a Small-pox pavilion containing 18 beds in the neighbourhood on a separate site. A list of patients from the Borough who are under treatment at or discharged from the Hospital is sent each week by the Matron.

The inadequate and unsatisfactory arrangements existing for the conveyance of patients to this Hospital were brought to the notice of the Ramsgate Town Council by the Medical Officer of Health in November, 1919. A resolution was then passed, and the Joint Hospital Board were requested to take into consideration the question of purchasing a motor ambulance to serve the several local authorities in the Isle of Thanet. Such an innovation would without doubt lead to greater efficiency and by rendering unnecessary a continuation of the present arrangements of these authorities for conveyances, horse hire, drivers, etc., should prove more economical, provided the capital expenditure involved was that required to procure a vehicle of the comparatively inexpensive type which proved so efficient in the recent war, and now in regular use throughout the country by divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and by other authorities. At the end of the year this matter was still under the consideration of the Board.

TABLE, giving number of patients from Ramsgate admitted to, treated at, and discharged from the Isle of Thanet Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Haine, during 1920 :—

	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on 31st Dec., 1920.
Scarlet Fever ...	85	71	—	14
Diphtheria ...	35	33	1	1
Enteric Fevers ...	3	3	—	—

3.—*Local Acts or General Adoptive Acts in Force.*

ADOPTED ACTS.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE.

Common Lodging Houses (P.H. Act, 1875, S.80).

Houses Let in Lodgings (P.H. Act, 1875, Sec. 90).

Cleansing, Etc., and Removal of Refuse (P.H. Act, 1875, S.44).

Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc. (H.W.C. Act, 1885, S.9 (2)).

Slaughter Houses (P.H. Act, 1875, S.169).

Prevention of Nuisances (P.H. Act, 1875, S.44).

Keeping of Animals (P.H. Act, 1875, S.44).

Offensive Trades (P.H. Act, 1875, S.113).

New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Act, 1875, S.157, and P.H.A. Act, 1890, S.23).

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

4.—*Arrangement for Chemical and Bacteriological Work during the Year 1920.*

A chemical analysis of water from the public supply was made each month by the Public Analyst. Periodical bacteriological and chemical examinations were also carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. The results of these examinations have been referred to in the Section dealing with the source and quality of the water supply of the Borough.

Since the establishment of the Borough Laboratory at the Health Office at the end of 1919, practically all the ordinary bacteriological work required in the Borough has been carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, and during the year 1920 the following specimens were examined and reported upon :—

	Total number examined.	Number positive.
Swabs from throats or noses—		
As to the presence of Diphtheria bacilli ...	514	71
As to the presence of Vincent's Organisms ...	18	7
As to the presence of Meningococci ...	8	—
As to the presence of Other Organisms ...	3	—
Sputum—		
As to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli ...	66	24
As to the presence of Other Organisms ...	3	1
Blood—		
As to Widal Reaction ...	5	3
As to the presence of Malaria parasites ...	8	1

	Total number examined.	Number positive.
Cerebro Spinal Fluid—		
As to the presence of Meningococci	... 2	... 1
For Other Reasons	... 1	... —
Urine—		
As to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	... 3	... —
Pus—		
As to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	... 3	... —
As to the presence of Anthrax Bacilli	... 2	... 1
As to the presence of Gonococci	... 15	... 8
Hairs—		
As to infection by Ringworm Fungus	... 73	... 53
Other Pathological Materials Examined	... 3	... —
Total	... 727	... 170

This summary shows that considerable use has been made of the facilities now available to local medical practitioners for obtaining prompt reports on pathological material.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Throughout the year considerable work has been done in connection with the extermination of rats and mice in the Borough. Ninety-two visits of inspection to premises were made, and the owners and occupiers were advised by the Sanitary Inspector, who is the officer appointed under the Act, as to the best methods of destroying rodents. Approved poisons obtained through the Kent County Council were supplied at cost price, and instructions given as to the correct method of preparing and laying the baits, numerous re-visits being necessary in connection with the supervision of the work. During the year arrangements were made by which occupiers upon application can secure the services of a professional rat-catcher with dogs and ferrets, payment being made by the applicants in accordance with a fixed scale of charges approved by the Council.

A special campaign was undertaken during "Rat Week," in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities.

Arrangements were made with the managers of two picture houses in the Borough for the exhibition during "Rat Week" of a special film, supplied by the County Organising Officer, showing various methods of rat destruction.

Although it is quite impossible to estimate the number, there is no doubt that very many rodents were exterminated in the Borough during the year.

Rag and Flock Act, 1911.

During the year three samples of rag flock were taken and submitted for analysis to the Borough Analyst, who reported that all three samples conformed to the standard of cleanliness required by the Act.

HOUSING.

General housing conditions in the Borough remain as described in the Annual Report for 1919. No houses were built during the year, and consequently the overcrowding due to some 200 houses being occupied by more than one family continues. No areas were during 1920 represented to the local authority as unhealthy areas, and no further action was taken during the year in respect of the areas represented as unhealthy areas in 1919.

The working during the year of the Bye-Laws relating to houses let in lodgings, common lodging houses, etc., have already been given.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.—STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated Population	...	...	...	29,338
(2)	General Death Rate	...	...	...	13·6
(3)	Death Rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1·2
(4)	Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	70
(5)	Number of Dwelling Houses of all Classes	...	...	...	7,402
(6)	Number of Working-class Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	5,447
(7)	Number of New Working-class Houses erected	...	...	...	Nil

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

(I.)—*Inspection.*

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	251
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	93
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	36
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	25

(II.)—*Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	158
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(III.)—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1919 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—				
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owner of intention to close	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By Owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1919.	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders *	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made	33
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	47
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	26
* 31 representations made end December, 1919.	

The 26 dwelling houses demolished were in nearly every case houses which had been so extensively damaged by air raids or bombardments during the war that reconstruction was impossible, and closing orders, followed by demolition orders, were served on the owners to compel them to deal with these dilapidated and unfit houses. Three other old unfit houses which had been unoccupied for several years were voluntarily demolished by the owners.

With regard to the 47 dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made, in 14 instances the operation of the order was postponed for a period of six months to allow reconstruction.

In two instances the houses have been reconstructed and are very nearly completed, and in respect to a block of ten houses plans for reconstruction were submitted, and having been approved by the Council, the work is now in hand.

With regard to another dwelling house, in respect of which a demolition order had been served, the owner appealed against the order, and a Public Inquiry was held by an Inspector appointed by the Ministry of Health. The decision of the Council was subsequently upheld by the Ministry.

In several cases small houses which were unoccupied, being in a state unfit for human habitation owing to extensive dilapidations, were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector, the owners then refused to let them, but offered the houses for sale, fixing a high price because possession could be given.

Other small houses, as they become empty, are being dealt with in the same manner. In consequence of this attitude by owners, there is on the one hand a great demand to rent small houses owing to shortage, and at the same time several houses are standing unoccupied for the above-mentioned reason.

In each case the 251 dwelling houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, and the Public Health Acts, had the drains subjected to a smoke test.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No areas were during the year represented to the Local Authority as unhealthy areas.

4.—No houses were erected in the Borough during the year under Sec. 25, H.T.P., Etc., Act, 1919.

5.—STAFF ENGAGED IN HOUSING WORK.

Work in connection with housing in general in the Borough is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, the two disinfectors assisting in the necessary drain testing, etc.

The Sanitary Inspector investigates and deals with housing defects, makes out specifications of work required to remedy defective conditions, etc., and serves notices.

Work done in connection with the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and during the year was chiefly directed to an inspection of the worst properties in the Borough. Official representations are made in accordance with the Housing Acts by the Medical Officer of Health, who, with the Sanitary Inspector, previously personally inspects all houses, areas, etc., referred to in such representations.

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

At the end of the year the Town Council were in communication with the Ministry of Health as to the exercising of sanitary jurisdiction over vessels in the Royal Harbour, the organisation of an adequate sanitary service for the Port was under consideration, and the Council were awaiting the promised visit of one of the Board's Medical Officers to confer with them on the matter.

During the year disinfection of a ship and of the clothing of the crew were carried out in connection with a case of scabies which came under observation. No vessel infected with or suspected of plague arrived at the port, but a considerable amount of work was done in connection with extermination of rats, poison was supplied and its use supervised, and a steam trawler after preparation was treated with sulphur dioxide gas, rats being thus exterminated.

I am indebted to the Harbour Master for the following information in reference to shipping which entered the Port during the year 1920 :

	Number.	Tonnage.
Foreign Vessels	130	7,526
British Vessels (all kinds) ...	4,161	170,217

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

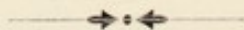
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1920.

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.S., B.A.O., D.P.H.

School Medical Staff.



Ophthalmic Surgeon—

G. E. HALSTEAD, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., B.A. (Lond.).

X-Ray Treatment of Ringworm—

B. II. PALMER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), M.R.C.S., Eng.,
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids—

(The Hon. Surgeons of Ramsgate General Hospital)

R. G. HICKS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

T. G. STYAN, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S. Lond.

E. FISK, M.D., B.S. Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon—

P. H. HICKMAN, L.D.S., R.C.S. Eng.

Health Visitors—

Miss A. ASHWELL.

Miss R. HOWELLS.

School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health—

W. J. BANNISTER, M.D., B.S., B.A.O. (Q.U. Belf.), D.P.H. (Lond.).

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

For the Year ended 31st December, 1920.

The following Report is drawn up on the lines suggested in a memorandum from the Board of Education

1.—STAFF.

The School Medical Staff during the year was as in 1919. Members of the Staff, with the exception of the School Medical Officer and the two Health Visitors, are part-time officers. The two clerks employed at the Health Office give approximately one half of their time to the clerical work in connection with the service.

2.—CO-ORDINATION.

(a) *Infant and Child Welfare Work :*

Records of children who attend the Infant Welfare Centre are kept, and on reaching school age the clinic cards are sent to the School Medical Officer and are filed with records of routine medical inspection. The previous history of children is thus available when they come to be examined at the public elementary school as "Entrants."

(b) *Nursery Schools :*

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

(c) *Care of Debilitated Children under School Age :*

The local Education Authority take no direct action with regard to such children ; the School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health, and administers on behalf of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee the Council's infant welfare scheme.

3.—(a) SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Hygienic conditions differ considerably in the nine public elementary schools in the Borough as regards surroundings, ventilation, lighting, warming, equipment and sanitation. Two only of these schools are Provided Schools ; they are the schools most recently constructed, and as regards situation and general hygienic conditions are quite satisfactory. Most of the non-provided schools are old, of defective design, and as regards lighting, ventilation and equipment cannot be considered to comply with modern requirements.

In last year's annual report reference was made to the urgent need for improvement in the equipment of these schools, especially as regards the abolition of all antiquated ill-adjusted seats and desks, which must necessarily cause children to assume attitudes which lead to distortion of the body.

No practical action was taken during the year in this matter, and none of these desks were replaced by suitable modern desks of hygienic pattern.

The type and arrangement of the sanitary conveniences in some of the schools is far from ideal ; considerable improvement would be effected were boxed-in types replaced by modern pedestal wash-down closets supplied with separate flushing cisterns. Some of the urinals also need to be reconstructed. All the schools have lavatory basins and water from the public supply.

The caretakers maintain the schools and cloakrooms in a fair state of cleanliness.

As regards arrangements for drying children's clothes and boots, in two only of the schools are the cloakrooms heated.

4.—MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Routine medical inspections are always carried out in the school premises ; in the most recently-constructed school a special room for these inspections is provided, but at the other schools children are examined either in a head teacher's room or more usually in a classroom, which, when possible, is temporarily vacated, the children being sent to another classroom or to the school playground. The head teachers heartily co-operate in securing the best arrangements possible at their schools for the conduction of the inspections, but at some of the schools it is quite impossible to secure reasonably satisfactory conditions, unavoidable noise rendering accurate examination difficult, and testing of acuity of hearing by means of the whisper test impracticable, while poor lighting of some of the rooms used renders difficult the testing of acuity of vision. Parents who attend at the inspection of their children have to wait in the room in which the examinations are conducted, and, as mentioned in last year's report, the provision of a movable screen in each school, for use in connection with inspections, would assist in securing a reasonable amount of privacy of examination.

(a) Age Groups of the Children Inspected.

The children inspected during the year were the Code Groups of the Board of Education :

" Entrants "	... Children admitted to schools during the year.
	Number Inspected - 465
" Intermediates"...	Children between 8 and 9 years of age.
	Number Inspected - 412
" Leavers "	... Children between 12 and 13 years of age and children over 13 years of age who had not already been examined after reaching the age of 12.
	Number Inspected - 760

(b) The schedule of the Board of Education was followed.

(c) Steps taken to secure the early ascertainment of Crippling Defects.

The defects in children of the code age groups are detected at the routine inspections, also by the examination of " specials," *i.e.*, children of any age presented for examination by the Head Teachers at each visit of the School Medical Officer to the departments for the

purpose of conducting routine medical inspections, or specially sent for examination to the School Inspection Clinic at the Health Office on account of suspected illness or defect. The number of special cases examined at the schools during the year was 122, and the number examined at the School Clinic, which is open on five mornings each week, was 1,579.

(d) *Extent to which disturbance of school arrangements was involved by the Medical Inspections.*

Reference has already been made to the unavoidable disturbance caused by the necessary vacation of classrooms while routine medical inspections are conducted therein.

Many of the Head Teachers show a sympathetic interest in the work, and all possible is done to minimise the disturbance to school arrangements.

5.—FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(a) *Uncleanliness.*

In addition to the routine examination of children by the School Medical Officer systematic surveys of all children in the schools were carried out by the School Health Visitors. At the routine inspections during the year, out of a total of 1,651 children, 67, or 4 per cent, were found to have unclean hair, and at the 72 surveys as to the cleanliness of skin, hair, scalp and clothing, 15,520 examinations of children were made by the Health Visitors, who found 45 children verminous and 368 with very nitty hair. These children were excluded from school and their homes visited by the Health Visitors, who explained to the parents or guardians measures indicated for the proper cleansing of the children. Printed directions are also given at these visits stating the necessity for prompt action in the matter, and that the child will not be re-admitted to school until certified by the School Medical Officer at the School Clinic to have been cleansed and all nits to have been removed.

If within seven days from exclusion such a certificate has not been secured, notice is sent that legal proceedings under the School Attendance Bye-Laws will be instituted if cleansing has not been carried out within a week.

These surveys, which are always made on "surprise" visits to the schools and the subsequent procedure outlined have effected considerable improvement as regards the cleanliness of the person and clothing of the children and have greatly reduced the periods of absence from school owing to unclean conditions.

Legal proceedings under the Attendance Bye-Laws were instituted during the year in 31 instances; the results of these proceedings show the extent to which the magistrates support the Education Committee in their efforts to secure cleanliness:—

Parents fined 15/-	...	...	2 cases
Parents fined 10/-	...	...	8 cases
Parents fined 7/6	...	...	2 cases
Parents fined 5/-	...	...	13 cases
Case dismissed on payment of 5/- costs	...	...	3 cases
Case withdrawn after adjournment	...	...	3 cases

(b) Minor Ailments.

The minor ailments found during the year at the routine inspections and at the inspection clinic are detailed in official Table II., and the number of children referred for treatment for these defects are summarised in Official Table IV. (a). Both these Tables will be found at the end of the report.

It may here be stated that during the year 40 new cases of scalp ringworm came under observation, as compared with 61 in 1919 ; 45 cases of scabies, as compared with 86 in 1919 ; 305 cases of impetigo, as compared with 394 in 1919 ; 85 cases of external eye disease, as compared with 69 in 1919 ; 41 cases of ear disease, as compared with 49 in 1919.

(c) Tonsils and Adenoids.

During the year a total of 142 children were found to have enlargement of their tonsils or adenoid growths which required treatment in some form, not necessarily operative. The abnormal conditions of the noses and throats of many of these children were found to yield to indirect treatment, such as the removal of carious teeth, etc., and 37 only received operative treatment for the removal of the growths.

(d) Tuberculosis.

Definite pulmonary tuberculosis was detected in one child and suspected in two others, at the routine inspections, while ten children with definite pulmonary tuberculosis and six who were suspected to be suffering came under observation at the inspection clinic or at the examinations of "specials" at the schools. These children and 14 others found to be suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were referred by the School Medical Officer for treatment and observation to the Tuberculosis Officer at the County Council's Dispensary in the town. In the absence of an open-air school in the Borough, many of these children have to be excluded from school for long periods.

(e), (f) and (h) Skin Diseases, External Eye Diseases and Ear Disease.

Referred to under heading "Minor Ailments."

(g) Vision.

During the year the number of children found to have defective vision, squint, or symptoms of eye strain, and who were referred for further examination by the Education Committee's ophthalmic surgeon, was : At the routine inspections, 105 ; among "specials," 77.

(i) Dental Defects.

At the routine inspections by the School Medical Officer, 777 of the 1,651 children examined were found to have teeth in a perfectly sound condition. Of 478 children of the 6-8 age group examined at the schools by the School Dentist, it was found necessary to refer 215 for treatment.

(j) Crippling Defects.

During the year 15 children were found at the inspections to be suffering from organic heart disease, the degree of crippling caused thereby, of course, varying greatly. 31 children were found to have deformities ; these included loss of fingers or limbs, the result of

trauma or other causes, paralysis of different degrees following infantile paralysis, and the result of old rickets. Various degrees of crippling were caused in the cases of tuberculosis referred to in (d) above.

6.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Throughout the year the School Medical Officer authorised the exclusion of children when their exclusion was desirable to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, on the ground that their uncleanly or verminous condition was detrimental to the other scholars, or on the ground that owing to their state of health or their physical or mental defects, they were incapable of receiving proper benefits from the instruction in the school.

Certificates of exclusion are brought to the notice of the School Attendance Officers, who inform the Head Teachers. Children so excluded are not re-admitted to school until the School Medical Officer is satisfied that they can attend school without risk to themselves or others. The School Attendance Officers and the Head Teachers give information to the School Medical Officer in reference to children who are absent from school owing to illnesses which possibly may be infectious, and all such cases are investigated. During the year the number of intimations received from Head Teachers was 251; these included intimations in reference to 174 children who were suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, measles. Children suffering from infectious diseases and contacts living in infected houses are excluded from school in accordance with the definite periods set out in the Board's Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School.

On one occasion only during the year was action taken under Article 45 (b) of the Code, one department of one school having been closed for a short period with the approval of the School Medical Officer on account of disorganisation caused by the large number of absentees owing to the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough. These diseases were somewhat prevalent throughout the Borough in the early months of the year. No action was taken under Article 57 of the Code.

7.—FOLLOWING-UP WORK.

Work of Health Visitors.

The arrangements for the following-up of children found at the medical inspections to be suffering from physical defects with a view to securing adequate treatment were outlined in last year's report.

As will be seen from the tables, most of the children suffering from minor ailments were dealt with at the school treatment clinic, which they continued to attend until cured. A large number of children were dealt with at the special treatment clinics; of 222 children found to have defective vision who were referred for refraction no fewer than 201 were dealt with at the Eye Clinic; of 516 children referred for dental treatment 405 received treatment at the Dental Clinic. It is chiefly in connection with children who need treatment and whose parents promise the School Medical Officer at inspections or the Health Visitors at the home that they will secure treatment privately, that difficulty arises. Too often it is found on re-visitation of these homes that the parents have failed to carry out their promises, and are still unwilling to avail of the facilities for treatment afforded by the

Education Committee. In connection with many such cases the co-operation of the Head Teachers is sought, in others the members of the Care Committee have been successful in having adequate treatment secured. This following-up work was carried out chiefly by the Health Visitors, who during the year made 2,090 visits to the homes of school children and 141 visits to schools in this connection.

The Health Visitors attend on five mornings each week at the School Clinic carrying out the treatment of minor ailments under the direction and supervision of the School Medical Officer, and one Health Visitor is always in attendance at each of the special clinics. They also make preparations for and attend at the routine medical inspections, and carry out systematic surveys as to the cleanliness of children at the schools.

8.—MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) *Minor Ailments.*

The great majority of school children suffering from such ailments are treated at the School Clinic till cured. The Health Visitors carry out treatment under the general supervision of the School Medical Officer. In cases in which proper supplementary treatment is found not to be carried out at the home, the parents are visited and a demonstration of the correct methods of applying remedies, etc., there given by the Health Visitors.

The work at this clinic, which was held on five mornings each week, when the schools were in session, and was also open as required during school holidays, increased considerably during the year, and the accommodation at the Health Office was at times insufficient. Many parents attend at this clinic with their children, thus learning correct methods of dealing with minor ailments, and it is highly desirable that they should be encouraged to do so. It does not, however, tend towards this that they should be obliged to stand in the corridor while awaiting admission to the room in which treatment is given, owing to lack of accommodation in the waiting room.

The following summary shows the cases dealt with and the number of attendances during the year :—

Disease or Condition.	No of Children.	Attendances.
Impetigo	262	2,524
Vermineous Impetigo	10	78
Eczema, Seborrhoea, etc.	128	327
Whitlows, Abscesses, Cuts, Burns, Abrasions, etc. etc.	337	2,590
Ringworm of Scalp	47	1,232
Ringworm of Body	23	98
Scabies	41	455
External Eye Diseases	80	310
Otorrhoea	43	294
Nose, Mouth and Throat Conditions	117	308
Tuberculosis, all forms	25	76
Other Diseases or Conditions	386	1,655
	<hr/> 1,492	<hr/> 9,947

In addition, 280 children who were convalescent from or contacts of infectious diseases made 322 attendances at the clinic for examination as to their fitness to resume attendance at school.

X-Ray Treatment of Scalp Ringworm.

This treatment is administered by means of the Education Committee's apparatus at the Health Office by Dr. B. H. Palmer, and during the year thirteen children received X-ray treatment.

Parents of children for whom this form of treatment is indicated are required to sign a special form of consent before treatment is given. Such consent is not always obtainable.

(b) Tonsils and Adenoids.

During the year 142 children who required some form of treatment on account of abnormal conditions of their tonsils or adenoid tissue came under observation. These children had various degrees of excessive or unhealthy naso-pharyngeal tissue, which was not due to temporary inflammation, for which different forms of treatment—from the removal of a septic tooth to removal of the tissues by operation—were indicated. As a rule children are not referred for operative treatment for these conditions until measures directed to obtaining a healthier state of the mouth and naso-pharynx fail, after a reasonable trial, to produce improvement. Many of the cases yielded to the practice of regular breathing exercises following dental treatment.

During the year 37 children were operated on for the removal of enlarged tonsils or adenoids; 9 of these received treatment privately, and 28 at the Ramsgate General Hospital through the Education Committee's scheme, under which the Hospital Authorities were paid £1 in respect of each child. Parents of children about to be operated on receive instructions from the School Medical Officer in reference to the preparation of their children, and after the operation every effort is made to follow up each child to ensure the continuation of regular breathing exercises and teeth cleaning.

(c) Tuberculosis.

It has been stated previously that children found at the inspections to be suffering from tuberculosis, and certain others suspected to be suffering from the disease, are referred to the County Council's Dispensary in the town for treatment by the Tuberculosis Officer, who periodically informs the School Medical Officer as to the fitness or otherwise of the children to attend school.

(d), (e) and (g) dealt with under "Minor Ailments."

(f) Vision.

During the year 222 children were referred for further examination owing to errors of refraction; of these, 201 were submitted for refraction at the Eye Clinic which Dr. G. F. Halstead, the Education Committee's part-time ophthalmic surgeon, conducted on 50 sessions during 1920. Eleven other children received treatment privately. Glasses were prescribed for 198 children, and up to the end of the year had been procured in 193 cases. The children made 630 attendances at the

Clinic. Dr. Halstead reports, with reference to the new cases examined, as follows :—

21	...	Hypermetropia
59	...	Hypermetropia with Astigmatism
9	...	Myopia
22	...	Myopia with Astigmatism
1	...	Hypermetropia in one eye and Myopia in the other
6	...	Mixed Astigmatism
29	...	Strabismus

During the year the following cases also came under observation at the Eye Clinic :—

1	Traumatic Cataract	1	Buphthalmos
1	Opacity on capsule of lens	8	Phlyctenulae & corneal opacities
1	Nystagmus	3	Iritis
1	Interstitial Keratitis	4	Blepharitis
3	Congenital Ptosis	1	Opaque Nerve Fibres

Dr. Halstead submitted the following remarks: "For cases in which the defect of vision is slight, especially if glasses are objected to by the parents, spectacles have not been prescribed so freely, as it is found that in such cases they are seldom worn. Patients with short sight or squint value spectacles the most; boys who see well with one eye and badly with the other value them the least. The Nurse's assistance at the Clinic has been found very valuable."

(h) Dental Defects.

The Education Committee's Dental Scheme, which came into operation in December, 1919, provides for the inspection at the schools and for treatment at the Dental Clinic at the Health Office of children of the 6—8 year group and for re-inspection and, when necessary, re-treatment in later years. The scheme also provides for treatment at the dental clinic of any child of any age attending a public elementary school who may be referred for treatment as a "special" by the School Medical Officer.

During the year Mr. Hickman, the Committee's part-time Dental Surgeon, devoted ten sessions to inspections at the schools and 52 sessions to treatment at the dental clinic. Tables IV., D. (1) and (2), which may be found at the end of the report, summarise the work.

It will be seen that a large proportion of the children treated during the year were "specials"; these were chiefly children who, owing to facilities not having been available in former years, had remained untreated. Parents of children are invited to attend at the dental inspections, and during the year the school dentist gave several lectures on the general hygiene of the mouth to the assembled parents and children.

(i) Crippling Defects and Orthopaedics.

Few facilities exist in the Borough for the treatment of children with crippling defects. Cases of crippling due to tuberculosis are dealt with through the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and certain other cases receive operative treatment at the Ramsgate General Hospital. During the year two school children were referred for treatment to Orthopaedic Hospitals in London. The Central Help Committee render valuable

assistance in such cases by defraying or partly defraying travelling expenses, etc., for necessitous parents. Through the Care Committee arrangements were made for the admission on one school child, crippled as a result of bone tuberculosis, to the Margate Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, considerable benefit resulting.

Practically no facilities exist in the Borough for suitable after treatment of such cases, there is no open-air school, and no means of obtaining massage, electrical treatment or remedial exercises.

9.—OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

There is no open-air school in the Borough. Open-air classes are held in the playgrounds of the public elementary schools and it is highly desirable that every facility should be given to Head Teachers to increase the number of such classes. A definite need exists for a school in which certain children could be educated throughout the year under open-air conditions. There would be no difficulty in compiling a list of children who would undoubtedly greatly benefit, physically and mentally, were it possible to educate them in the open air instead of, often, in none too well ventilated classrooms in which at present they spend at least five hours on five days each week.

10.—PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Physical exercises in accordance with the syllabus of the Board of Education are carried out in all the schools, and whenever possible take place in the school playgrounds. The co-operation of Head Teachers is requested with reference to children found at the inspections to especially need breathing exercises, etc. There is no organiser of physical training for the area, but there is no doubt that general supervision by an expert of the physical education given in the schools of the Borough would be a distinct advantage ; were some such arrangement made, an easy development which would be extremely useful would be the formation of classes for short periods of corrective exercises daily for children discovered at medical inspections to have commencing deformity, round shoulders, flat foot, etc.

11.—PROVISION OF MEALS.

The Provision of Meals Acts, 1906-1914, have not been adopted in the Borough.

Arrangements are made by the Care Committee for the provision of meals, milk, etc. through voluntary sources in definite instances of underfeeding of children of necessitous parents on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer.

12.—SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no baths at the schools.

13.—CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS .

Parents are always invited to attend at the schools during the routine medical inspections of their children. If present and a defect is discovered in a child advice is given as to need for obtaining treatment ; if not present, the child is followed up by one of the Health Visitors at the home.

During the year

256 parents attended at the routine inspections of 465 Entrants

136 parents attended at the routine inspections of 412 Intermediates

165 parents attended at the routine inspections of 760 Leavers

14.—CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

Several references have been made previously in this report to the assistance given by Teachers in connection with medical inspections ; it may be added that they compile from the school registers lists of children of the code groups due for routine medical inspections. At each visit of the School Medical Officer to a department for the purpose of conducting routine inspection, the Head Teacher presents for examination, as " specials," all children who are not due for routine inspection but are suffering from or suspected to be suffering from any defect or ailment. They also throughout the year refer such children to the inspection Clinic at the Health Office.

Some of the Head Teachers take great interest in the work, and personally attend at the routine inspections. In view of the great influence which teachers have with parents, an asset of the greatest importance to the success of the school medical work is the co-operation of all teachers in doing everything possible to secure appropriate treatment for children suffering from remediable defects.

15.—CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

These officers bring to the notice of the School Medical Officer children absent from school who are said to be ill, but not under treatment by a doctor, and such children are referred to the school clinic or, when necessary enquiries are made at the homes. As has been stated, certificates of exclusion from school and of fitness to attend given by the School Medical Officer are each day brought to the notice of the Attendance Officers, who accordingly inform the Head Teachers and see that the certificates are acted upon. Certificates as to illness of school children given by local medical practitioners are, on receipt, submitted to the School Medical Officer. The School Attendance Officers are informed by the School Medical Officer of all children who have not been cleansed within seven days after having been excluded ; enquiries are made by them as to the existence of any special circumstances, such as temporary incapacity of the mother, which might influence the School Attendance Committee in deciding as to the institution of legal proceedings under the Attendance Bye-Laws.

16.—CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

Through the Children's Aid Fund of the Central Help Committee, children of necessitous parents are, on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer, supplied with Cod Liver Oil and Malt, milk, free meals, etc., and travelling expenses are defrayed in connection with children for whom treatment at London Hospitals is necessary.

The Ramsgate Care Committee assist the following-up of children, arrange through voluntary funds for supplies of milk, etc., in necessitous cases, arrange for and meet the expenses of sending debilitated and other children to convalescent homes, and after investigation report to the Education Committee as to the ability of parents to pay the cost or part cost of spectacles supplied through the Eye Clinic.

17.—BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

(a) The model arrangements of the Board of Education under the Elementary School (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, and

the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, have been adopted by the Local Education Authority.

Such children are detected at the routine medical inspections and at the examinations of "specials" at the schools and Inspection Clinic. Cases of defective vision are referred for treatment and are usually dealt with at the Eye Clinic, cases of deafness are referred for appropriate treatment, some receiving operative treatment for abnormal throat and nose conditions through the Education Committee's scheme. These cases are followed up, and in instances of severe defects which after treatment do not show improvement sufficient to enable benefit to be derived from instruction at a public elementary school, arrangements are made by the Education Committee for education at suitable institutions.

(b) There is no special school in the Borough and no facilities for the education of educable mentally deficient children. Efforts made by the Education Committee during the year to secure accommodation in an approved institution for a particularly suitable educable mentally deficient boy proved unsuccessful.

18.—NURSERY SCHOOLS.

There is no Nursery School in the Borough.

19.—SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

All work in connection with the Secondary Schools in the Borough is carried out by the Kent County Council.

20.—CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Such schools have not yet been established in the Borough.

21.—EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Ramsgate is not an industrial town, and employment for children is practically limited to delivering newspapers and milk, running errands for tradesmen, or in the case of girls assisting at homes.

TABLE I.

Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1920, to 1st December, 1920.

(A.)—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Age.	Entrants.			
	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.
Boys ...	88	105	37	230
Girls ...	98	104	33	235
Totals ...	186	209	70	465

Age.	Intermediate Group.	Leavers.			Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.
		8	12	13	14		
Boys ...	191	148	214	25	11	589	819
Girls ...	221	120	230	23	3	597	832
Totals ...	412	268	444	48	14	1186	1651

(B.)—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

	Special Cases.		Re-examinations i.e. (No. of Children Re-examined.)
	At Schools.	At Clinic.	
Boys ...	49	658	194
Girls ...	73	921	207
Totals ...	122	1579	401

(C.)—TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER, whether as Routine or Special Cases (no child being counted more than once in one year).

Number of Individual Children Inspected.
2822

TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1920.

Defects or Disease.					Routine Inspection.		Specials.	
					Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition	...	...	...	41	11	35	17
	Uncleanliness :							
	Head	...	...	...	67	—	317	—
	Body	...	...	...	4	—	9	—
	Ringworm :							
	Head	...	...	...	1	—	39	—
	Body	...	...	...	2	—	25	—
	Scabies	...	...	...	2	—	43	—
	Impetigo	...	...	...	17	—	288	—
	Other Diseases (non-tubercular)	...	...	...	14	—	359	—
Eye	Blepharitis	...	...	...	7	—	17	—
	Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	3	—	12	—
	Keratitis	...	...	...	1	1	2	—
	Corneal Ulcer	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
	Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	3	—	5	—
	Defective Vision	...	...	...	95	37	64	24
Ear	Squint	...	...	...	10	2	13	4
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	4	—	39	2
	Defective Hearing	...	...	...	15	4	3	—
	Otitis Media	...	...	...	6	—	35	—
	Other Ear Diseases	...	...	...	7	1	15	—
	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	...	42	33	29	17
Nose and Throat	Adenoids	...	...	...	5	1	3	—
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	14	1	15	—
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	15	11	22	2
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)	...	...	...	10	18	5	7
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	18	1	—	2
	Heart Disease :							
Heart and Circulation	Organic	...	...	...	3	7	2	3
	Functional	...	...	...	3	1	1	—
	Anaemia	...	...	...	13	3	15	2
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	12	2	40	1
Lungs	Other Non-Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	1	—	19	—
	Pulmonary :							
	Definite	...	...	...	1	—	10	3
	Suspected	...	...	...	2	—	3	3
	Non-pulmonary :							
	Glands	...	...	...	2	—	4	—
Tuberculosis	Spine	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
	Hip	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
	Other Bones and Joints	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
	Skin	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
	Other Forms	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
	Epilepsy	...	...	...	1	—	5	1
Nervous System	Chorea	...	...	...	—	1	5	—
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	3	1	4	2
	Rickets	...	...	...	—	3	—	—
Deformities	Spinal Curvature	...	...	...	7	2	3	1
	Other Forms	...	...	...	1	4	2	8
	Other Defects or Diseases	...	...	...	52	15	718	24

Number of Individual Children having defects which require treatment or to be kept under observation, 1372.

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1920.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	1	3
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	—	1	1
		Not at School	1	—	1
Mentally Deficient	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		Notified to the Local Control Auth- ority by Local Education Authority during the year	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	2	2
	Imbeciles	At School	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
		Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	—	—	—
	Idiots	Notified to Local Control Authority during year	—	—	—
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	3	7
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	1	1
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	6	5	11
	Crippling due to Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	4	7
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	1	1
		Not at School	2	2	4
	Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, i.e. Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	13	15	28
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	2	3	5
	Other Physical Defectives, e.g. delicate & other children suit- able for admis- sion to Open-air Schools; Child- ren suffering from severe heart disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	8	5	13
		Attending Open-Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children other than Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	2	3
Dull or Backward *		Retarded 2 years	37	41	78
		Retarded 3 years	13	16	29

* Judged according to age and standard. No case retarded more than 3 years included in this category, unless it has been decided after examination by the Medical Officer that the child is not mentally defective.

TABLE IV.

Treatment of Defects of Children during 1920.

(A.)—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin :—				
Ringworm, Head... ..	40	40	...	40
Ringworm, Body	27	20	7	27
Scabies	45	41	4	45
Impetigo	305	272	33	305
Minor Injuries	369	337	11	348
Other Skin Diseases	524	481	22	503
Ear Disease	52	43	9	52
Eye Disease (external and other	85	80	5	85
Miscellaneous	325	178	124	302

(B.)—TREATMENT OF VISUAL DEFECT.

Number of Children.									
Referred for Refraction.	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were Prescribed.	For whom Glasses were Provided.	Recommended for Treat- ment other than by Glasses.	Received other forms of Treatment.	For whom no Treatment was considered necessary
	Under Local Educa- tion Authority's Scheme, Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practi- tioner or Hospital.	Otherwise.	Total.					
222	201	8	3	212	198	193	7	3	4

(C.)—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Referred for Treatment.	Number of Children.			
	Received Operative Treatment.			Received Other Forms of Treatment.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme—Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.	
142	28	9	37	89

