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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Borough of Ramsgate.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1923.

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



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

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

(1923-1924.)

Chairman : Alderman T. S. CHAYNEY .

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Worshipful the Mayor. | Councillor J. S. LANGLEY. |
| Alderman J. W. CHAPMAN. | " A. W. LARKIN. |
| " H. C. CHILD, J.P. | " F. C. LLEWELLYN. |
| " W. COLEMAN, J.P. | " T. W. MOCKRIDGE. |
| " H. T. HOLLANDS. | " C. NIXON. |
| " R. W. PHILPOTT. | " M. J. POOLE, J.P. |
| Councillor W. H. BRADLEY. | " F. N. PORTER. |
| " H. G. BUSH. | " T. H. PRESTEDGE. |
| " Mrs. DUNN. | " Miss REEVE. |
| " J. C. GRUMMANT. | " H. TERRY. |
| " W. HOLT. | " T. B. H. TISDELL. |
| Councillor R. W. TREMAIN. | |

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. DUNN.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Worshipful the Mayor. | Councillor R. W. TREMAIN. |
| Alderman H. T. HOLLANDS. | Mrs. AMOS. |
| Councillor T. W. MOCKRIDGE. | Miss E. CHANING-PEARCE. |
| " C. NIXON. | Mrs. BICKFORD. |
| " Miss REEVE. | Mrs. A. DANIEL. |

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman W. COLEMAN, J.P.

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Worshipful the Mayor. | Councillor F. C. LLEWELLYN. |
| Alderman J. W. CHAPMAN. | " T. W. MOCKRIDGE. |
| " R. W. PHILPOTT. | " F. N. PORTER. |
| Councillor Mrs. DUNN. | Mr. E. F. G. CHAPMAN, |
| " J. S. LANGLEY. | Rev. J. A. FOX. |
| " A. W. LARKIN. | Miss L. WHITING. |
| Mr. C. WICKS, J.P. | |

Health Office,

26, Albion Place,

Ramsgate.

April, 1924.

*To The Worshipful The Mayor and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Ramsgate.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1923, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough and on the work in connection with the School Medical Service.

The health of the Borough was exceptionally good during the year and the statistics recorded will compare favourably with those for any similar district in the country. The Infantile Mortality rate, 44.8 per 1,000 births, is the lowest ever recorded for the Borough and the decreased general death rate, 12.95, corresponds with a reduced amount of sickness during the year and an exceptionally low incidence of infectious diseases.

The provision of adequate housing accommodation still remains the most pressing problem confronting the Sanitary Authority, no solution of existing unsatisfactory conditions can be reported and it would appear that, unless and until the building of small houses again becomes a profitable investment for private enterprise, the only hope of a sufficient number being erected to alleviate existing overcrowding lies in provision through a State or Municipal Scheme.

I would acknowledge the assistance rendered by my medical colleagues, the loyal co-operation of all the members of the staff of the department, and would express thanks to the Chairmen of Committees and Members of the Council for support during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, 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 E. SMITH,

*Miss M. RICHARDS.

Miss A. ASHWELL.

Miss R. HOWELLS.

*Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

Clerks :

S. GORHAM.

A. SAWORD.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

1. General Statistics.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Area of the Borough in Acres (excluding Foreshore) ... | 2,278 |
| Population, Census, 1921 ... | 36,561 |
| Population, as adjusted by the Registrar General for statistical purposes, 1923 ... | 30,250 |
| Number of inhabited structurally separate dwellings (1921) | 6,609 |
| Number of buildings containing dwellings (1921) ... | 7,082 |
| Number of private families or separate occupiers (1921) | 7,491 |
| Rateable Value ... | £157,772 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate ... | £605 |
| Rainfall, 1923 ... | 20·94 ins. |
| Sunshine, 1923 ... | 1762·5 hours |

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1923.

| | | Total | Males | Females | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Births | Legitimate | 582 | 278 | 304 | Birth Rate 20·66 | |
| | Illegitimate | 43 | 26 | 17 | | |
| Deaths | ... | 392 | 174 | 218 | Death Rate 12·95 | |
| Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth | | | } | from sepsis | ... | Nil |
| | | | | from other causes | | Nil |
| Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births :— | | | | | | |
| Legitimate | ... | 41·6 | Illegitimate | ... | 3·2 | Total 44·8 |
| Deaths from Measles, all ages | | | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| „ | „ | Whooping Cough, all ages | | | ... | 2 |
| „ | „ | Diarrhœa, under 2 years of age | | | ... | 1 |

| | Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population, | Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population. | | | | | | | | | Rate per 1,000 Births | | Percentage of Total Births | | |
|--|---|---|---------------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------------|------------|-----------|----------|---|--------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 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 | Causes of Death Certified by registered Medical Practitioners | Unquest Cases | Uncertified Causes of Death |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| England and Wales .. | 19.7 | 11.6 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.07 | 0.22 | 0.44 | 7.7 | 69 | 92.0 | 6.9 | 1.1 |
| 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London | 20.4 | 11.6 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.09 | 0.22 | 0.40 | 9.9 | 72 | 92.2 | 7.2 | 0.6 |
| 157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) .. | 19.8 | 10.6 | 0.01 | — | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.21 | 0.38 | 6.4 | 69 | 92.6 | 6.1 | 1.3 |
| London... .. | 20.2 | 11.2 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.09 | 0.13 | 0.17 | 0.45 | 10.2 | 60 | 90.8 | 9.1 | 0.1 |
| RAMSGATE | 20.6 | 12.9 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.13 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.46 | 4.8 | 44 | 89.9 | 6.6 | 3.5 |

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

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 the north and east winds. A large expanse of particularly fine 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 fishing industry and some minor industries, the inhabitants are chiefly occupied in catering for the wants and pleasures of residents and a 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 Southwood Waterworks :—

SUNSHINE, 1923.

| Month | Total Sunshine in Hours | Daily average in hours |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| January ... | 76.5 | 2.46 |
| February ... | 66.9 | 2.39 |
| March ... | 123.1 | 3.97 |
| April ... | 163.4 | 5.44 |
| May ... | 169.0 | 5.61 |
| June ... | 171.0 | 5.70 |
| July ... | 266.1 | 8.58 |
| August ... | 259.0 | 8.03 |
| September ... | 221.9 | 7.39 |
| October ... | 102.4 | 3.30 |
| November ... | 99.3 | 3.31 |
| December ... | 43.9 | 1.41 |
| Total ... | 1762.5 | |

RAINFALL, 1923.

| Month | Total in Inches | Greatest Fall in 24 Hours | No. of Days with 0.01 or more |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| January ... | 1.46 | .31 on 19th | 14 |
| February ... | 2.24 | .47 on 7th | 17 |
| March ... | 1.01 | .29 on 23rd | 12 |
| April ... | 1.29 | .52 on 25th | 12 |
| May ... | 3.09 | 1.42 on 28th | 15 |
| June ... | 0.66 | .17 on 19th | 10 |
| July ... | 0.40 | .09 on 24th, 25th | 9 |
| August ... | 1.62 | .59 on 24th | 10 |
| September ... | 0.74 | .48 on 20th | 9 |
| October ... | 4.67 | .75 on 3rd | 22 |
| November ... | 1.83 | .63 on 22nd | 11 |
| December ... | 1.91 | .25 on 25th, 29th | 21 |
| Total ... | 20.94 | | |

MEAN TEMPERATURES, 1923.

| | deg. | | deg. |
|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| January ... | 41.58 | July... | 65.82 |
| February ... | 43.28 | August ... | 62.11 |
| March ... | 43.82 | September ... | ... |
| April ... | 47.80 | October ... | ... |
| May ... | 52.58 | November ... | 41.64 |
| June ... | 54.70 | December ... | 40.68 |

Lowest Mean Temperature, 32.50 degs. on 26th and 27th Nov.
 Highest Mean Temperature, 78.0 degs on 13th July.

Vital Statistics.

Population.

The statistics for the Borough of the Census taken on the 19th June, 1921, were published during the year and a few particulars in reference to the numbers of the inhabitants are here given.

The returns gave the population of the Borough as 36,561, consisting of 16,649 males and 19,912 females; 19,561 being enumerated in the Civil Parish of Ramsgate and 17,000 in St. Lawrence Intra. In commenting on the large increase of population as compared with the figures of the 1911 Census, 29,603, the Registrar General attributes this "mainly to the presence of visitors and to the influx of mining population in Chislet Colliery" and considers that, owing to the Census having been taken in June, instead of in April as originally intended, the presence of visitors in the Borough caused the Census figure for the population to be 17·7 per cent in excess of the estimated resident population.

The distribution of the population according to age and sex is shown in the following:—

| Age | | Males | | Females | | Total |
|-------------|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|-------|
| 0—10 | ... | 3,588 | ... | 3,346 | ... | 6,934 |
| 10—20 | .. | 3,183 | ... | 3,319 | ... | 6,502 |
| 20—30 | ... | 2,159 | ... | 3,014 | ... | 5,173 |
| 30—40 | ... | 2,463 | ... | 3,154 | ... | 5,617 |
| 40—50 | ... | 2,180 | ... | 2,658 | ... | 4,838 |
| 50—60 | ... | 1,483 | ... | 1,948 | ... | 3,431 |
| 60—70 | ... | 968 | ... | 1,384 | ... | 2,352 |
| 70—80 | ... | 502 | ... | 828 | ... | 1,330 |
| 80—90 | ... | 112 | ... | 240 | ... | 352 |
| 90 and over | ... | 11 | ... | 21 | ... | 32 |

The average age of males was 29·7 years and of females 32·7 years. The number of females per 1,000 males was 1,196.

The number of married women aged less than 45 years per 1,000 females of all ages was 244.

As regards the proportion of the male population aged 12 years and upwards engaged in various occupations, the Registrar General alludes specially to the following as regards Ramsgate:—

Commercial occupations 10·9 per cent., Fishermen 2·7 per cent., Coalminers 3·2 per cent., Painters and Decorators 2·5 per cent., persons engaged in Entertainments and Sport 0·9 per cent.

The Registrar General estimates that the population of the Borough at mid-year 1923 was 30,250.

Births.

The number of births registered for the Borough during the year was 625, 304 boys and 321 girls; 43 were illegitimate births, a percentage of 6·8 as compared with 4·7 in 1922.

The Birth Rate for the year was 20·66 per 1,000 as compared with 19·48 in 1922.

The natural increment of the population of the Borough, by the excess of births over deaths, was 233.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year as having occurred in the Borough was 329, of these 26 were non-residents and should be deducted; 89 deaths of residents occurred outside the Borough and these should be added. The net number of deaths of residents during the year was consequently 392, 174 males and 218 females, giving a net death rate of 12·95 as compared with a rate of 14·81 for 1922.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 28, giving an infant mortality rate of 44·8 per 1,000 births, this rate is the lowest ever recorded for the Borough. The rate in 1922 was 58, the average rate for the ten years 1903-12 was 114 and for the ten years 1913-22 was 85.

Of the infants who died 2 were illegitimate and as 43 illegitimate births were registered during the year the mortality rate amongst illegitimate infants was 46·5 per 1,000.

The causes of death are given in the Mortality and Infant Mortality Tables which follow.

Inquests.

Inquests were held by the Coroner for the district as to the causes of death of twenty-six persons who died in the Borough during the year.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| SUICIDES..... | 8 | OTHER CAUSES..... | 5 |
| By Hanging | 2 | Drowning | 2 |
| By Drowning | 1 | | |
| By Gas Poisoning ... | 2 | Natural Causes ... | 2 |
| Self inflicted wound of | | | |
| Throat | 1 | Evidence insufficient to | |
| Injuries occasioned by his | | determine circumstances | |
| placing himself in front | | in which death took | |
| of a train | 1 | place | 1 |
| By jumping over cliff | 1 | | |

ACCIDENTS..... 13

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Gas Poisoning | 1 |
| Drowning | 2 |
| Fracture of Skull ... | 1 |
| Injury (Shock) | 8 |
| Suffocation | 1 |

Uncertified Deaths.

During the year fourteen 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 3·5 which compares unfavourably with the percentage of 1·1 for England and Wales, of 0·6 for 105 County Boroughs and Greater Towns including London and very unfavourably with the figure for London 0·1.

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 | ... | ... | 67 |
| Heart Failure | ... | ... | 81, 60 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | 68 |
| Convulsions | ... | ... | 10 months |
| Hæmorrhage of Lungs | ... | ... | 56 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 43 |
| Old Age | ... | ... | 80, 77, 77, 85, 81 |
| Asthma | ... | ... | 65 |
| Unknown | ... | ... | 57 |

MORTALITY TABLE.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE, 1923.

| Cause of Death. | | | Male. | Female. |
|---|----------------|----|-------|---------|
| All Causes { | | | | |
| | Certified ... | .. | 168 | 210 |
| | Uncertified .. | .. | 6 | 8 |
| Enteric Fever | | | — | — |
| Small-pox | | | — | — |
| Measles | | | 2 | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | | | 1 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | | | 1 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | | | — | 1 |
| Influenza | | | — | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | | | — | — |
| Meningococcal Meningitis | | | — | — |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | | | 11 | 17 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | | | 3 | 2 |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | | | 15 | 31 |
| Rheumatic Fever | | | — | — |
| Diabetes | | | 5 | 2 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage | | | 8 | 22 |
| Heart Disease... .. | | | 22 | 23 |
| Arterio-sclerosis | | | 4 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | | | 8 | 17 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | | | 8 | 8 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | | | 4 | 7 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | | | 2 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) | | | 3 | — |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis | | | 1 | 4 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | | | — | 1 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | | | 11 | 8 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | | | — | — |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Preg- nancy and Parturition | | | — | — |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation Premature Birth | | | 3 | 8 |
| Suicide | | | 5 | 2 |
| Other Deaths from Violence | | | 8 | 6 |
| Other Defined Diseases | | | 46 | 47 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | | | 3 | 1 |
| | | | 174 | 218 |

INFANT MORTALITY, 1923.

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 | ... | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 27 |
| | Uncertified | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Chicken Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tuberculous Meningitis... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Convulsions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Laryngitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Gastritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Syphilis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rickets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation (overlying)... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Injury at Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Atelectasis | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital Malformations | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | 7 |
| Other Causes | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | | | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 28 |

Net Births in the year { Legitimate, 582
Illegitimate, 43.

Net Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants, 26.
Illegitimate Infants, 2.

3.—Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1923.

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | AGE INCIDENCE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths. |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---|----------|----|----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|---------------|
| | | | (Number in brackets indicate Deaths). | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 | | |
| Diphtheria ... | 17 | 16 | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | 9 (1) | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | |
| Scarlet Fever... | 39 | 37 | 1 (1) | 2 (1) | — (1) | 4 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 3 | |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | 4 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | |
| Puerperal Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Pneumonia ... | 26 | — | — (2) | — | 1 (3) | 2 (2) | — | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 (1) | 2 (3) | 9 (2) | 1 (3) | 16 | |
| Erysipelas ... | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 3 | 1 | — | |
| Malaria ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | |
| Ophthalmia Neo- natorum | 6 | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Total ... | 101 | 56 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 |

| | Cases. | | | Vision unimpaired | Vision impaired | Total Blindness | Deaths |
|-----------------------|----------|------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| | Notified | Treated | | | | | |
| | | At Home | In Hospital | | | | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 6 | 6 | — | 6 | Nil | Nil | Nil |

TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods. | | | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------|----|---------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 | ... | ... | — | — | 5 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 10 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| 15 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 20 | ... | ... | 3 | 13 | 1 | — | — | 5 | — | — |
| 25 | ... | ... | 6 | 13 | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 35 | ... | ... | 7 | 8 | — | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 |
| 45 | ... | ... | 8 | 6 | — | — | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| 55 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | — |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | .. | .. | 33 | 47 | 15 | 12 | 11 | 17 | 3 | 2 |

Notification of Tuberculosis.

Notification of cases of this disease is carried out in an increasingly satisfactory manner in this Borough, there is, however, still a tendency to delay notification in certain cases. During the year there came under notice the deaths of five persons who had not been notified during life, four from pulmonary tuberculosis and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis; explanations of the non-notification of these cases were requested from the local medical practitioners concerned who were reminded of their legal obligations under the Tuberculosis Regulations.

Smallpox and Vaccination.

Fortunately no case of Smallpox occurred in the Borough but several persons who were contacts of cases in other districts or on board ships and who came to the Borough were kept under observation.

In view of the steadily increasing number of cases of Smallpox in the country as a whole during recent years it is advisable to draw attention to the large proportion of persons in the Borough who are not protected by vaccination. In consequence of this, the introduction of the disease into the Borough might prove very serious and costly and it is to be regretted that a great number of parents here, as elsewhere, can and do avail themselves of the provision in 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.

The Vaccination Officer for the district has kindly supplied me with the following particulars which although showing some increase in the number of children vaccinated as compared with the figures for recent years, cannot be considered as satisfactory.

Of 636 children registered as having been born in the district 35 were removed, traced and notified to other districts while 10 were untraced, 26 children died unvaccinated and particulars as to the other 565 are as follows :—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Successfully vaccinated | ... | ... | 338 |
| Insusceptible of vaccination | ... | ... | 3 |
| Vaccination postponed | ... | ... | 10 |
| Certificates procured by Conscientious Objectors | | | 214 |

From these figures it will be seen that 40 per cent. of the children born during the year are unprotected by vaccination.

The Records as to the vaccinal condition of children examined during the year at routine medical inspections at the public elementary schools in the Borough show that

of 524 "Entrants"—221 (42%) were vaccinated
 of 402 "Intermediates"—160 (39·8) „ „
 of 523 "Leavers"—285 (54·5%) „ „

4.—Causes of Sickness.

The incidence of infectious diseases during the year was exceptionally low and in general the health of the district was good. At the beginning and towards the end of the year catarrhal affections were somewhat prevalent and a total of 52 deaths resulted from bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases.

Only 39 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, as compared with 85 in 1922, and most of the cases were of a very mild type. A total of 3 deaths resulted, all children under 3 years of age.

Only 17 cases of Diphtheria were notified, as compared with 84 in 1922 and one death occurred, a child aged 7 years.

During the year 3 cases of Paratyphoid Fever were notified and enquiries failed to show any connection with consumption of shellfish. One case of Typhoid Fever was notified, an infant aged 5 months whose mother had shortly before the occurrence undergone an operation in connection with the gall bladder and whose blood also gave a positive Widal reaction.

With reference to other causes of illness during the year, the chief were Cancer, 46 deaths, Heart Diseases, 45 deaths, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 28 deaths.

5.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.*Professional Nursing in the Home.*

The Nurses employed by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence District Nursing Association and the St. George's Parish Nurse carry out the general nursing of patients at their homes in the Borough.

In times of emergency these nurses are assisted in this work by members of the Ramsgate Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Home nursing of children suffering from minor infectious diseases, ophthalmia neonatorum, etc., is carried out by the Council's Health Visitors and in the event of further assistance being required, as, for instance, during epidemics of measles, influenza, etc., an arrangement exists by which the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Nursing Association has agreed to co-operate and provide nursing assistance in the homes for fifty cases in any year, a payment of 2/6 to be made to the Association by the Town Council in respect of each case nursed at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

Midwives.

Although the Town Council is the Authority responsible for the administration of the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme for the Borough, under present arrangements the Midwives Acts, 1902-1918, are administered by the Kent County Council. The midwives practising in the Borough are consequently supervised from Maidstone—an obviously unsatisfactory arrangement which causes an important part of the work affecting the welfare of mothers and children in the Borough to be supervised by an authority outside the Borough. No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Council. No particulars as to the number or qualifications of the midwives who during the year practised in the Borough are available.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided at Curtis House, Cliff Street, by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Maternity Association and Mothercraft Club working in co-ordination with the Council.

Infant consultation clinics are conducted on Friday afternoons by the Medical Officer of the Centre, a local medical practitioner, who on alternate Wednesdays also conducts a consultation clinic for children aged 1 to 5 years and for expectant mothers.

The school inspection and treatment clinic is provided by the Local Education Authority at the Health Office, and is held on five mornings each week.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary provided by the Kent County Council for the Borough and neighbouring districts is at Charlotte Cottage, Market Place, and during the year was open on one day each week.

The Ramsgate Creche, supported by voluntary contributions, is in Hereson Road.

There is no Venereal Diseases Clinic in the Borough, that provided for the Isle of Thanet by the Kent County Council is held at Eaton House, St. Peter's Road, Margate.

Hospitals.

The Ramsgate General Hospital, West Cliff Road, chiefly supported by voluntary contributions, is a modern institution with 40 beds, established for the treatment of the sick poor resident in the Borough and in neighbouring districts and for disabled seamen of all nations brought to the Port of Ramsgate. The Honorary Staff consists of two Physicians, three Surgeons, an Assistant Surgeon and a Dental Surgeon.

The Infectious Diseases 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 is accommodation for 54 cases of Scarlet Fever in two blocks, each containing 27 beds, one block for cases of Diphtheria containing 14 beds and one block for Enteric Fever cases containing 14 beds. In addition there is considered to be accommodation in 3 huts for 8 patients, 4 beds in a receiving block, and during the year a new cubicle block with 8 beds was opened.

The Smallpox Hospital is in the same neighbourhood on a separate site and has two wards each containing 8 beds.

The Poor Law Infirmary is at Minster, some five miles from the centre of the Borough.

There is no hospital for Tuberculosis or for maternity cases in or near the Borough.

The Thanet Hostel for Unmarried Mothers, 41 South Eastern Road, was established in 1920, and accommodates an average of ten unmarried mothers and their children.

A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

For non-infectious and accident cases the motor ambulance and services of the Ramsgate Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade are available.

6.—Laboratory Work.

A chemical analysis of water from the public supply is carried out each quarter by the Public Analyst. Periodical chemical and bacteriological examinations are also carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. The source and consistent good quality of the constant water supply of the Borough has been referred to in detail in previous annual reports.

A sample of the water taken in June, 1923, 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 parts per 100,000.

| Description of Sample | | | | From Public Supply, Letter M. |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| Appearance | ... | ... | ... | Clear |
| Colour | ... | ... | ... | Blue-green |
| Smell | ... | ... | ... | Normal |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | ... | ... | ... | 19.40 |
| Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates | ... | ... | ... | None |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates | ... | ... | ... | 1.26 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Ammonia | ... | ... | ... | None |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ... | ... | ... | 0.0031 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes | | | | Trace only |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours | ... | | | 0.054 |
| Hardness before boiling (total) | | | | 34.4 |
| Hardness after boiling (permanent) | | | | 11.1 |
| Total Solid Matter | ... | ... | ... | 72.20 |
| Microscopical Examination of | | | | |
| Deposit | ... | ... | ... | Slight and Unimportant |
| Chlorine as "Salt" | ... | ... | ... | 27.26 |

REMARKS :—

The above results are generally satisfactory and indicate water organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The Microscopical Examination is also satisfactory.

The total Solid Matter, Chlorine and "Salt" are again slightly lower.

(Signed) ERNEST M. HAWKINS,
Public Analyst, Borough of Ramsgate.

All the ordinary bacteriological work required in the Borough is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory at the Health Office.

During the year 1923 the following specimens were examined and reported upon :—

| | Total Number examined | Number Positive |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Swabs from Noses and Throats— | | |
| As to the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli | 324 | 42 |
| Sputum— | | |
| As to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli | 60 | 11 |
| Blood— | | |
| As to Widal Reaction | 9 | 4 |
| As to the presence of Bacillus Anthracis | 1 | 1 |

Pus—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|---|---|
| As to the presence of Gonococci | ... | 9 | 3 |
|---------------------------------|-----|---|---|

Hairs—

| | | |
|---|---------|-------|
| As to infection by Ringworm Fungus ... | 9 | 8 |
| Other Pathological materials examined ... | 1 | — |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | ... 413 | 69 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Issue of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Health Office and issued to local medical practitioners on request and arrangements exist by which practitioners can in emergency or at night time obtain antitoxin from the Police Station where a small stock is kept and replaced as required.

In 1923, a total of 82,000 units of Diphtheria Antitoxin were supplied to local medical practitioners, the total cost to the Council in respect of 4,000 units issued for use in a case in which it would not otherwise have been obtainable owing to necessitous circumstances, in accordance with the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, was 5s. 8d.

A small stock of Anti-Tetanus serum and of Influenza vaccine is also kept at the Health Office for issue to local medical practitioners.

7.—Administration.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye Laws, &c., in force in the Borough.

During the year the new Model Bye Laws in reference to Houses Let in Lodgings were adopted by the Council and towards the end of the year new regulations—the Pegwell Bay (Shell-Fish) Regulations—in reference to the sale and distribution of cockles gathered from the beds at the mouth of the Stour, were adopted by the Council and await confirmation by the Ministry of Health.

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, Sect. 80).

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

Cleansing, &c. and Removal of Refuse (P.H. Act, 1875, Sect. 44).

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. (H.W. C. Act, 1885, Sect. 9 (2)).

Slaughter-houses (P.H. Act, 1875, Sect. 169).

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

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

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

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

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Notification of Births Act.

During the year 619 births were notified ; of these 600 were live births and 19 were stillbirths ; in addition, there were 8 births in the Borough which were not notified. Failure to notify births as required by the Act has now become infrequent in this Borough. In each instance of failure the attention of the party responsible is drawn to the omission and an explanation is requested.

Parents and Doctors notified 312 births and midwives 288 ; fourteen of the stillbirths were notified by doctors and five by midwives. The number of births registered for the Borough during the year was 625, giving a birth rate of 20·66 per 1,000 as compared with the rate of 19·48 in 1922.

Work of Health Visitors.

During the year the four Health Visitors employed by the Council worked in accordance with the new arrangement, each nurse carrying out in the area assigned to her, all the health visiting and school work required in that area. This arrangement has proved satisfactory and economical, rendering visits to a home by more than one Health Visitor unnecessary and also enabling each Nurse to become more familiar with the conditions of the families in her area.

The Health Visitors made 4,170 visits to 1,098 individual infants under 1 year; 4,080 visits to children aged 1 to 5 years, and 321 visits to 160 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 two of the Council's Health Visitors attend on the days it is open.

Nursing assistance was rendered at the homes by the Health Visitors in the 6 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year; in 5 cases of Measles and in one other case.

Issue of Milk in Necessitous Cases.

Throughout the year arrangements were in force by which, after investigation as to financial circumstances, necessitous mothers were supplied with milk for themselves or for their infants. Mothers who were granted milk were as a rule certified at the Centre to be in need of it for themselves or for 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 £4 6 0 and for dried milk, £5 6 0.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

Previous annual reports described the arrangements made by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Maternity Association, working in co-ordination with the Town Council at their premises, Curtis House and Cliff House, Cliff Street.

During the year 50 sessions were held at the Centre on Fridays, on each occasion an infant consultation clinic was conducted by the Medical Officer of the Centre, a local medical practitioner, the number of consultations was 557 in connection with 451 individual infants. A consultation clinic for children aged 1 to 5 years and for expectant mothers was also held on 6 Wednesdays on which 79 individual children and 13 expectant mothers were seen by the Medical Officer. The total number of attendances of mothers at the Centre was 2,204.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

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 sewers so that the sewage flows freely by gravitation from all parts of the town to the sea. Pumping plants, tank sewers, &c., 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 feet 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 the sewage may be there discharged it is carried by current straight out to sea.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse.

The Corporation collects refuse daily from all premises in the town, this is conveyed to the four-celled Horsfall Destructor in an outlying portion of the town. This work is carried out by the Works Department and the Borough Engineer has supplied information that 8,396 tons of refuse were collected and dealt with during the year, the average amount each month being 699 tons. In addition, 2,921 loads of road sweepings and 659 loads of gully mud were collected.

During the year efforts to ensure that all premises shall have impermeable receptacles with moveable covers for the deposition of refuse in accordance with the Bye Laws were continued; inspections of 130 houses showed that only 32 had proper receptacles and during the year 59 were provided on preliminary notices being served and 39 on statutory notices being served.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

A considerable amount of work was carried out during the year in connection with the extermination of rats and mice and twenty-nine inspections of premises were made. Certain approved poisons are supplied by the Sanitary Department to occupiers of premises, at cost price and advice is given as to the best means of destroying rodents.

During "Rat Week," a special campaign was undertaken, advertisements were inserted and articles were published in the three local newspapers, calling the attention of the public to their responsibilities under the Act. The proprietors of the three leading cinemas displayed notices at each performance during the week calling the attention of the public to "Rat Week." Chemists made a display of poisons for the destruction of rats and a large quantity of poisoned baits were laid in the sewer headings during the week. There is no doubt that these efforts were the means of causing a very considerable number of rodents to be exterminated.

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, Music Halls, &c.

The 34 places of public amusement licensed for public music and dancing in the Borough were periodically visited by the Sanitary Inspector during the year and found to be kept generally in a clean and satisfactory condition and provided with satisfactory closet and urinal accommodation. The 15 defects in sanitary appliances, &c., which were discovered when making these inspections were at once remedied upon attention being called to them with one exception, when it was found necessary to serve a statutory notice to enforce compliance.

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, Sanitary Inspector. The necessary supervision of all 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 | ... | ... | 2,642 |
| Of houses, number inspected under H.T.P. Acts, &c. | | | 249 |
| In connection with infectious diseases | | ... | 231 |
| Of Common Lodging Houses | ... | ... | 28 |
| —Houses Let in Lodgings | ... | ... | 53 |
| —Cowsheds | ... | ... | 35 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| —Milkshops | 81 |
| —Dairies | 38 |
| —Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ... | 190 |
| —Premises at which are conducted Offensive Trades | 65 |
| —Ice Cream Vendors | 79 |
| —Slaughter-houses and knackers yards ... | 215 |
| —Fish Market | 16 |
| —Stables | 34 |
| —Bakehouses | 92 |
| —Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles ... | 326 |
| —General inspections with Medical Officer ... | 12 |
| —Premises with reference to rat infestation ... | 29 |
| —Premises licensed for music and dancing ... | 72 |
| —Premises under Rent Restriction Act, Certificates | 2 |
| —Schools | 25 |
| —Shipping | 6 |
| —Miscellaneous | 17 |

NOTICES SERVED. ETC.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Statutory notices served | 66 |
| Preliminary notices served or letters written ... | 377 |
| Nuisances abated on notice or letter ... | 213 |
| Nuisances abated on verbal instructions ... | 136 |
| Complaints received and investigated ... | 256 |
| Complaints referred to other departments ... | 6 |
| Frivolous complaints received | 9 |

COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

A record of all complaints received is kept at the Health Office and during the year 256 complaints were made. Nine of these were frivolous or concerning matters which could not be dealt with by the Health Department under the several Acts.

Of the other 247 complaints:—

3 were referred to the Borough Surveyor's Department:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Offensive odours from street gullies | 2 |
| Unauthorised building | 1 |

and 3 to the Chief Constable :—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| Nuisance from cock crowing | ... | ... | 1 |
| Nuisance from dogs barking | ... | ... | 1 |
| Committing a nuisance in public passage | ... | ... | 1 |

The remaining 241 may be roughly classified as follows :—

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Choked drains | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| Smells from drains | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Refuse dumped | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Unsound articles of food | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Dirty houses | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Damp houses | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Defective water closets | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Defective or insufficient water supply | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Accumulation of manure | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Choked or defective wastepipes | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Defective guttering | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Rats on premises | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Leaky Roofs | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Defective stoves, cooking ranges and coppers | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Improper keeping of animals | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Offensive refuse receptacles | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 20 |

With two exceptions the nuisances discovered during the year were abated upon service of informal or statutory notices. Legal proceedings were taken against the three joint occupiers of stables for neglecting periodically to remove from the manure receptacle, the stable manure as required by the nuisance Bye Laws. The nuisance having been abated the Justices dismissed the case. In another case it was found necessary to institute proceedings against the owner of a dwelling house to enforce provision of a proper water supply. The defendant did not answer the summons and the Justices made an order and inflicted a fine of £1. The work not having been carried out, a further summons was taken out, and again the defendant failed to appear. The Justices issued a warrant for her arrest. She was brought to the Court and an undertaking was given that the water supply should be provided in 14 days and the promise having been kept the Magistrates dismissed the case.

Under Sect 53 of the Ramsgate Corporation Act, 1922, it is not lawful for any person to repair any drain communicating with a public sewer without giving to the Corporation 24 hours notice previously and in writing, of his intention to do so, except in case of emergency and in that case it is not lawful for any person to cover over the drain without giving like notice of his intention to do so, penalty not exceeding £5; during the year it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings in two cases, against builders who had failed to comply with this enactment. Both offenders pleaded guilty and the Justices discharged the defendants under the First Offenders' Act, on payment of 5/- costs in each case.

These were the first proceedings instituted under this Section.

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DRAINAGE OF PREMISES.

Houses, Drains Tested.

| | |
|---|-----|
| After Infectious Disease | 24 |
| On complaint or alteration of drainage ... | 74 |
| Number of houses re-drained | 54 |
| Number of houses, drains repaired or partly relaid | 66 |
| New inspection chambers built | 96 |
| New gullies fixed | 110 |
| New covers to inspection chambers provided ... | 5 |
| Inspection chambers rendered | 4 |
| Defective soil or ventilating pipes renewed or repaired | 57 |
| New pedestal closets or closet basins or traps fixed | 126 |
| New flushing cisterns to W.C.'s provided ... | 48 |
| Fresh air inlet valves renewed or repaired ... | 24 |
| Cesspools and underground rainwater tanks abolished | 16 |
| New water closets and urinals erected... .. | 29 |

Housing.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out :—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Defective flushing cisterns repaired | ... | ... | 22 |
| Blocked drains cleared on notice | ... | ... | 43 |
| New stoneware sinks and baths provided | ... | ... | 62 |
| Waste pipes renewed and trapped | ... | ... | 91 |
| Rainwater pipes or guttering repaired or renewed | ... | ... | 78 |
| Defective roofs repaired | ... | ... | 52 |
| Yards paved or existing paving repaired | ... | ... | 53 |
| New floors laid or repaired | ... | ... | 29 |
| New sanitary refuse receptacles provided | ... | ... | 121 |
| Rainwater pipes disconnected from the drains | ... | ... | 10 |
| Dampness in walls abated | ... | ... | 28 |
| Broken plaster of walls and ceilings repaired | ... | ... | 71 |
| Stoves, ranges or coppers, renewed or repaired | ... | ... | 38 |
| Broken sashcords renewed | ... | ... | 87 |
| Accumulations of rubbish removed | ... | ... | 14 |
| Defective chimneys and flues remedied | ... | ... | 19 |
| Miscellaneous defects | ... | ... | 38 |

With Respect to Refuse Receptacles.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses inspected | ... | ... | 130 |
| Number found with suitable receptacles | ... | ... | 32 |
| Number found without suitable receptacles | ... | ... | 98 |
| Number provided on preliminary notice | ... | ... | 59 |
| Number provided on statutory notice | ... | ... | 39 |
| Number supplied by the local authority | ... | ... | Nil |

With respect to Overcrowding.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Rooms measured as to overcrowding | ... | ... | 26 |
| Overcrowding abated | ... | ... | 6 |

With respect to Dirty Houses.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Houses cleansed | ... | ... | 9 |
| Rooms cleansed | ... | ... | 37 |
| Dirty water closet basins cleansed | ... | ... | 7 |
| Filthy beds or mattresses destroyed | ... | ... | 21 |

With respect to Water Supply.

| | | |
|--|--------|----|
| Corroded water service pipes renewed to houses | ... | 10 |
| Water service pipes repaired | | 9 |

With respect to Keeping Animals.

| | | |
|--|--------|----|
| Removal of animals improperly kept | | 9 |
| Stable yard paving repaired | | 2 |
| Stables cleansed and limewashed | | 12 |
| Notices, letters, or verbal instructions re removal of manure | | 13 |

With respect to Schools.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|----|
| Sanitary conveniences, inspections | | 26 |
| Nuisances remedied | | 7 |

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 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Diphtheria | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Enteric Fever | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The defects discovered were remedied on service of intimation notices. An entirely new drainage system was found to be necessary in the case of two houses.

Disinfection.

In connection with the 114 cases of infectious disease which were removed to the Isle of Thanet Isolation Hospital, Haine, or isolated at home, and other diseases and conditions, the following disinfecting work was carried out:—

| Disease or Cause. | Number of Houses. | | Number of Rooms. | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 39 | ... | 41 |
| Diphtheria | ... | 17 | ... | 20 |
| Enteric Fever | ... | 4 | ... | 4 |
| Phthisis | ... | 38 | ... | 71 |
| Cancer | ... | 4 | ... | 4 |
| Vermin | ... | 4 | ... | 7 |
| Other causes | ... | 8 | ... | 10 |
| | | — | | — |
| Total | ... | 114 | ... | 157 |
| | | — | | — |

Also 276 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 Alliot Steam Disinfector, is situate in Broad Street, and all articles removed for disinfection are conveyed to it in a special covered van.

The Public Mortuary is on the same premises as the Disinfecting Station.

During the year the Police placed in the Mortuary the bodies of 10 persons who had been killed by accident 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 four, all situate in Central Road. During the year 28 visits of inspection were made and all were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner. Eight defects were discovered and remedied. Three of the houses were entirely renovated.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There were forty-seven of these houses on the register at the end of the year to which 53 visits of inspection were made. During the year 26 minor sanitary defects were discovered and remedied, 10 dirty rooms were cleansed and overcrowding discovered and abated in four rooms. No prosecution under the Bye Laws was found to be necessary. The Bye Laws which have been in force since 1912 are now being repealed, and a new set of Model Bye Laws have been adopted by the Council, and await the sanction of the Ministry of Health.

Slaughter Houses.

The number of registered and licensed Slaughter-houses on the register in 1914 and 1923 was as follows:—

| | In 1914. | | In January, 1923. | | In December, 1923. |
|------------------|-----------|-----|-------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Registered | 14 | ... | 9 | ... | 9 |
| Licensed | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| | — | | — | | — |
| Total ... | 15 | | 10 | | 10 |
| | — | | — | | — |

There is also one licensed knackers slaughter house. 215 inspections of these premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. The premises have been kept in a satisfactory condition. All notices or verbal instructions given have been attended to in each case. No action under the Bye Laws was necessary during the year.

Offensive Trades.

The number of offensive trades carried on during the year in the Borough was 22, as follows:—

| | | Premises. | Inspections. |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| Fish Friers | | 16 | 39 |
| Marine Store Dealers | ... | 4 | 18 |
| Fat Melters and Bone Boilers | | 2 | 8 |

All fried fish shops in the Borough are now fitted with modern stoves. One application to establish the trade of a fish frier was refused by the Council. Legal proceedings were instituted in a case where fried fish was being sold at a restaurant for consumption off the premises, against the proprietor for "establishing" and "carrying on" an offensive trade without permission of the Authority, but the prosecution failed to satisfy the Justices that the business could be classed as an offensive trade.

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 condition 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.

Following representations made to the Managers during the year great improvements were effected in two of these schools, in one instance the obsolete trough closets were abolished and the entire block was reconstructed, eight separate wash-down pedestal closets with flushing cisterns were provided and a new water service laid on, in the other instance two closets and a urinal were reconstructed and the branch drains relaid.

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 spread of infectious diseases in schools, for the exclusion of children found to be unfit to attend school, etc., work quite smoothly.

Port Sanitary Administration.

The position with regard to the sanitary administration of the Port was fully stated in the Annual Report for 1921. All cases of infectious diseases entering the Harbour have the same prompt attention as is given to all other cases of infectious diseases occurring within the Borough.

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as set out in the form suggested.

FORM A.

| | Number. | Tonnage | Number Inspected. | | Number reported to be defective. | Number of orders issued. |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | By Medical Officer of Health. | By Sanitary Inspector | | |
| Foreign { | Steamers | 3 | 629 | — | 3 | 1 |
| | Sailing | 2 | 414 | — | 2 | Nil |
| | Fishing | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Foreign ... | 5 | 1,043 | — | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Coastwise { | Steamers | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Sailing | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Fishing | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Coastwise ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Foreign and Coastwise ... | 5 | 1,043 | — | 5 | 1 | 1 |

FORM B.

Rats destroyed in 1923.

Nil.

FORM C.

Plague precautions, measures against rats.

Nil.

No vessel infected with or suspected of plague or other infectious disease arrived at the Port during the year, and probably owing to the work of extermination carried out in previous years the presence of rats was not evident. Traps are regularly laid at various places in the Harbour but only occasionally are rats caught.

I am indebted to the Harbour Master for the following information in reference to shipping which entered the Port during the year 1923 :—

| | Number of Entries. | Total Tonnage. |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| British Vessels (all kinds) | | |
| (including Ramsgate Fishing Vessels) | 3,482 | 144,278 |
| Foreign Vessels | 10 | 3,512 |

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1923, 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) ... | 61 | 4 | — |
| Workshops : (including Workshop Laundries)... | 104 | 14 | — |
| Workplaces : (other than Outworker's premises included in Part 3 of this Report) | 25 | 3 | — |
| Total | 190 | 21 | — |

TABLE II.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Particulars | | | | Number of Defects. | |
|--|-------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| | | | | Found. | Remedied. |
| Nuisances under the Public Health Act :— | | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 |
| Want of Ventilation | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Want of Drainage to Floors | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 |
| Other Nuisances | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 8 |
| Sanitary Accommodation | Insufficient | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| | Unsuitable or Defective | ... | ... | 4 | 4 |
| | Not Separate for Sexes | .. | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :— | | | | | |
| Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse | | | | — | — |
| Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 |
| Other Offences | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 33 | 33 |

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 ... | 22 | — | 38 | 11 | 19 | |
| Furniture and Upholstery ... | 2 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Other Trades ... | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Total ... | 24 | | 40 | 12 | 20 | |
| Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists :— | | | | | | |
| Making Wearing Apparel ... | 10 | | | | | |
| Furniture and Upholstery ... | 1 | | | | | |
| Total ... | 11 | | | | | |

TABLE IV.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

| Workshops on the Register (s 131) at the end of the year. | Number. |
|---|---------|
| Bakehouses | 39 |
| Dressmakers and Milliners | 12 |
| Tailors and Bootmakers | 20 |
| Laundries | 7 |
| Building Trade | 33 |
| Upholsterers | 4 |
| Engineers and Whitesmiths | 22 |
| Printers | 8 |
| Miscellaneous | 37 |
| Total | 182 |

TABLE V.

OTHER MATTERS.

| Class. | Number. |
|---|---------|
| Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories : | |
| Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act | 3 |
| 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 | — |
| Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector | — |
| Other | — |
| Underground Bakehouses :— | |
| Certificates granted during the year | — |
| In use at the end of the year | 6 |

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the Borough and on the register at the end of the year was 39, and of these 6 are underground. One new bakehouse has been constructed during the year.

The number of notices served in connection with bakehouses during the year was 14 and 92 visits of inspection were made. The notices served were 5 as to limewashing and 9 for other defects which included repair to floors, dirty floors, defective W.C. fittings, etc.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The average number of milch cows in the cowsheds for the year was 121. These cows were inspected twice during the year under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, by the Council's Veterinary Inspector. The cows were found to be in a healthy condition with two exceptions. These two animals were found to be suffering from generalised tuberculosis and were destroyed at the knackers yard.

DAIRIES.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number on the Register on 31st December, 1923 | 15 |
| Notices served on Occupiers | 6 |
| Inspections | 38 |

COWSHEDS.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number on the Register on 31st December, 1923 (6 registered persons) | 10 |
| Notices served on occupiers | 9 |
| Inspections | 35 |

MILKSHOPS.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number on register on 31st December, 1923 ... | 27 |
| Notices served | 7 |
| Inspections | 81 |

During the year one new cowshed with accommodation for 10 cows was constructed and one building already in existence was reconstructed into a cowshed with accommodation for 22 cows, arranged on modern lines, being efficiently lighted, ventilated, drained and paved.

During the year the names of 6 persons were taken off the register, having given up the sale of milk. Also 8 applications were received from persons desirous of being registered to sell milk in accordance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922. Four were granted by the Council and four were refused, the premises being unsuitable. All notices served on occupiers were complied with.

Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

Report for the year ending 31st December, 1923.

All samples of Milk and Cream were taken in accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

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

| | (a) Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Preservative. | (b) Number in which preservative was reported to be present and percentage of preservative found in each sample. |
|--------------|---|--|
| Milk | 36 | Nil |
| Cream | Nil | Nil |

Nature of Preservatives in each case in column (b) and action taken under the Regulations in regard to it.

(2)—*Cream sold as Preserved Cream.*

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the labels as to preservatives were correct.

| | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| (i) | Correct statements made | ... | ... | 2 |
| (ii) | Statements incorrect | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | — |
| | Total | ... | ... | 3 |
| | | | | — |

| (iii) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample. | Percentage stated on Statutory Label |
|---|---|
| Sample No. 111 0·29% Boric Acid. | Not to exceed 0·4% Boric Acid |
| Sample No. 112 0·38% „ | „ „ „ |
| Sample No. 113 0·47% „ | „ „ „ |

(b) Determination made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Above 35 per cent. | ... | ... | 3 |
| (ii) Below 35 per cent. | ... | ... | Nil |

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso 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 :
Sample No. 113 contained 0·47% Boric Acid. Letter of caution sent to vendor.

3. Thickening substances—Any evidence of their addition to cream or to preserved cream. Action taken where found ... Nil

4. Other observations, if any
Sample of New Milk No. 74 contained “annatto,” a colouring matter. Legal proceedings taken and case dismissed on payment of 5/- costs.

Meat and Other Foods.

A large proportion of the meat sold in the Borough is imported foreign meat, three of the most important firms engaged in the meat importing trade have depots in the town from which meat is distributed to retailers in all parts of the Isle of Thanet.

Efforts are made to supervise the meat killed in the Borough as thoroughly as possible, but as the slaughter-houses are situated in different parts of the town and killing takes place on different days and hours, efficient supervision is rendered difficult. Through an insurance scheme the butchers in the Borough are covered against loss arising from any meat being condemned and intimation is always given to the Health Department as to any carcase, organs, etc., diseased or suspected to be diseased. Meat exposed for sale and fish at the Fish Market and in shops are also supervised.

No seizure of meat or any other food was made during the year, the unsound food voluntarily surrendered is given in a list which follows.

The arrangement by which vendors of shellfish have cockles, etc., sterilised at the Council's Shellfish Station, was continued, and a total of 34,614 gallons of cockles were dealt with during the year. If intended for consumption in the Borough no charge is made for sterilisation; but if intended for export to other districts a nominal charge of one shilling a bushel is made, £1 15 6 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 is made and stored and the stalls from which it is sold were inspected; 79 visits of inspection were made to 17 vendors from barrows, etc., and to 42 shops, restaurants, etc., at which it was sold. Generally speaking, the premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

UNSOUND FOOD.

VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED DURING 1923.

Carcases Condemned for Tuberculosis.

| Animals Affected. | Number of Carcases with all internal organs condemned. | Number of Animals of which parts of Carcases and all organs were condemned. | Weight Total Weight in lbs. |
|-------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Cows ... | 2 | Nil | 1,472 |
| Pigs ... | 2 | Nil | 248 |
| | | | 1,720 |

Food Condemned for Other Reasons.

| Article. | Condition. | Total weight in lbs. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Pig | Decomposed (accident) | 320 |
| 1 Pig | Erysipelas | 79 |
| 1 Pig | Unsound | 106 |
| Beef, imported fore and hind-quarters | Decomposed | 525 |
| Mutton, imported frozen | Decomposed | 17 |
| Tripe, imported | Decomposed | 10 |
| Pork | Decomposed | 100 |
| Crabs, Prawns and Shrimps | Unsound | 1,068 |
| Fish (Wet) | Unsound | 140 |
| Fish (Dry) | Unsound | 574 |
| Corned Beef (Tinned) | Decomposed | 28 |
| Kidneys, Ox, imported | Unsound | 82 |
| | | 3,049 |

Total weight condemned - 2 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 9 lbs.

Other unsound food articles were:—203 various tinned articles consisting of Apples, Tomatoes, Meat Pastes and sundries and 445 imported Eggs.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 94 samples (60 formal and 34 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 | 36 | 3 | 39 |
| Butter | Informal | 3 | — | 3 |
| Margarine | Informal | 3 | — | 3 |
| Margarine | Formal | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cheese | Informal | 4 | — | 4 |
| Vinegar | Formal | 3 | — | 3 |
| Lard | Informal | 4 | — | 4 |
| Baking Powder .. | Informal | 4 | — | 4 |
| Sausage Meat ... | Formal | 4 | — | 4 |
| Tinned Tomatoes ... | Formal | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Tinned Asparagus Soup | Formal | — | 1 | 1 |
| Tinned Asparagus Soup | Informal | — | 1 | 1 |
| Tinned Asparagus ... | Formal | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Cream | Informal | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Sponge Cake | Informal | 8 | — | 8 |
| Whisky | Formal | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Camphorated Oil ... | Informal | 4 | — | 4 |

Particulars of the nine 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. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| 74 | Milk | 12 per cent. deficient in fat. Also contained annatto, a colouring matter | Legal proceedings | Fined £1. Dismissed on payment of 5/- costs. |
| 75 | Tinned Tomatoes | 2·20 grains of tin per lb. | Vendor cautioned | |
| 77 | Tinned Asparagus | 3·40 grains of tin per lb. | Legal proceedings commenced | Proceedings Withdrawn. |
| 79 | Tinned Asparagus Soup | 3·70 grains of tin per lb. | Informal sample, followed up | |
| 83 | Tinned Asparagus Soup | 4·75 grains of tin per lb. | Legal proceedings commenced | Proceedings Withdrawn. |
| 84 | Milk | 12·5 per cent Extraneous Water | Vendor cautioned (Refrigerator at Farm found to have leaked) | |
| 113 | Preserved Cream | 0·47 per cent. of Boric Acid. | Vendor cautioned | |
| 118 | Milk | 8·5 per cent. of Extraneous Water | Legal proceedings | Fined £3. |
| 138 | Whisky | 4·5 per cent. of Extraneous Water | Legal proceedings | Discharged under First Offenders Act on payment of £1/16/6 costs. |

8.—Public Health Staff.

There are no part-time officers on the staff of the Health Department and contributions under Public Health Acts or Exchequer grants are made towards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspectors and the Health Visitors.

The staff consists of:—

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

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

One Assistant Sanitary Inspector, holding Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Four Health Visitors, two of whom in addition to being trained nurses hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Two Clerks.

Two Disinfectors.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| (b) | With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923. | | | | | |
| | (i) | By the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | (ii) | By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | | | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 250 |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | ... | ... | 214 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | 6 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | 30 |

2.—*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 | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

(A) Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., 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 owners 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 | 49 |
|-----|--|----|

- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—
- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | 49 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | | | Nil |

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the*

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | ... | 5 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | 5 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit | ... | ... | 13 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | 5 |
| (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | 4 |

In one instance a block of dwellings consisting of 8 separate dwellings had Closing Orders placed on them in 1922. These 8 dwellings have now been entirely remodelled on up-to-date lines.

One 3 room cottage was in a dangerous condition and unfit for human habitation. Upon the owner's attention being called to its condition he voluntarily demolished it.

Increase of Rent (Restriction) Act.

The Sanitary Inspector is the officer who inspects dwelling houses under the Act. During the year application was received from the tenants of two houses for Certificates that the dwelling houses were not kept in a reasonable state of repair. A certificate was granted by the Council in each case.

Borough of Ramsgate.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1923.

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. H. PALMER, M.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 the Ramsgate General Hospital)

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

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

A. J. K. DREW, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Dental Surgeon—

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

Health Visitors—

*Miss E. SMITH.

Miss A. ASHWELL.

*Miss M. RICHARDS.

Miss. R. HOWELLS.

* Certified Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

Clerks—

S. GORHAM.

A. SAWORD.

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, 1923.

1.—Staff.

The whole-time officers on the Staff of the School Medical Service are the School Medical Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health, the four Health Visitors, and two Clerks who devote one half of their time to clerical work in connection with the Service. The re-arrangement of the work of the Health Visitors by which each Nurse carries out in the area assigned to her all the health visiting and school work required in that area has worked satisfactorily during the year. It has proved to be an economical arrangement, rendering visits to a home by more than one Nurse unnecessary and enabling each Nurse to become familiar with the conditions of the families in her area.

2.—Co-ordination.

(A) INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE :

The Clinics at the Maternity Centre are attended by the Health Visitors who thus know many of the children from birth till the time they reach school age and the Medical records kept at the Infant Welfare Clinics in due course are filed with and supplement records of routine medical inspections at the schools.

(B) NURSERY SCHOOLS :

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

(C) CARE OF DEBILITATED CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE :

As Medical Officer of Health the School Medical Officer administers the infant welfare scheme on behalf of the Maternity

and Child Welfare Committee of the Council, and each Health Visitor follows up each child born in the area in which she works and reports on debilitated children under school age in the homes visited, steps being taken to have such children dealt with at the Infant Clinic or other arrangements made as indicated.

3.—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.

Following a special report on certain of these non-provided schools made by H.M. Inspector and the Architect of the Board of Education and received by the Local Education Authority in October, 1923, many improvements were effected and others will be carried out.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the substitution of obsolete desks and seats in some of the schools by modern equipment continued during the year, 47 modern dual desks and 32 chairs having been supplied.

In the estimate of expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1925, the Education Committee has included an item of £200 in respect of school furniture.

Reference was made in previous annual reports to the need for improvement as regards sanitary conveniences at some of the non-provided schools and work carried out in this connection has been recorded each year. Following representations made to the Managers during the year great improvements were effected in two of these schools, in one instance the obsolete trough closets were abolished and the entire block was reconstructed, eight separate

washdown pedestal closets with flushing cisterns were provided and a new water service laid on, in the other instance two closets and a urinal were reconstructed and the branch drains relaid.

The sanitary arrangements at the schools are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors and the caretakers maintain the schools in a fair state of cleanliness.

4.—Medical Inspections.

Routine Medical Inspections are always carried out in the school premises; in the most recently constructed schools a special room for these inspections is provided, but at the other schools children are examined either in the 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 at their schools for the conduction of the inspections, but at some schools it is quite impossible to secure reasonably satisfactory conditions, unavoidable noise rendering accurate examinations 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 the acuity of vision.

The accommodation at the schools is for 4,693 children, the number on the registers in December, 1923, was 4,502 and the average attendance during the year was 89.04%.

(A) AGE GROUPS INSPECTED.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| "Entrants" | Children admitted during the year. |
| | Number inspected - 524 |
| "Intermediates" ... | Children between 8 and 9 years of age. |
| | Number inspected - 402 |
| "Leavers" | Children between 12 and 13 years of |
| | age and children over 13 years of age |
| | who have not already been examined |
| | after reaching the age of 12 years. |
| | Number inspected - 523 |

(B) THE SCHEDULE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WAS FOLLOWED.

(C) STEPS TAKEN TO SECURE THE EARLIER 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 through various agencies 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 45, and the number examined at the School Clinic, which is open on five mornings each week, was 1195.

(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 vacating 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 Health Visitors. At the Routine Inspections during the year, out of a total of 1,554 children, 36 or 2.31 per cent were found to have unclean hair, and at the 111 surveys as to the cleanliness of skin, hair, scalp and clothing, 15,549 examinations of children were made by the Health Visitors,

who found 76 children verminous and 154 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. During the year 5 children who were verminous and 15 children who had very nitty hair were at subsequent surveys again excluded owing to these conditions and during the year 8 children had to be excluded each on three occasions owing to the very nitty condition of their hair.

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.

The procedure adopted in recent years to deal with parents of children who do not promptly cleanse their children by taking legal proceedings against them under the School Attendance Bye Laws has proved quite efficient and the number of instances in which the taking of such legal proceedings is necessary decreases each year. During the year the Education Committee had under consideration the maximum period after exclusion to be allowed parents for the cleansing of their children and it was decided that in the event of a medical certificate from the School Medical Officer that a child is fit to attend school not having been secured within a period of seven days from date of exclusion and service of notice, legal proceedings should automatically follow.

During the year legal proceedings under the School Attendance Bye Laws were instituted in 6 instances, as compared with 9 in 1922 and 12 in 1921; the result of these proceedings was that in two cases fines of 15/- were imposed, in one case a fine of 10/- was imposed, in one case a fine of 5/- was imposed and in two instances the cases were dismissed on payment of 5/- costs.

(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 treated for these defects are summarised in Official Table IV. Both these tables will be found at the end of the report.

It may here be stated that during the year 8 new cases of scalp ringworm came under observation as compared with 18 in 1922; 17 cases of scabies as compared with 10 in 1922; 189 cases of impetigo, as compared with 165 in 1922; 66 cases of external eye disease, as compared with 30 in 1922; 45 cases of ear disease or otorrhoea as compared with 27 in 1922.

(C) TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

During the year a total of 152 children were found to have enlargement of their tonsils or adenoid tissue which required treatment of some kind. The abnormal condition 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 14 only received operative treatment for the removal of the growths.

(D) TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight children in a pre-tubercular condition came under observation during the year, 7 children with definite pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 who were suspected to be so suffering came under observation at the School Clinic or at the examination of "specials" at the schools. These children and seven 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 DISEASE, 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, 81, among "specials," 27.

(I) DENTAL DEFECTS.

In Table IV, Group IV, which follows will be found a summary of the work at the inspections at the schools and at the Dental Clinic at the Health Office. At the routine medical inspections at the Schools the School Medical Officer found that 803 of the 1,554 children inspected had teeth in a perfectly sound condition.

(J) CRIPPLING DEFECTS.

Various degrees of crippling were caused by Tuberculosis in the cases already referred to and 10 children who had deformities came under observation, 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.

VACCINAL CONDITION.

At the routine medical inspections it was found that of the 524 Entrants examined only 221 (or 42%) were vaccinated, of 402 Intermediates only 160 (or 39.8%) and of the 523 Leavers 285 (or 54.49%).

It is regrettable that over 56% of these children were not protected against small-pox.

6.—Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of infectious diseases was exceptionally low during the year. Measles and whooping cough were slightly prevalent at the beginning and end of the year and catarrhal conditions were common towards the end of the year.

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 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 the Head Teachers was 188, these included intimations in reference to 179 children who were suffering from or suspected to be suffering from Measles, 3 from Chickenpox and 6 from Whooping Cough.

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 of Closure of and Exclusion from School.

7.—Following-up Work.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The Health Visitors attend the routine medical and dental inspections, the School Clinics and the special treatment clinics, and follow up at the homes children found to be suffering from defects with a view to securing adequate treatment.

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

281 children found to have defective vision who were referred for refraction no fewer than 257 were dealt with at the Eye Clinic; of 833 children referred for dental treatment 482 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 homes 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 Children's Aid Committee have been successful in having adequate treatment secured. In this connection the Health Visitors during the year made 3,402 visits to 1,479 individual children at their homes and 58 visits to children at the schools.

8.—Medical Treatment.

On receipt of the Board of Education Circular No. 1300, dated 13th March, 1923, the Education Committee further considered the question of payments by parents for the medical treatment of their children. It was decided that in this connection the fixing of a sliding scale of charges varying with incomes was impracticable without the engagement of additional assistance for investigations and collection.

The Board approved the following arrangements:—

- (a) That no charge be made for the treatment of minor ailments at the School Clinic.
- (b) That a nominal charge of sixpence be made to each child for each attendance and treatment at the Dental Clinic.
- (c) That for the other forms of treatment provided by the Education Authority no charge be made to parents whose weekly income, after deducting rent, does not exceed ten shillings per head of the family.

- (d) That charges as follows be made to parents whose weekly income, after deducting rent, is in excess of ten shillings per head of the family.

For operative treatment of en-

larged tonsils and adenoids ... 10/- per case

For the X-Ray treatment of Scalp

Ringworm 10/- per case

For the treatment of - The cost price of spectacles
defective vision - prescribed (at present 8/6)

These arrangements came into operation on the 1st of April, 1923, and some particulars as to their working during the remaining nine months of the year are as follows:—

X-Ray Treatment—£1 10 0 due in respect of the three cases of scalp ringworm was paid.

Dental Treatment—£9 10 6 of a possible total of £10 10 6 was paid.

Operative Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids—£3 0 0 of a possible total of £5 0 0 was paid.

Eye Clinic—The total cost of spectacles, glass eyes, etc., prescribed at the Clinic was £29 and of this £17 3 3 was paid up to the end of the year.

In the event of payment not being made in accordance with (c) above a form of declaration of total income from all sources is signed by the parents.

(A) MINOR AILMENTS.

The School Treatment Clinic is held on five mornings each week when the schools are in session and during school holidays as required. The great majority of children suffering from minor ailments are treated at this 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 have been 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,

Many of the parents attend at this clinic with their children, thus learning correct methods of dealing with minor ailments.

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

| Disease or Condition. | No. of Children. | Attendances. |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| Impetigo | 184 | 1,385 |
| Verminous Impetigo ... | 3 | 30 |
| Eczema, Seborrhoea, etc. ... | 48 | 364 |
| Abscesses, Whitlows, Cuts, Burns, Abrasions, etc. ... | 253 | 1,149 |
| Ringworm of Scalp ... | 8 | 194 |
| Ringworm of Body ... | 15 | 151 |
| Scabies | 17 | 104 |
| External Eye Disease ... | 61 | 314 |
| Otorrhoea | 40 | 493 |
| Nose, Mouth and Throat Conditions | 97 | 286 |
| Tuberculosis, all forms ... | 16 | 63 |
| Other Diseases, or Condition ... | 628 | 2,446 |
| | 1,370 | 6,979 |

In addition 55 children who were convalescent from or contacts of infectious diseases made 94 attendances at the clinic for examination as to their fitness to attend school.

X-RAY TREATMENT FOR 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 three children received X-Ray treatment.

(B) TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

During the year 152 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 the

removal of the tissue 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 fourteen children were operated on for the removal of enlarged tonsils or adenoids; four of these received treatment privately, and ten at the Ramsgate General Hospital through the Education Committee's Scheme, under which the Hospital Authorities were paid £1 11 6 in respect of 3 children of a group of seven or eight and £1 1 0 for the others. 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 fitness or otherwise of the children to attend school.

(D), (E) and (G) dealt with under Minor Ailments.

(F) VISION.

During the year 281 children were referred for further examination owing to errors of refraction; of these 257 were submitted to refraction at the Eye Clinic which Dr. G. E. Halstead, the Education Committee's part-time Ophthalmic Surgeon, conducted on 37 sessions during 1923. Two other children received treatment privately. Glasses were prescribed for 231 children and up to the end of the year had been procured in 228 cases. The children made 643 attendances at the Clinic.

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

| | | |
|----|-----|--------------------------------|
| 21 | ... | Hypermetropia |
| 55 | ... | Hypermetropia with Astigmatism |
| 6 | ... | Myopia |
| 14 | ... | Myopia with Astigmatism |
| 4 | ... | Mixed Astigmatism |
| 20 | ... | Strabismus |
| 1 | ... | Nystagmus |
| 2 | ... | Cataracts |
| 1 | ... | Optic Atrophy |
| 1 | ... | Staphyloma of Cornea |
| 1 | ... | Rupture of Choroid |
| 1 | ... | Opacity in Vitreous |

During the year the following cases were also referred to the Eye Clinic:—

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 2 | Phlyctenular Ophthalmia | 1 | Corneal Opacity |
| 3 | Blepharitis | 1 | Lachrymal Abscess |
| 2 | Artificial Eyes | 3 | Wounds (old) of Eyes |

(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 14 sessions to inspection at the schools and 44 sessions to treatment at the Dental Clinic. Table IV. Group IV., which will be found at the end of the report, summarises the work. The average number of children inspected by the Dentist at each session at the schools was 104. It will be noticed that "specials" constitute a large proportion of the

children who received treatment at the Clinic, many of these were children whose parents had postponed having treatment advised in former years. A large number of parents unfortunately still refuse to take advantage of the benefits available and too frequently do not consent to treatment until the condition of their children's teeth has greatly deteriorated.

(I) CRIPPLING DEFECTS AND ORTHOPÆDICS.

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 attended Orthopædic Hospitals in London. The Central Help Committee render valuable assistance in such cases in defraying or partly defraying travelling expenses, etc., for necessitous parents.

Practically no facilities exist in the Borough for suitable after treatment in 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 the Head Teachers to increase the numbers 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 in connection with children found at the inspections to specially 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. Meals are provided in emergencies and in definite instances of under-feeding, through voluntary funds, milk and other assistance is also arranged for by the Children's Aid Committee 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 inspection of their children. If present and a defect is discovered in a child, advice is given to the parent as to the need for obtaining treatment; if not present the child is followed up by one of the Health Visitors at the home.

During the year, 338 parents attended at the routine inspections of 524 Entrants. 153 parents attended at the routine inspections of 402 Intermediates. 154 parents attended at the routine inspections of 523 Leavers.

14.—Co-operation of Teachers.

Several references have been made previously in this report to the assistance given by the Teachers in connection with medical inspection; 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 medical 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 remedial 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 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.

Supplies of Cod Liver Oil, Milk, etc., are obtained for the children of necessitous parents, when recommended by the School Medical Officer, through the Children's Aid Committee, out of voluntary funds, and during the year 15 children received supplies, in some of the cases extending over long periods. This Committee also arranges for and meets the expenses of sending debilitated children to convalescent homes, to London Hospitals for special treatment, and in suitable cases assists in the obtaining of surgical boots, etc.

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 examination 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 for two mentally defective boys were unsuccessful but one of these has since been admitted to an Institution.

18—Nursery Schools.

There are no Nursery Schools 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

The School Medical Officer is the certifying officer of the Local Education Authority under the Employment of Children Act, 1903. 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.

*Return of Medical Inspections.**(A)—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.*

Number of Code Group Inspections.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Entrants | ... | ... | ... | 524 |
| Intermediates | ... | ... | ... | 402 |
| Leavers | ... | ... | ... | 523 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 1,449 |
| Number of other Routine Inspections | ... | ... | ... | 105 |

(B)—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of Special Inspections | ... | ... | ... | 1,240 |
| Number of Re-inspections | ... | ... | ... | 261 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 1,501 |

TABLE II.

(A)—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1923.

| Defect or Disease. | | | | | Routine Inspections. | | Special Inspections. | |
|-----------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | | | | | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment. | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment. |
| (1) | | | | | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| | Malnutrition | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 8 | 16 | 6 |
| | Uncleanliness (see Table IV., Group V.) | | | | — | — | — | — |
| Skin | Ringworm : | | | | | | | |
| | Scalp | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 8 | — |
| | Body | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 15 | — |
| | Scabies | ... | ... | ... | 3 | — | 14 | — |
| | Impetigo | ... | ... | ... | 8 | — | 181 | — |
| Eye | Other Diseases (non-Tuberculous) | ... | ... | ... | 5 | — | 188 | — |
| | Blepharitis | ... | ... | ... | 7 | — | 15 | — |
| | Conjunctivitis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 12 | — |
| | Keratitis | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 2 | — |
| | Corneal Opacities | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Ear | Defective Vision (excluding Squint) | ... | ... | ... | 68 | 24 | 19 | 5 |
| | Squint | ... | ... | ... | 13 | 1 | 8 | — |
| | Other Conditions | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 43 | — |
| | Defective Hearing | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| | Otitis Media | ... | ... | ... | 5 | — | 40 | — |
| Nose and Throat | Other Ear Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 31 | — |
| | Enlarged Tonsils only | ... | ... | ... | 39 | 7 | 41 | — |
| | Adenoids only | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 4 | — |
| | Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | 27 | — |
| | Other conditions... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 1 | 24 | — |
| Heart and Circulation | Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-Tuberculous) | | | | 2 | — | 8 | — |
| | Defective Speech | ... | ... | ... | 13 | — | 1 | — |
| | Teeth—Dental Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 103 | — | 83 | — |
| | Heart Disease : | | | | | | | |
| | Organic | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — |
| Lungs | Functional | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 | — | 1 |
| | Anæmia | ... | ... | ... | 11 | — | 6 | — |
| | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 6 | — |
| | Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 | 10 | — |
| | Pulmonary : | | | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis | Definite | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 5 | 2 |
| | Suspected | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | — | 2 |
| | Non-Pulmonary : | | | | | | | |
| | Glands | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| | Spine | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| Nervous System | Hip | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| | Other Bones and Joints | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — |
| | Skin | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 2 | — |
| | Other Forms | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| | Epilepsy | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Deformities | Chorea | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| | Other Conditions | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | — | — |
| | Rickets | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | — | — |
| | Spinal Curvature | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| | Other Forms | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | — |
| | Other Defects and Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 5 | 243 | 5 |

TABLE II.—Cont.

(B)—Number of Individual Children found at Routine Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental disease).

| Group. | Number of Children. | | Percentage of Children found to require treatment. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Inspected. | Found to require treatment. | |
| Code Groups : | | | |
| Entrants | 524 | 85 | 16.22 |
| Intermediates | 402 | 72 | 17.91 |
| Leavers | 523 | 81 | 15.48 |
| Total (code groups) | 1,449 | 238 | 16.42 |
| Other routine inspections | 105 | 21 | 20.0 |

TABLE III. Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

| | | | Boys | Girls | Total |
|--|---|---|------|-------|-------|
| Blind. (Including partially blind) | (2) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind | 1 | — | 1 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At other Institutions... .. | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | — | — |
| | (2) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind | 1 | — | 1 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools | 1 | — | 1 |
| | | At other Institutions... .. | 1 | — | 1 |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | 1 | 1 |
| Deaf (including deaf and dumb and partially dumb) | (1) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf | 2 | — | 2 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | — | — |
| | (2) Suitable for Training in a School or Class for the partially deaf. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf | — | — | — |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At other Institutions... .. | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | — | — |
| Mentally Defective. | Feeble-minded Cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority | Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children | — | — | — |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | 2 | — | 2 |
| | Notified to the Local Control Authority during the Year. | Feeble Minded | — | — | — |
| | | Imbeciles | — | — | — |
| | | Idiots | — | — | — |
| Epileptics. | Suffering from severe Epilepsy. | Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics | — | — | — |
| | | In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools | — | — | — |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | 2 | — | 2 |
| | suffering from Epilepsy which is not severe. | Attending Public Elementary Schools | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | | At no School or Institution | 1 | — | 1 |
| Physically Defective. | Infectious Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis | At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board... | 2 | — | 2 |
| | | At other Institutions | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | At no School or Institution | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| | Non-infectious but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis. | At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board... | — | — | — |
| | | At Certified Residential Open Air Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Certified Day Open Air Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Public Elementary Schools | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | | At other Institutions... .. | — | — | — |
| | Delicate Children (e.g. pre- or latent tuberculosis) malnutrition, debility, anaemia, etc. | At no School or Institution | — | — | — |
| | | At Certified Residential Open Air Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Certified Day Open Air Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Public Elementary Schools | 24 | 15 | 39 |
| | Active Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | 10 | 14 | 24 |
| | | At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board... | — | — | — |
| | | At Public Elementary Schools | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| | Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculous disease) e.g. children suffering from paralysis, etc. & including those with severe heart disease | At other Institutions | — | 1 | 1 |
| | | At no School or Institution | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | | At Certified Hospital Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Certified Residential Cripple Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Certified Day Cripple Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Public Elementary Schools | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | 3 | 3 |

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects treated during the year ended 31st December, 1923.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V.).

| Disease or Defect. | Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year. | | |
|------------------------|--|------------|--------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme. | Otherwise. | Total. |
| Skin : | | | |
| Ringworm, Scalp ... | 8 | — | 8 |
| Ringworm, Body ... | 15 | — | 15 |
| Scabies ... | 17 | — | 17 |
| Impetigo ... | 184 | 5 | 189 |
| Other Skin Disease ... | 155 | 33 | 188 |
| Minor Eye Defects ... | 62 | 8 | 70 |
| Minor Ear Defects ... | 71 | 2 | 73 |
| Miscellaneous ... | 228 | 84 | 312 |
| Total ... | 740 | 132 | 872 |

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

| Defect or Disease. | Number of Defects dealt with. | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|------------|--------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme. | Submitted to refraction by private practitioner, or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. | Otherwise. | Total. |
| Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ... | 257 | 2 | — | 259 |
| Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes ... | 5 | 1 | — | 6 |
| Total ... | 262 | 3 | — | 265 |

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... | 231 |
| (b) Otherwise ... | 2 |

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... | 228 |
| (b) Otherwise ... | 2 |

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

| Number of Defects. | | | | |
|---|--|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Received Operative Treatment. | | | Received other forms of Treatment. | Total Number Treated. |
| Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital. | By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme. | Total. | | |
| 10 | 4 | 14 | 135 | 149 |

Group IV.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of Children who were

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------|
| (a) Inspected by Dentist. Aged : | | 5 | 23 |
| | | 6 | 308 |
| | | 7 | 310 |
| | | 8 | 253 |
| | | 9 | 250 |
| Routine Age Groups. | | 10 | 80—Total 1,239 |
| | | 11 | 12 |
| | | 12 | 3 |
| | | 13 | — |
| | | 14 | — |
| Specials | ... | ... | 222 |
| Grand Total | | | 1,461 |

(b) Found to require treatment 833

(c) Actually treated ... 482

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination ... 152

(2) Half days devoted to Inspection 14
Treatment 44 ... Total 58

(3) Attendances made by Children for treatment ... 610

(4) Fillings Permanent Teeth ... 124
Temporary Teeth ... 1 ... Total 125

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----|---------------|
| (5) Extractions | Permanent Teeth ... | 116 | ... Total 693 |
| | Temporary Teeth ... | 577 | |

(6) Administration of general anæsthetics for extractions —

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|
| (7) Other operations | Permanent Teeth | 1 | ... Total 1 |
| | Temporary Teeth | — | |

Group V.—Uncleanliness and verminous conditions.

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses ... 12

(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the

Schools by School Nurses ... 15,549

(iii.) Number of Individual Children found unclean ... 176

(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority ... Nil

(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 ... Nil

(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws ... 6

