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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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No 1535/1

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1931.


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

1) B.F. 4/7 Stats to note
2) P.A.

2/5 10/6

Jab'el's Hyg. Stats
3/8/32





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Printers :

"The East Kent Times," Ltd., Shaftesbury House, Broad Street
Ramsgate,

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(1931-1932).

Chairman: Alderman T. S. CHAYNEY.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor S. D. PALLIN
(Alderman C. Nixon, J.P.)	„ W. T. SMITH
Alderman H. NEWBY	„ H. STEAD
„ H. TERRY	„ P. TURNER
Councillor Mrs. DUNN	„ Rev. Fr. WATERHOUSE

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. DUNN.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor Rev. Fr. WATERHOUSE
(Alderman C. Nixon, J.P.)	Mrs. AMOS
Alderman T. S. CHAYNEY	Mrs. DEVESON
Councillor S. D. PALLIN	Mrs. HAYES
„ H. STEAD	

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor H. STEAD.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor R. REYNOLDS.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor W. T. SMITH
(Alderman C. Nixon, J.P.)	„ Rev. Fr. WATERHOUSE
Councillor Mrs. DUNN	Dame JANET STANCOMB-WILLS,
„ E. E. DYE	D.B.E., J.P.
„ R. J. MALLAM	Miss L. WHITING
„ E. MARSDEN	Rev. G. WADDY POLKINGHORNE
„ J. D. ROSCOW	Mr. E. F. G. CHAPMAN
	Col. C. BOWEN

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

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Dunn and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1931, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough and on the work in connection with the School Medical Service.

The form of the Report is similar to that for recent years, and although the recording of a mass of statistics may be convenient for comparison with those of other towns and for reference, it does not tend towards interesting reading. While this unfortunately is unavoidable, one would wish to have the means of being able to convey more clearly the positive benefits resulting from the public health services.

The health of the Borough was distinctly good during 1931, the low incidence of infectious diseases continued and the statistics compare favourably with those for recent years.

The Census 1931 returns give the population of the Borough as 33,597, and the Registrar-General estimates that the resident population at mid-year was 33,450. As the estimate at mid-year 1921 was 30,080, the population has increased by 3,370 during these ten years.

Reference is made in the Report to the arrangements made for the admission of necessitous women to maternity beds in the recently completed Maternity Wards of the Ramsgate General Hospital.

The various public health services, including the School Medical Service, continue to function satisfactorily, and the report gives an indication of the large and increasing amount of work carried out by the Health Department.

I desire to record my thanks for the continued co-operation of the local medical profession, to the Members and Officers of the Council, and particularly to the members of my own staff for the assistance given during the year.

I am,

*Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Dunn and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,*

W. J. BANNISTER,

*Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.*

*Health Office,
26, Albion Place,
Ramsgate.*

May, 1932.

CONTENTS.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

	Page
Members of Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and Education Committees	2
Staff of the Health Department	6
Extracts from General and Vital Statistics for 1931	7
Table of Comparative Statistics	8
Physical Features of the District	9
Meteorology	10
VITAL STATISTICS.	
Population	11
Births	11
Deaths	11
Inquests	11, 12
Uncertified Deaths	12
Mortality Table	13
Infant Mortality Table	14
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	
Prevalence	15
Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, etc.	15
Diphtheria Antitoxin	15
Food Poisoning	16
Encephalitis Lethargica	16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	16
Influenza, non-notifiable infectious diseases	16
Tuberculosis	16
Smallpox and Vaccination	17
Disinfecting Station	17
Cleansing Station	17
Public Mortuary	17
Table of Infectious Diseases notified	18
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.	
Public Health Officers of the Local Authority	19
Nursing Arrangements	19
Midwives	20
Laboratory Facilities	20, 21
Legislation in Force	21, 22
Hospitals	22, 23
Maternity and Nursing Homes	23
Children Act, 1908	23
Maternal Mortality	23
Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers	24
Ambulance Facilities	24
Clinics and Treatment Centres	24
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.	
Notification of Births Act	25
Maternity Beds	25
Work of Health Visitors	25
Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre	25, 26
Issue of Milk in necessitous cases	26
Infant Mortality	26

CONTENTS—Continued.

	Page
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.	
Water	26, 27
Sewerage, etc.	27
Scavenging	27
Inspections	28
Complaints of Nuisances	28, 29
Legal Proceedings	29
Drainage of Premises, Repairs, etc.	29, 30
Disinfection	30
PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.	
Common Lodging Houses	30
Houses Let in Lodgings	31
Slaughter-houses	31
Offensive Trades	31
Theatres, Music Halls, etc.	31
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	31
Factory and Workshops Act	32, 33, 34
Bakehouses	34
Rag Flock Acts	34
Schools	34
Port Sanitary Administration	34, 35
HOUSING.	
Housing Statistics for the Year 1931	36, 37
Housing Conditions	37
FOOD.	
Milk Supply	38
Meat and Other Foods	38, 39
Merchandise Marks Act, 1926	39
Unsound Food	40
Sale of Food and Drugs Act	41

Report of the School Medical Officer.

1.—Staff: School Medical Service	44
2.—Co-ordination of the work with other services	45
3.—School Hygiene	45, 46
4.—Medical Inspections	46
5.—Findings of Medical Inspections	47, 48
6.—Infectious Diseases	48, 49
7.—Following-up: Work of Nurses	49, 50
8.—Medical Treatment	50-53
9.—Open-air Education	53
10.—Physical Training	53
11.—Provision of Meals	53
12.—School Baths	53
13.—Co-operation of Parents	54
14.—Co-operation of Teachers	54
15.—Co-operation of School Attendance Officer	54
16.—Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies	54
17.—Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children	55
Employment of Children	55
Four Statistical Tables of the Board of Education	55-60

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.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

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

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector :

T. L. MARTIN, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.I.

Health Visitors :

*Miss G. CLARK.

*Miss W. CARPENTER.

Miss A. ASHWELL.

Miss R. HOWELLS.

*Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

Clerks :

S. E. J. GORHAM.

C. IMPETT.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

1.—General Statistics.

Area of the Borough in Acres (excluding Foreshore) ...	2,278
Population, Census 1931	33,597
Population, as estimated by the Registrar-General for statistical purposes, 1931	33,450
Number of inhabited structurally separate dwellings (1921)	6,609
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1931) according to Rate Books	8,225
Number of private families or separate occupiers (1921) ...	7,491
Rateable Value	£215,857
Sum represented by a penny rate	£835
Rainfall, 1931	20.20 ins.
Sunshine, 1931	1659.7 hrs.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1931.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births { Legitimate 470 237 233 }				Birth Rate 14.82
{ Illegitimate 26 20 6 }				
Still-Births .. 21 16 5 }				Rate per 1,000 total births 42.33
Deaths 429 191 238 }				
				Death Rate 10.67 (corrected)
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions within or without the district				33.79
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth				<div> from sepsis Nil </div> <div> from other causes 1 </div>
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—				
Legitimate ... 46.37 Illegitimate ... 10.08 Total ... 56.45				
Deaths from Measles, all ages				1
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages				1
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age				Nil

The following Table has been drawn up to render possible a comparison as regards Vital Statistics for 1931, between England and Wales as a whole, etc., and Ramsgate.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births		Percentage of Total Deaths			
	Live Births.	Stillbirths.	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two Years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	15.8	0.67	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.36	0.54	6.0	66	91.18	6.17	1.70	0.95
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London...	16.0	0.67	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.33	0.43	8.4	71	91.43	5.84	2.24	0.49
159 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000) ...	15.6	0.73	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.36	0.43	4.0	62	92.17	5.49	1.25	1.09
London ...	15.0	0.50	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.26	0.57	9.7	65	89.52	6.23	4.24	0.01
RAMSGATE ...	14.82	0.62	10.67	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.17	0.50	0.0	56	89.53	5.59	0.69	4.19

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 north and east winds. A large expanse of particularly fine sand covers most of the foreshore. Ramsgate, consequently, has long been famous as a health 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 favourable 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 records of sunshine, Rainfall and Temperatures.

SUNSHINE, 1931.

Month.	Total Sunshine in hours.	Daily Average in hours.
January ...	59.1	1.91
February ...	81.1	2.90
March ...	172.8	5.57
April ...	128.6	4.29
May ...	202.9	6.55
June ...	250.6	8.35
July ...	200.0	6.45
August ...	170.9	5.51
September ...	167.8	5.59
October ...	134.5	4.34
November ...	52.5	1.75
December ...	38.9	1.25
Total ...	1659.7	

RAINFALL, 1931.

Month.	Total in inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.	No. of Days with 0.01 inches or more.
January ...	2.01	0.35 on 23rd	24
February ...	1.92	0.36 on 11th	21
March ...	0.20	0.10 on 22nd	4
April ...	2.52	0.57 on 19th	15
May ...	1.93	0.64 on 3rd	15
June ...	0.55	0.31 on 5th	8
July ...	3.40	0.68 on 14th	17
August ...	3.06	0.67 on 14th	19
September ...	1.29	0.24 on 12th	14
October ...	0.74	0.26 on 29th	8
November ...	2.00	0.83 on 10th	13
December ...	0.58	0.17 on 28th	12
Total ...	20.20		

MEAN TEMPERATURES, 1931.

	Deg.		Deg.
January ...	40.2	July ...	62.1
February ...	40.2	August...	60.9
March...	40.5	September ...	56.4
April ...	47.4	October ...	52.8
May ...	53.7	November ...	49.2
June ...	60.2	December ...	44.0

Lowest Mean Temperature, 24.0 degrees on 9th and 10th March.

Highest Mean Temperature, 75.0 degrees on 12th and 23rd July.

Population.

The Census of England and Wales was taken on 26th-27th April, 1931. The returns for the Borough gave the population as 33,597, consisting of 15,285 males and 18,312 females, and the Registrar-General estimated that the resident population at mid-year 1931 was 33,450. The previous Census taken in June, 1921, gave the population at 36,561, and the estimated resident population at mid-year 1921 was 30,080, so that the Registrar-General estimates that the resident population of the Borough increased by 3,370 during the ten years. The statistics for the year 1930 were based on a population of 31,440, this being the only estimate available until the end of July, 1931, when, as anticipated, it was intimated that that number was much less than the true population which the Registrar-General estimated as 32,580.

The natural increment of the population of the Borough during the year 1931, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, was 67.

The Birth and Death Rate per 1,000 of the population for the year 1930, as corrected, and for the year 1931 were as follows:—

		Population		Birth Rate		Death Rate
1930	...	32,580	...	15.96	...	9.42
1931	...	33,450	...	14.82	...	10.67

Births.

The number of births registered for the Borough during the year was 496, boys 257, girls 239; the birth rate for the year was, therefore, 14.82 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 15.96 in 1930, and 17.36 in 1929. Of the total number of births, 26 were illegitimate children, a percentage of 5.2 as compared with 4.7 in 1930. Twenty-one Stillbirths were registered during the year, 14 males and 5 females, legitimate, and 2 males illegitimate.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during the year was 366, of these 39 were non-residents and must be deducted; 102 deaths of residents occurred outside the Borough and these must be added. The net number of deaths of residents was consequently 429, males 191, females 238, giving a net death rate of 12.82 per 1,000 of the population as compared with a rate of 11.73 in 1930 and 13.74 in 1929.

Census returns have shown that as regards age and sex distribution the population of Ramsgate differs greatly from that of the country as a whole, and in order to allow and equalise for this the crude death rate must be multiplied by the standardizing factor supplied by the Registrar General. The corrected death rate for 1931 for the Borough is therefore 10.67 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 12.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 28, giving an infant mortality rate of 56.45 per 1,000 births, as compared with a rate of 42.22 in 1930 and 75.09 in 1929.

Of the infants under one year who died, five were illegitimate, and as births of 26 illegitimate children were registered during year the mortality rate amongst illegitimate infants was 192.3 per 1,000.

The causes of and ages at 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-three persons who died in the Borough during the year; of these, eight were non-residents.

SUICIDES	...	...	3	OTHER CAUSES	...	7
By Coal Gas Poisoning	...	1		Natural Causes	...	3
By Drowning	...	1		Fall from cliff	...	2
By Hanging	...	1		Misadventure at birth	...	1
				Death shortly after birth	...	1
				Cause unknown	...	1
			ACCIDENTS	...	...	13
Injury (shock)	...	8		Food poisoning	...	1
Drowning	...	2		Death under anæsthetic	...	1
Coal gas poisoning	...	1				

Uncertified Deaths.

The Borough continues to hold a most unsatisfactory position as regards the large proportion of uncertified deaths. During the year 1931, of the 366 deaths which occurred in the Borough 21 (18 residents and 3 non-residents) were uncertified, *i.e.*, were registered, although in respect of none of these deaths was a certificate as to the cause of death given by a medical practitioner or an inquest held. Such deaths are not registered by the local Registrar unless the Coroner intimates that he does not consider an inquest necessary. It will be seen from the following how very unfavourably the percentage of uncertified deaths for the Borough compares with percentage figures supplied by the Registrar-General.

Uncertified Causes of Death.				Percentage of Total Deaths.	Inquest Cases.
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.95	6.17
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	...	...	...	0.49	5.84
159 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations 20,000- 50,000)	...	...	...	1.09	5.49
London	...	...	...	0.01	6.23
RAMSGATE	...	...	...	4.19	5.59

In the returns of deaths supplied by the local Registrar the following words appear in the column for causes of death in respect of the uncertified deaths of which the age and sex is given.

Cause of Death.	Sex.	Age.
"Heart Failure"	Female	59 years
"Heart Failure"	Female	51 years
"Heart Failure"	Male	65 years
"Heart Failure"	Male	71 years
"Heart Failure"	Male	61 years

The causes to which the remaining uncertified deaths were attributed were as follows:—

Cause of Death.	Age.
"Bronchitis and pneumonia"	3 months
"Heart disease. Aortic regurgitation and arterio sclerosis"	76 years
"Heart failure or a paralytic stroke"	58 years
"Atelectasis due to premature birth"	A few seconds
"Sudden heart failure"	74 years
"Heart failure and senile decay"	88 years
"Heart trouble"	62 years
"Blood pressure causing the bursting of a dilated artery in the chest"	56 years
"Aortic disease"	53 years
"Heart failure due to a weak heart, muscular rheumatism and old age"	73 years
"Heart failure accelerated by asthma and general debility"	59 years
"Old age"	89 years
"Bronchitis and heart disease"	75 years
"Heart failure following a stroke"	73 years
"Gastritis and old age"	85 years
"Old age and general weakness"	82 years

MORTALITY TABLE.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1931.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Cause of Death.				Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths, whether of Residents or Non- Residents, in Institu- tions in the District.
				All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and under 75 years.	75 years and upwards.	
All Causes	Certified	...	...	411	26	1	1	2	19	32	99	94	137	89
	Uncertified	...	...	18	2	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	5	...
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	3	7	5	2	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	53	...	...	...	...	...	2	17	19	15	11
Diabetes	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	12	8	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	71	...	...	...	...	2	5	25	21	18	5
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	4	12	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	26	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	17	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	20	4	...	1	...	1	2	1	2	9	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	4
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	1	...	9
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	2	2	7
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	5	6	5
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Senility	...	...	...	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	47	...
Suicide	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...
Other violence	...	...	...	13	1	...	...	...	2	...	5	2	3	4
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	35	2	...	...	1	6	5	11	7	3	16
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...
				429	28	1	1	2	19	32	106	98	142	89

INFANT MORTALITY 1931.

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 ...	...	...	10	2	2	1	15	7	1	1	2	26
		Uncertified ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	4
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation (overlaying)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	5
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
					11	2	2	1	16	7	2	1	2	28

Net Births in the year { Legitimate, 470
Illegitimate, 26

Net Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants, 23
Illegitimate Infants, 5

Infectious Diseases.

The following diseases are notifiable in the Borough :—

By the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

Smallpox	Typhus Fever	Puerperal Fever
Scarlet Fever	Cholera	Erysipelas
Diphtheria	Plague	Continued Fever
Enteric Fever	Relapsing Fever	

By Special Orders of the Ministry of Health.

Tuberculosis (all forms)	Acute Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Cerebro Spinal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Primary Pneumonia
Encephalitis Lethargica	Malaria	Acute Influenzal
Acute Polioencephalitis	Dysentery	Pneumonia

Intimations of other infectious diseases which are not compulsorily notifiable, such as Measles, Chicken-pox, Whooping Cough, etc., are received from medical practitioners, head teachers and parents. Especially in the case of children when nursing or other assistance can be arranged through the Health Department, the sending of such intimations is encouraged.

There was no undue prevalence of any infectious disease during the year; all the cases notified, the ages of the patients, etc., are shown in the tables which follow.

Scarlet Fever.

Of the 65 cases of Scarlet Fever which were notified during the year, three were " imported " and two were " return " cases. Fifty-nine cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Most of the cases were of the prevailing mild type and no death resulted from the disease in 1931.

Diphtheria.

Four cases only were notified in 1931, as compared with 50 cases in 1930. These cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and made good recoveries. Several " carriers " were detected and dealt with during the year.

One case which was admitted to Hospital at the end of 1930 died early in 1931.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Health Office and issued to medical practitioners, who can also in emergency or at night time, obtain it at the Police Station, where a small stock is kept and replaced as required.

In 1931 a total of 20,000 units of Diphtheria Antitoxin were supplied to local medical practitioners, the total cost to the Council in respect of 8,000 units issued for use in cases in which it would not otherwise have been obtainable owing to necessitous circumstances, in accordance with the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, was 7s. 11d.

The great importance of the administration of antitoxin as early as possible in the disease is continually being stressed in the Borough, and its immediate use by medical practitioners, before swabs are taken or case is admitted to the Isolation Hospital, is advocated.

Enteric Fever.

No case of this disease was notified in the Borough during the year. Reference is made elsewhere in this report to legal proceedings which were instituted by the Town Council against persons who began to sell cockles which had not been sterilised in accordance with the provisions of the Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations.

Food Poisoning.

Two cases of suspected food poisoning came under observation at the end of August and beginning of September. The cases were not connected in any way; both had partaken of foodstuffs in which others had shared at the same meals and remained in normal health, and both cases were admitted to the Ramsgate General Hospital. From material submitted to the Pathological Department of the Ministry of Health, *Bacillus Aertrycke* was isolated in each case. Detailed investigations as to each article of food taken completely failed to trace the vehicle of infection.

One of the patients, a female aged 51 years, died; while the other, a female aged 21 years, made an uneventful recovery.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Four cases of this disease were notified; two were "imported" cases—visitors to the Borough who were not in good health on arrival, and who, within two weeks, were found to be suffering from the disease.

All these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital; one of the patients, a female aged 56 years, died in Hospital.

Pneumonia.

Only 31 cases of acute primary pneumonia or of acute influenzal pneumonia were notified during the year; of the 20 deaths caused by pneumonia, 4 were under one year of age; 1 was between two and three years, 2 were between 15 and 35 years, and 13 were over 35 years.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified during the year; one case was treated in the nursing home in which the confinement took place, and the other case at its own home. In this latter case, 15 visits were made by the Health Visitor to assist the mother in carrying out treatment ordered by the medical attendant.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case of Puerperal Fever and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year; both of these cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths from these diseases during 1931.

Influenza and Other Non-Notifiable Diseases.

Influenza and catarrhal conditions were somewhat prevalent in the early months of the year, and 6 deaths were attributed to Influenza.

Information as to the existence of cases of Measles, Chicken-pox, Whooping Cough and Mumps is obtained chiefly through intimations sent by head teachers, and during the year 8 cases of Measles, 26 cases of Whooping Cough, 40 cases of Chicken-pox and 16 cases of Mumps were intimated by head teachers on the special form provided for the purpose.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

Notification of cases of this disease is carried out in an increasingly satisfactory manner in this Borough and there were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year of persons who had not been notified during life.

Investigations were made as to the possible need for taking action under Article 3 of the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, but no ground for taking action was found.

No action was taken under Sec. 62 of the P.H. Act, 1925.

Smallpox and Vaccination.

No cases of Smallpox occurred in the Borough. Two persons who were contacts of cases in other districts 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 proviso 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, as regards the number of children unvaccinated, must be considered most unsatisfactory.

Of 525 children born in the district, 39 were removed, and 29 died unvaccinated; particulars as to the remaining 457 children are as follows:—

Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	215
Vaccination postponed	...	...	...	6
Certificates procured by Conscientious Objectors	...	...	...	233
Insusceptible to vaccination-	...	...	...	3

From this it will be seen that 53 per cent. of these children were at the end of the year unprotected by vaccination, as compared with 60 per cent. in 1930.

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 449 " Entrants "	...	212 (46.21 per cent.)	were vaccinated
of 488 " Intermediates "	...	256 (52.46 per cent.)	" "
of 466 " Leavers "	...	201 (43.13 per cent.)	" "

Disinfecting Station.

These premises are situated in Broad Street and are equipped with a Manlove Alliott Steam Disinfector and special vans, trucks, etc., for dealing with infected material.

Cleansing Station.

This is situated in St. Luke's Avenue in a portion of the yard of the Gas and Water Department.

It is equipped with a bath with geyser, lavatory basin, w.c., and a Manlove-Alliott gas-heated disinfector for dealing with verminous clothing, etc.

Public Mortuary.

The construction and equipment of the new public mortuary in the grounds of Cavendish House, adjoining the new Police Station, was completed in 1929.

The building, its ventilation, the equipment of the post-mortem theatre, and the other three rooms are in all respects up to date and approved by the Ministry of Health.

During the year the police placed in the Mortuary the bodies of 18 persons who had been killed by accident or had died from other causes.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1931.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	AGE INCIDENCE.														Total Deaths.
			(Numbers in brackets indicate Deaths)														
			Under														
			1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Diphtheria ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1)*	3	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Scarlet Fever...	65	59	—	2	2	3	7	25	15	1	8	2	—	—	—		
Pneumonia ...	31	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	3	3	3	5	5	4	20		
Erysipelas ...	4	—	(4)	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(11)			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—			
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—			
Encephalitis Lethargica	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2 (1)	—	1		
Total ...	112	69															22

*See note on page 15.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	4	1	2	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 ...	6	5	—	2	—	2	—	—
20 ...	1	5	—	2	—	1	—	—
25 ...	5	11	—	1	2	1	—	—
35 ...	7	6	—	1	2	2	—	—
45 ...	6	3	—	1	2	1	—	—
55 ...	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total ...	25	36	2	13	9	8	—	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
2	2	—	2	—	—	—

General Provisions for Health Services for the Borough.*Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.*

There are no part-time officers on the staff of the Health Department and contributions under Public Health 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 Senior Sanitary Inspector, who holds the Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and is Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

During the year Mr. W. T. Smith retired on superannuation after a period of service of over 30 years. Mr. E. Young was appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector and Mr. T. L. Martin was appointed as the additional Sanitary Inspector to fill Mr. Young's position.

One Sanitary Inspector who holds the 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.

Nursing Arrangements.

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 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 50 cases in any year, a payment of 2s. 6d. 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.

The Midwives Acts, 1902-26, continue to be administered in the Borough by the Kent County Council. Representation was made in 1930 by the Town Council, under Sec. 62 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1929, for constitution as the Local Supervising Authority for the Borough under the Midwives Acts, but the Minister of Health having concluded that he would not be justified in making an order to this effect and as, unfortunately, there is no provision in the Local Governments Act, 1929, for an appeal against that decision, an important part of the work affecting the welfare of mothers and children in the Borough (for which the Town Council is responsible) continues to be supervised by an authority outside the Borough.

From information supplied by the Kent County Council it was ascertained that eleven midwives were practising in the Borough at the end of the year and that during the year they attended 272 cases as Midwives and 89 cases as Maternity Nurses.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

(a) Bacteriological Work.

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 1931 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 ...	334	8
Sputum—		
as to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli ...	89	15
Blood—		
as to Widal Reaction ...	3	—
Hairs—		
as to infection by Ringworm Fungus ...	9	8
Pus—		
as to the presence of Gonococci ...	4	4
Other Pathological materials examined ...	1	—
Total ...	440	35

(b) Chemical 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 water was taken in June, 1931, and submitted to chemical analysis at the South Eastern Analytical Laboratory, Canterbury, was reported on as follows :—

WATER ANALYSIS—BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Description of Sample	Parts per 100,000	Grains per gallon
	"From Public Supply, Letter W."	
Appearance	Clear	
Colour	Green-blue	
Smell	Normal	
Chlorine in Chlorides	9.40	6.58
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	None	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.00	0.7
Ammonia	0.0010	0.00070
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0029	0.0020
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Trace only	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.022	0.0154
Hardness before boiling (total)	31.6	22.12
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	8.3	5.81
Total Solid Matter	53.10	37.17
Microscopical Examination of Deposit	Slight and unimportant	
Chlorine as "Salt"	15.49	10.84

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

The Microscopical Examination is also satisfactory.

The figures for "Chlorine," "Total solid matter" and "Hardness" are all slightly lower than when this supply was last examined in March.

(Signed) ERNEST M. HAWKINS,

Public Analyst, Borough of Ramsgate.

Legislation in Force.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., in force in the Borough:—

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. 30).

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

Cleansing, etc., 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. Act, 1890, Sect. 23).

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

PRIVATE ACT.

The Ramsgate Corporation Act, 1922.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations.

These Regulations were made by the Minister of Health and came into force on the 1st December, 1925, with a view to the control of the sale and distribution of cockles gathered from the beds at the mouth of the river Stour.

Section 3 of the Regulations states that

"A person shall not sell, distribute or offer for sale for human consumption any cockles taken from the prescribed area unless and until they have been subjected to a process of sterilisation by steaming under pressure for at least six minutes. The sterilisation shall be carried out either by a sanitary authority or in a manner approved by the medical officer of the district in which the cockles are landed."

The Town Council's Shellfish Station having been discontinued, notice by advertisement in the local Press was given that local vendors must themselves carry out sterilisation of cockles by means of steam under pressure and in a manner to be approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Regulations provide that for the purpose of execution and enforcement the Ramsgate Corporation shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the Sanitary Authority in the district of the Sandwich Port Sanitary Authority, in the Urban District of Broadstairs and St. Peter's, and in such parts of the Borough of Sandwich and of the Rural Districts of Eastry and of the Isle of Thanet as are not included within the district of the Sandwich Port Sanitary Authority.

Legal proceedings were taken in June against two residents who exposed on barrows and offered for sale for human consumption cockles gathered from beds in the prescribed area, which had not been sterilised by steam under pressure. On each defendant pleading guilty and undertaking not to repeat the offence, the magistrates dismissed the cases on payment of five shillings costs, and, making reference to the grave offence which had been committed, expressed the hope that the proceedings would serve as a warning to others, intimating that in the event of any similar case coming before them in the future such leniency would not be shown.

Hospitals.

The Ramsgate General Hospital, West Cliff Road, is a modern institution; additional accommodation was provided in 1925, when a new ward for children was opened and a new annexe for the Nursing Staff was completed in 1927. The new Maternity Ward, built through the generosity of the President, Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, D.B.E., J.P., at a cost of nearly £16,000, was opened during 1931.

The accommodation at the Hospital in 1931 was as follows:—

- General Medical—8 Beds for Men; 8 Beds for Women.
- General Surgical—17 Beds for Men; 17 Beds for Women.
- Private Wards—7 Beds for Men and Women.
- Children's Ward (including Observation Ward)—24 beds.
- Maternity Ward—20 Beds and Cots.

In addition to the medical and surgical wards there exist special departments for X-ray and dental work, and a masseuse is employed in connection with the orthopaedic department.

The Hospital, which is supported chiefly by voluntary contributions, is for the treatment of the sick poor resident in the Borough and neighbouring districts and for disabled seamen of all nations brought to the Port of Ramsgate. The Honorary Staff consists of two Physicians, four Surgeons and a Dental Surgeon. A resident House Surgeon is also employed.

The Hospital recently erected near the centre of the town in connection with the Convent of the Daughters of the Cross is used for delicate boys and for boys suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Most of the cases admitted to this Hospital are boys whose parents or guardians reside in districts in or near London.

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. In addition there is considered to be accommodation in three huts for eight patients, four beds in a receiving block, and the new cubicle block has eight beds.

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

The Thanet Institution, under the control of the Thanet and Blean Guardians Committee, is at Minster, some five miles from the centre of the borough.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

On the repeal of the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, under which the nursing and maternity homes in the Borough had been supervised by the Kent County Council with administrative offices at Maidstone, between 40 and 50 miles distant, application was made by the Town Council, under Section 9 of the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, for delegation of powers in order to terminate such unsatisfactory arrangements. Through the influence and votes of the local and representatives of other Boroughs on the Kent County Council, a resolution to refuse to delegate powers was defeated, and finally a resolution was passed, delegating, without restriction, to the Ramsgate Town Council, all powers and duties under the Act so far as their district is concerned.

No new applications for registration were received during 1931; the number of nursing homes on the register at the end of the year was eight, of which seven were maternity homes.

Children Act, 1908

As provided for in Section 2 (a) of the Local Government Act, 1929, the functions formerly discharged as regards the Borough by the Poor Law Authority under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, have been, as from the 1st April, 1930, discharged by the Town Council.

Advertisement is inserted periodically in the local Press giving notices that all persons who maintain young children for reward in the Borough are required to send notices as provided for in the Act, to the Medical Officer of Health.

The four Health Visitors employed by the Council act as Infant Protection Visitors and during the year made 191 visits of inspection of children and as to the condition of and arrangements in the premises in which they are maintained.

At the end of the year 19 persons were maintaining for reward 26 children. Explanations of failure to send notices within the time specified in the Act were requested in 12 instances.

No legal proceedings for infringement of the Act were instituted during the year.

Maternal Mortality.

Maternal deaths are investigated and reported upon by the Medical Officer of Health. No such death occurred in the Borough during the year 1931.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.

The Thanet Hostel for Unmarried Mothers, 55, Ashburnham Road, Ramsgate, is a home to which an average number of 13 unmarried mothers and their babies are admitted each year. During their residence the duties of a mother are taught and training in domestic work is given.

Ambulance Facilities.

For cases of infectious disease the Isle of Thanet Joint Hospital Board provide an up-to-date motor ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

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

Clinics and Treatment Centres.*Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.*

This is provided at commodious centrally situated premises, Curtis House, Princes Street, by the St. Lawrence Maternity Association and Mothercraft Club, working in co-ordination with the Town Council.

The Medical Officer for the Centre, a local medical practitioner, conducts clinics on these premises as follows :--

Ante-natal Clinics on second and fourth Wednesdays in each month.

Infant Consultation Clinics on Friday afternoons.

Consultation Clinics for children, aged 1 to 5 years, on first and third Wednesdays in each month.

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

School Clinics.

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 Special Treatment Clinics in connection with the School Medical Service are also conducted at the Health Office, and consist of an Ophthalmic Clinic, a Dental Clinic, and a Clinic at which Scalp Ringworm is treated by means of the Education Authority's X-ray installation.

By agreement with the Authorities of the Ramsgate General Hospital school children are admitted for operative treatment for nose and throat conditions and also for the extraction of teeth while under the influence of a general anæsthetic.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

At Charlotte Cottage, Market Place, provided by the Kent County Council, and is open on Wednesdays in each week throughout the year.

Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre.

This is provided by the Kent County Council for the Isle of Thanet at Eton House, St. Peter's Road, Margate, and Clinics for men and women are conducted on Wednesdays.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Births Act.

During the year 496 births were notified; of these 473 were live births and 23 were stillbirths; in addition, there were five live births 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.

Of the live births, doctors notified 176, midwives 277, doctors and midwives 20; ten of the stillbirths were notified by doctors, twelve by midwives and one by doctor and midwife. The number of births registered for the Borough during the year was 496, giving a birth rate of 14.82 per 1,000, as compared with the corrected rate of 15.96 in 1930.

Scheme for the provision of Maternity Beds.

On completion of the Maternity Ward at the Ramsgate General Hospital, the Council entered into an arrangement securing maternity beds for women in necessitous circumstances. The scheme provides for the admission of complicated maternity cases, of cases in which home conditions are unsuitable for confinement, and of pre-natal cases with abnormalities.

Patients eligible for consideration under the Scheme must be resident within the Borough, must produce a certificate from a registered medical practitioner as to the suitability of the case and must sign a form signifying agreement to make payment to the Council in accordance with the scale of fees in force on the date of admission.

During the year arrangements were made under the Scheme for the admission of four maternity cases and one pre-natal case.

Work of the Health Visitors.

Each of the four Health Visitors employed by the Council carries 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 525 first visits to children under 1 year of age; 906 children under 1 year received a total of 2,612 visits. Children aged 1 to 5 years numbered 1,736, to whom 5,715 visits were made, and 251 visits were made to 156 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 always invited to attend with their infants at the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres, 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 Visitor in one case.

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, Princes 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 936 in connection with 329 individual infants. A consultation clinic for children, aged 1 to 5 years, was also held, at which 159 individual children were seen by the Medical Officer. The total number of attendances of mothers at the centre was 2,290.

The arrangements in connection with the Ante-Natal Clinic continued and 26 such clinics were held during the year. The number of women who attended and were examined during the year 1931 was 42, consisting of 14 primiparæ and 28 multiparæ.

Issue of Milk in Necessitous Cases.

Throughout the year arrangements were in force by which, after investigation as to financial circumstances, necessitous mothers are 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 £1 11s. 9d. No dried milk was issued during 1931.

Infant Mortality.

This matter is referred to under Vital Statistics, and from the table it will be seen that more deaths were attributed to prematurity than to any other cause, 7 out of a total of 28 deaths.

The Infant Mortality rate for 1931 was 56.45 per 1,000 births, as compared with a rate of 42.22 for 1930 and 75.09 for 1929, and with a rate of 66 for England and Wales in 1931.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Public Water Supply.

The consistent good quality of the constant water supply for the Borough and neighbouring villages was maintained throughout the year. The source of the supply is rain, which falls on a large open and sparsely populated agricultural district, the soil of which is a light loam superimposed on the upper chalk strata. After filtration through this it penetrates to the deep chalk, in which it travels through fissures to the adits and thence to the Pumping Station at Whitehall, which is situated in the northern outskirts of the Borough.

The adits are over a mile from the sea, and including that completed in 1926, measure practically three miles in length. Each adit is 8 feet in height and 6 feet in width, and thus constitute large underground reservoirs at a depth from the surface varying from 98 feet to over 160 feet.

From the Pumping Station the water is pumped to the high level water tower at Southwood, which is an enclosed reservoir 220 feet above sea level and approximately three-quarters of one mile distant. From this reservoir it is distributed by gravitation to all parts of the Borough and neighbouring villages in the Isle of Thanet, the highest point of elevation of which is 182 feet above sea level.

The quantity of water pumped during the year was 440,774,000 gallons, the average amount being 1,207,600 gallons per day. This is approximately 31.78 gallons daily per person.

The quantity and quality of this water remain for all practical purposes constant year after year, variation in the amount of rainfall rarely causing any diminution in the supply. Chemical analysis of the supply has been referred to previously in this report, and the results of these analyses, as also of bacteriological examinations, show that the water is organically pure and free from contamination.

Being derived from chalk strata, the water has no plumbo-solvent action, and, as is usual in most of such waters, is somewhat hard; much of this hardness is of a "temporary" nature, being largely removed by boiling. It is well aerated and is very palatable.

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, etc., are consequently absent from the system. The sewers, which are ventilated and regularly flushed with water, unite near the Harbour and form the outfall sewer in which the sewage is conveyed to a point over 1,250 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 currents straight out to sea.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of a few isolated houses on the outskirts of the Borough, all houses are connected with the water carriage system, the soilpipes being ventilated and intercepting traps provided.

Water closets with flushing cisterns and connected with the water carriage system are provided for all houses, with the exception of 12; of these 8 are connected to cesspools, 2 are earth closets, and 2 are pail closets.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse.

The Corporation collects refuse 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 10,251 tons, 19 cwt. 3 qrs. of refuse were collected and dealt with during the year, the average amount each month being 854 tons 6 cwt. 2 qrs. In addition, 3,171 loads of road sweepings and 798 loads of gully mud were collected.

During the year efforts to ensure that all premises shall have impermeable receptacles with movable covers for the deposition of refuse, in accordance with the Bye-Laws, were continued; inspections of 200 houses showed that only 86 had proper receptacles, and during the year 101 were provided on preliminary notices being served and 13 on statutory notices being served.

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. E. Young, 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 conditions of dwelling-houses and other premises in the Borough.

INSPECTIONS.

Under Public Health Acts and other Acts, Regulations and Orders	4,991
Of Houses, number inspected under H.T.P. Acts, etc. ...	234
Complaints received and investigated ...	358
Inspections of drainage systems and subsequent revisits ...	957
Drains tested ...	321
In connection with infectious diseases ...	125
Of Bakehouses ...	63
—Cowsheds ...	20
—Common Lodging Houses ...	16
—Caravans ...	13
—Fish Fryers ...	36
—Food Shops ...	213
—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ...	170
—Houses Let in Lodgings ...	113
—Ice Cream Vendors ...	31
—Marine Stores, etc. ...	12
—Milkshops and Dairies ...	118
—Merchandise Marks Act ...	123
—Outworkers ...	18
—Overcrowding ...	7
—Premises licensed for music and dancing ...	45
—Premises as to the provision of refuse receptacles ...	200
—Premises with reference to rat infestation ...	63
—Repairs and subsequent visits ...	528
—Restaurants ...	40
—Rent Restriction Act ...	2
—Schools ...	5
—Shipping ...	5
—Slaughter-houses ...	786
—Stables ...	22
—Tuberculosis cases ...	59
—Verminous premises ...	33
—Miscellaneous ...	250

NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Statutory Notices served ...	8
Preliminary Notices served or Letters written ...	259
Nuisances abated on Notice or Letter ...	186
Nuisances abated on Verbal Instructions ...	73
Complaints received and investigated ...	358

COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

A record of all complaints is kept at the Health Office and during the year 358 complaints were received.

Of the 358 complaints :—

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

Insanitary condition of roadway and public passages ...	3
Sewer choked, etc. ...	6
Dangerous building ...	1
Rats infesting Refuse Destructor land ...	1

2 were referred to the Gas Engineer :—

Escape of gas into dwelling-house ...	2
---------------------------------------	---

1 was referred to the Chief Constable :—

Barking of dogs ...	1
---------------------	---

The remaining 344 may be roughly classified as follows :—

Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Smells from drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Refuse dumped	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Unsound articles of food	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Damp Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective drains and water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective and insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulation of manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Choked or defective wastepipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rats on premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Leaky roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Defective stoves, cooking ranges and coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Improper keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Offensive refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Broken floors and yard surfaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke from chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

All nuisances discovered during the year were abated upon service of informal or statutory notices, no legal proceedings being necessary.

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH DRAINAGE AND HOUSING.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out :—

Accumulations of refuse, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspool drainage abolished and drain connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools or underground rainwater tanks abolished	...	...	...	...	...	22
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney stacks and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	25
Coppers, stoves and ranges renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dampness in walls abated	...	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage (entire new systems)	...	...	...	...	...	50
Drains repaired or partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	79
Floors re-laid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	49
Food storage provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fresh air inlet valves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	123
Inspection chambers built, chambers rendered, and new covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	122
Pedestal closets, closet basins and traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	229
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	36
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	43
Rainwater pipes or gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rainwater pipes disconnected from the drain	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sinks and baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	105
Sink wastepipes renewed and trapped	...	...	...	...	...	110
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	30
Soil and ventilating pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	87
Water closets and urinals erected	...	...	...	...	...	25
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	41
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	72
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	59

With Respect to Refuse Receptacles.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	209
Number found with suitable receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	86
Number found without suitable receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	114
Number provided on preliminary notice	...	...	...	...	...	101
Number provided on statutory notice	...	...	...	...	...	13
Number supplied by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

With Respect to Overcrowding.

Rooms measured as to overcrowding	7
Overcrowding abated	4

With Respect to Dirty Houses.

Houses cleansed	11
Rooms cleansed	23
Dirty W.C. basins cleansed	8
Filthy beds or mattresses destroyed	6

With Respect to Water Supply.

Corroded water service pipes renewed to houses	13
Water service pipes repaired	5

With Respect to Keeping of Animals.

Removal of animals improperly kept	7
Stable yard paving repaired	2
Stables cleansed and limewashed	2
Notices, letters or verbal instructions re removal of manure	6

With Respect to Schools.

Sanitary conveniences inspected	12
Nuisances remedied	4

DISINFECTION.

In connection with cases of Infectious Disease (75) which were removed to the Isle of Thanet Isolation Hospital, Haine, or isolated at home, and other diseases and conditions, the following work was carried out :—

Disease or Cause	Number of Rooms
Scarlet Fever	76
Diphtheria	13
Encephalitis Lethargica	4
Phthisis	41
Cancer	4
Vermin	8
Other causes	11
	<hr/> 157 <hr/>

Also 278 sets of bedding, clothing, etc., were removed from houses, disinfected at the station and returned. The Corporation's Disinfecting Station, in which is installed a Manlove Alliott Steam Disinfector, is situated in Broad Street, and all articles removed for disinfection are conveyed to it in a special covered van.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.

The number of Common Lodging Houses on the register is three, all situate and adjoining each other in Central Road. The premises have been kept under supervision during the year and 16 visits of inspection were made. The houses were kept in a clean and satisfactory condition and well conducted; five defects discovered were remedied.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There were 31 of these houses on the register during 1931, to which 113 visits of inspection were made. No proceedings under the bye-laws were found necessary and the 29 defects discovered were remedied.

Slaughter Houses.

There are seven private slaughter-houses in the Borough; of these six are registered and one is licensed.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 786 inspections of these premises during the year. These inspections coincided with meat inspections made under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations. The premises were kept in a satisfactory condition and no occasion arose for any action under the Regulations or the Bye-Laws.

The position of some of these registered slaughter-houses is most undesirable, being situated in congested areas and directly abutting on to private dwelling-houses; the total abolition of these slaughter-houses would appear to be the only remedy for the unsatisfactory conditions now existing.

Offensive Trades.

The number of offensive trades carried on during the year in the Borough was 25, as follows :—

	Premises	Inspections
Fish Friers	18	36
Marine Store Dealers	5	12
Fat Melters and Bone Boilers	2	6

These premises were kept in a satisfactory condition. Minor defects discovered at visits of inspection were remedied promptly. All the fried fish shops in the Borough are fitted with modern fish-frying ranges. During the year the Council granted one new licence to establish the trade of a fish frier.

*Other Sanitary Conditions.**Sanitary Condition of Theatres, Music Halls, etc.*

The places of public amusement licensed for public music and dancing in the Borough number 44, and may be classified as follows :—

Cinemas and Music Halls	4
Theatres	2
Halls (religious denominations and others)	12
Hotels and Restaurants	14
Miscellaneous	12

These were periodically visited by the Sanitary Inspector during the year and the conditions generally found to be satisfactory. The Sanitary Inspector furnishes a report to the Licensing Justices at the Annual Licensing Meeting as to the sanitary conditions, etc., prevailing on the premises, and the report is taken into consideration by them before renewing the licences.

Four defects discovered in sanitary appliances, etc., were remedied upon attention being called to them. In two of the halls the sanitary accommodation was entirely reconstructed.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

A considerable amount of work in connection with the destruction of rats and mice was carried out during the year and 63 inspections of premises were made. During "Rat Week" the usual campaign

was undertaken; advertisements were inserted and articles published in the two local newspapers calling the attention of the public to their responsibilities under the Act. The proprietors of three cinemas displayed notices at each performance during the week calling the attention of the public to "Rat Week." A large number of poison baits were laid in the sewer headings and special attention was given to premises likely to be harbouring rats and mice, in particular the Corporation's refuse dump on the Margate Road. There is no doubt that a large number of rats were destroyed during the campaign. There is every indication that these rodents are much less numerous in the Borough than formerly.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1931 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.	No of Inspections	No. of Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories : (including Factory Laundries) ...	28	3	—
Workshops : (including Workshop Laundries)	102	12	—
Workplaces : (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	40	9	—
Total	170	24	—

TABLE II.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under the Public Health Act :—		
Want of Cleanliness	3	3
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of Drainage to Floors	—	—
Other Nuisances	5	5
Sanitary Accommodation } Insufficient	3	3
} Unsuitable or Defective ...	4	4
} Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :		
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	6	6
Other Offences	3	3
Total	24	24

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	2	—	4	1		2
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—		—
Other Trades	12	—	10	6		5
Total	14		14	7		7
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists :—						
Making Wearing Apparel	—					
Furniture and Upholstery	—					
Total	—					

TABLE IV.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	39
Dressmakers and Milliners	5
Tailors and Bootmakers	12
Laundries	1
Building Trade	24
Upholsterers	5
Engineers and Whitesmiths	13
Restaurant Kitchens	45
Miscellaneous	35
Total	179

TABLE V.

OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	—
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	4

Bakehouses.

The number of Bakehouses in the Borough and on the Register at the end of the year was 39, and of these only 4 are underground bakehouses. The number of notices served and verbal notices given in connection with bakehouses during the year was 14, and 63 inspections were made. The notices served were 6 as to limewashing, 2 as to defective w.c.'s, 2 defective floors, and 4 for other defects.

These defects were in each case remedied.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

No action was found to be necessary under these Acts during 1931.

Sanitation of Schools.

The sanitary condition, water supply, etc., of all the public elementary schools in the Borough is dealt with in the report on the School Medical Service. Two only of the nine public elementary schools are provided by the Local Education Authority; the equipment and general sanitary condition of these and of the newly-constructed St. Augustine's Roman Catholic School (opened April, 1929) and two other recently reconstructed schools, are satisfactory, but although improvements have been made in recent years as regards the sanitation of the other non-provided schools, their faulty design and the unsuitable situation of some of them leave much to be desired.

Action taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease is also referred to in the report on the School Medical Service, and no difficulty arises in co-ordinating the public health administrative work with the school medical work, the Medical Officer of Health being also the School Medical Officer.

Port Sanitary Administration.

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 and set out in the form suggested.

FORM A.

Amount of Shipping inspected in the Port Sanitary District during the year 1931.

	Number.	Tonnage	Number inspected.		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector		
Foreign {	Steamers ...	2	569	—	2	—
	*Motor ...	1	318	—	1	—
	Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ...	3	887	—	3	—	—
Coastwise {	Steamers ...	2	332	—	2	—
	*Motors ...	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise ...	2	332	—	2	—	—
Total Foreign & Coastwise	5	1219	—	5	—	—

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

FORM B.

Rats destroyed in 1931 ... Nil

FORM C.

Vessels " Infected " or " Suspected " from infected ports Nil

FORM D.

Vessels subjected to measures of Rat Destruction ... Nil

During the year no vessel infected with or suspected of plague or other infectious disease arrived at the Port.

Facilities for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings exist at the Council's Disinfecting and Cleansing Stations.

The imports from foreign ports consist chiefly of timber from various ports in Sweden, Norway and Finland, and bricks from Nieuport. Coal is imported from the Tyne, wheat re-shipped from the London Docks and bricks from Sittingbourne.

A large number of the entries is in connection with the important fishing industry based at the Port of Ramsgate.

Rats.

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.

Shipping.

I am indebted to the Preventive Officer of H.M. Customs and Excise for the following information in reference to shipping which entered the Port during the year 1931 :—

	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage
From Foreign Ports (including British Fishing Vessels)	105	4,360
Coastwise (including Passenger Vessels) ...	698	92,226

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	251
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	496
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	120
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	234
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	66

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	195
--	-----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

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

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	266
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6*
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

E.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(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 on intention to close	Nil

F.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

* One dwelling-house included in 1 (3) was voluntarily demolished.

Housing Conditions.

A demand exists for the smaller type of house at low rental. Many of the older houses in the Borough are of the basement type and have been let to two or three separate tenants. Difficulties have arisen owing to the fact that the alterations required in such houses to render them suitable for the changed conditions of occupancy have not always been carried out by the owners.

During the year progress was made in connection with the Improvement Scheme for the Ratcliff Square Unhealthy Area, the final settlements with owners of different parts of the area having been practically concluded, plans for 22 houses to be erected on the site were approved and subsequently a tender was accepted for the erection.

Towards the end of the year consideration was given to dealing with the St. Lawrence Clearance Areas, represented in 1930, and plans for the erection of 14 working-class houses at Woodford Avenue to accommodate the present occupants of houses in those areas were prepared.

Food.

Milk Supply.

The number of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops on the register at the end of the year was as follows:—

COWKEEPERS.

Number on Register ...	...	...	...	4
Number of cows ...	...	...	...	98
Notices served on occupiers ...	...	...	...	4
Inspections ...	...	...	...	20

DAIRIES.

Number on Register ...	...	...	...	18
Notices served on occupiers ...	...	...	...	6
Inspections ...	...	...	...	25

MILKSHOPS AND PURVEYORS.

Number on Register ...	...	...	...	68
Notices served on occupiers ...	...	...	...	12
Inspections ...	...	...	...	93

Forty-one applications were received to sell milk in the Borough. This large number was due to the introduction of a system of supplying milk in cardboard cartons, filled and sealed at the Dairy. There being no probability of contamination under these conditions, the Local Authority were able to grant the licences.

During the year one cowshed was reconstructed on modern lines.

It was found necessary to take legal proceedings in two cases under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, for delivering milk in bottles not filled and closed on registered premises. The defendants were fined £1 and £2 respectively.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, the number of licences granted to retailers are as follows:—

Dealers' Licences to sell " Certified " Milk ...	3
Dealers' Licences to sell " Grade A " Milk ...	1
Supplementary Licence to sell " Certified " Milk ...	1
Supplementary Licence to sell "Grade A" Tuberculin tested ...	1

Meat and Other Foods.

Considerable time is devoted each week by the Sanitary Inspectors to inspecting as far as possible all carcasses killed in the seven private slaughter-houses in the Borough, but supervision is rendered difficult owing to butchers being free to kill at any hour or on any day they desire, provided due notice is given. Through an insurance scheme the butchers are covered against loss when carcasses or organs are condemned.

There are three Depots for the wholesale distribution of imported meat in the Borough, and from these large quantities are supplied to towns in the Isle of Thanet and the surrounding country.

The improved conditions of transport, conveyance, storage and handling of meat brought about by the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations have been well maintained.

218 visits of inspection to the meat depots, retail butchers and grocers' shops were made to see that the Regulations were carried out. Occasional visits are made to the Fish Market regarding the condition of the fish exposed for sale.

Other premises concerned with food, such as the kitchens of restaurants, greengrocers' shops, etc., are also kept under supervision.

Ice Cream, etc.

A considerable trade is carried on during the summer months by vendors of ice cream from stalls and barrows on the sands and other places in the Borough. The fact that there is no legal obligation for these persons or their premises on which the ice cream is manufactured to be licensed or registered renders it most difficult to control this trade. Under the Ramsgate Corporation Act, 1922 every dealer in ice cream selling from any cart, barrow or other vehicle or stand is required to have his name and address inscribed thereon, and is liable to a penalty of 40s. for non-compliance. Owing to there being no legal standard for ice cream, a large quantity of the article sold as such is very inferior in quality. Considerable time is occupied by the Sanitary Inspectors in supervising the streets and sands vendors, the cleanliness of their barrows and utensils not always being all that is desirable.

Number of Ice Cream Vendors selling from barrows, stalls, etc.	26
Number of Vendors at shops, restaurants, etc. ...	32
Number of inspections made	31

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is the officer appointed under the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1926, and is authorised to execute the provisions of Section 9 of the Act of 1926 relating to any imported foodstuff to which an Order in Council under the Act applies.

The chief imported foodstuffs to which these Orders apply are "Fresh Apples," "Honey," "Eggs," "Currants, Sultanias and Raisins," "Raw Tomatoes" and "Frozen Salmon or Sea Trout." All these articles when exposed for sale by retail, must bear a label clearly indicating the origin, *i.e.*, "Empire," "Foreign," or the name of the "Colony" or "Country."

During the year 123 inspections were made to retail fruiterers, greengrocers, grocers and other shops dealing in these goods. Though there was an improvement in the carrying out of the Orders, it was necessary to give several warnings as to the need for strictly complying with same.

UN SOUND FOOD

Voluntarily Surrendered during 1931.

CARCASSES 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.	Number of animals of which heads and tongues only were condemned.	Weight. Total weight in lbs.
Cows ...	1	—	6	1008
Pigs ...	8	—	86	1542
				2550

FOOD CONDEMNED FOR OTHER REASONS.

Beef, imported.

1 Carcase, Bull ...	...	...	Pyæmia ...	832 lb.
1 Tongue ...	...	...	Actinomycosis ...	8 lb.
26 Livers ...	...	...	Cirrhosis ...	389 lb.
3 Plucks ...	...	...	Tuberculosis ...	30 lb.

Beef imported.

Hind and forequarters, trimmings, etc.	Unwholesome ...	1,454 lb.
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Pork.

11 Carcases	Erysipelas ...	1,231 lb.
2 Carcases	Dropsy ...	138 lb.
2 Carcases	Fever ...	241 lb.
1 Carcase ...	...	...	Jaundice ...	75 lb.
68 Livers ...	...	...	Cirrhosis ...	344 lb.
6 Plucks ...	...	...	Pneumonia ...	96 lb.
18 Fats ...	...	...	Tuberculosis ...	32 lb.

Mutton.

1 Carcase, Lamb ...	...	...	Fever ...	35 lb.
12 Livers ...	...	...	Fluke ...	49 lb.

Mutton, imported.

1 Lamb's Liver	Unsound ...	10 lb.
--------------------	-----	-----	-------------	--------

Fish.

Wet ...	...	...	Unsound ...	1,239 lb.
Dried ...	...	...	Unsound ...	1,484 lb.

Miscellaneous.

Prawns (imported) ...	...	...	Unsound ...	104 lb.
2 Chickens (imported) ...	...	...	Unsound ...	6 lb.
1 Turkey (imported) ...	...	...	Tuberculosis ...	13 lb.
15 Tins Spiced Ham ...	...	...	Unsound ...	90 lb.
24 Rabbits (imported) ...	...	...	Unsound ...	60 lb.

Total weight of all food condemned ... 4 tons 13 cwt. 1 qr. 20lb.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 105 Samples (57 Formal and 48 Informal) were taken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is the Officer appointed under the Act, and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample.	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	39	1	37	3 (Formal)
Margarine	5	4	9	—
Butter	4	4	8	—
Sausages	6	—	6	—
Sugar	—	6	6	—
Condensed Milk	—	4	4	—
Cheese	—	4	4	—
Lard	—	4	4	—
Tinned Cream	—	3	3	—
Vinegar	3	—	3	—
Self Raising Flour	—	4	4	—
Pepper	—	4	4	—
Camphorated Oil	—	5	5	—
Meat and Fish Paste	—	5	5	—

The Public Analyst's reports on the 40 samples of Milk taken during different months of the year show the average to be well above the minimum standard, and in every case free from preservatives. The average figures are : Fat, 3.35; Non-fatty Solids, 8.86; total solids, 12.21.

Particulars of the three 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.
389	Milk	Deficient in Fat 26.7%	Legal proceedings.	Fined £2
390	Milk	Deficient in Fat 8%	Legal proceedings.	Fined £2
397	Milk	Deficient in Fat 12%	Legal proceedings	Fined £2

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS.

The following 71 samples were taken under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act and were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of preservatives and added colouring matter :

Milk	40
Butter	8
Margarine	9
Sausage Meat	6
Tinned Cream	3
Meat and Fish Paste	5

All these samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be free from preservatives and the milk to be free from added colouring matter.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1931.

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

SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

W. W. GRIFFIN, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Routine Medical Inspection

and

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. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

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

W. J. DUNLOP, F.R.C.S.I., L.R.C.P.I..

Dental Surgeon:

J. B. REED, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Health Visitors:

*Miss G. CLARK.

Miss A. ASHWELL.

*Miss W. CARPENTER.

Miss R. HOWELLS.

* Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

Clerks:

S. GORHAM.

C. IMPETT.

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, 1931.

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, and four Health Visitors; two Clerks 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 Centres 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.

In the report on the school medical service for the year 1926 a detailed report on the hygienic condition of each public elementary school in the Borough was given.

During the year 25 dual locker desks, 30 dual desks, 26 dual locker tables and 52 chairs were supplied to the Schools of the Authority.

Structural alterations were carried out at St. Luke's School during the Summer holidays in accordance with plans approved by the Committee. Both Departments now have four separate classrooms, and reorganisation of the school in accordance with the Committee's scheme has been completed except for the transfer of the Senior Girls

to other Schools of the Authority which has had to be postponed on account of the crowded condition of those other schools. The Departments are now recognised by the Board of Education as affording accommodation for 186 Junior Girls and 176 Infants.

Owing to the financial crisis, approval to proceed with the erection of the proposed new Dame Janet Junior and Infants' School was withheld. Since then the Board of Education have reconsidered the proposal and agree that it is one which should be proceeded with forthwith. Accordingly the Board confirmed their approval of the plans and their sanction to the expenditure involved. The Town Council has approved of the work being put in hand forthwith and it is hoped the building will be completed by September, 1933.

The accommodation at the Public Elementary Schools in the Borough is for 4,750 children; the average number on the registers for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1931, was 4,723 and the average attendance was 4,354.

4. Medical Inspection.

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 of the 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.

(a) *Age Groups inspected.*

" Entrants "	...	Children admitted during the year.	
		Number inspected	... 449
" Intermediates "	...	Children between 8 and 9 years of age	
		Number inspected	... 488
" 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	... 466

(b) *The Schedule of the Board of Education was followed.*

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

Defects in children of the code age groups are detected at the Routine Medical Inspections. Lists of special cases are presented by the Head Teachers and through various agencies children are referred to the School Inspection Clinic at the Health Office for examination on account of suspected illness or defect. The number of such " Specials " examined during the year was 1,416.

(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 at times 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 Medical examinations of children at the schools, 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 1,439 children, 14 or 0.97 per cent., were found to have unclean hair, and at the 124 surveys as to cleanliness of skin, hair, scalp and clothing, 18,111 examinations of children were made by the Health Visitors, who found 47 children verminous and 49 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 readmitted 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 four children who were verminous and five children who had very nitty hair were at subsequent surveys again excluded owing to these conditions, and one child who was verminous was excluded on three occasions.

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.

Parents who do not cleanse their children within a period of seven days from date of exclusion from school and service of notice are proceeded against under the School Attendance Bye-Laws. This procedure has proved to be quite efficient and the loss of attendance due to exclusion from school owing to uncleanliness has very considerably decreased during recent years.

In one case legal proceedings were instituted; this case was twice adjourned and finally withdrawn.

(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 seven new cases of scalp ringworm came under observation as compared with ten in 1930; sixteen cases of scabies, as compared with fifteen in 1930; 223 cases of impetigo, as compared with 214 in 1930; 28 cases of external eye disease, as compared with 26 in 1930; 46 cases of ear disease, or otorrhoea, as compared with 33 in 1930.

(c) *Tonsils and Adenoids.*

During the year a total of 126 children were found to have enlargement of their tonsils or adenoid tissue which required treatment of some kind. The abnormal condition of noses and throats of many of these children were found to yield to indirect treatment such as the removal of carious teeth, etc., and 20 only received operative treatment for the removal of excessive lymphoid tissue.

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

Six children in a pre-tubercular condition came under observation during the year, and two children who were suffering from or suspected to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis came under observation at the School Clinic or at the examination of "specials" at the schools. These children and eight 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 Disease 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, 110; among "Specials," 47.

(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 of treatment at the Dental Clinic at the Health Office. At the Routine Medical Inspections at the schools it was found that 371 of the 1,439 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 nine children who had deformities came under observation. The defects of children referred to in Table III. causing crippling 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 449 Entrants examined, only 212 (or 46.21 per cent.) were vaccinated; of 488 Intermediates, only 256 (or 52.46 per cent.); and of the 466 Leavers, 201 (or 43.13 per cent.).

It is regrettable that over 52 per cent. of these children were not protected against smallpox, although these figures show 5 per cent. more children vaccinated than did the figures for 1930.

6. Infectious Diseases.

There was no undue prevalence of any one disease during the year and no action was taken under Article 22 or 23 (b) of the Code Regulations.

The control of infectious diseases in schools is best effected by immediate exclusion and isolation of individuals suffering from illness of an infectious or contagious nature and by excluding and keeping under observation children living in infected houses. Closure for purely medical reasons is very rarely desirable; it does not prevent intimate association at play, at cinemas, etc., of the excluded children, while it impedes supervision with the possibility that some of the contacts may develop disease subsequent to school closure and for a time act as additional foci.

The Board of Education's amended regulations secure that diminished attendance during a period of epidemic shall not be considered in itself an adequate reason for closing a school, and that when a local Education Authority closes a school on the advice or with the approval of the School Medical Officer such advice or approval shall only be given on the ground that such closure is necessary for medical reasons.

Authorities are secured against financial loss when schools are kept open with a greatly lowered attendance.

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 the state of their 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 Officer, who informs the Head Teachers. Children so excluded are not readmitted to school until the School Medical Officer is satisfied that they can attend school without risk to themselves or others. The School Attendance Officer and the Head Teachers give information to the School Medical Officer in reference to children who are absent from school owing to illnesses, which possibly may be infectious, and all such cases are investigated.

During the year the number of intimations received from Head Teachers was 90. These included intimations in reference to eight children who were suffering from or suspected to be suffering from Measles, 26 from Whooping Cough, 40 from Chickenpox and 16 from Mumps.

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 Clinic and 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 468 children found to have defective vision who were referred for refraction, no fewer than 452 were dealt with at the Eye Clinic; 828 children were referred for dental treatment as the result of dental inspection by the Dental Surgeon, and a total of 637 children received treatment at the Dental Clinic. It is chiefly in connection with children who need treatment and whose parents promise at the inspections, or the Health Visitors at the homes, that they will secure treatment privately, that difficulty arises. Too often it is found on revisitation of these homes that the parents have failed to carry out their promises and are still unwilling to avail themselves 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 4,022 visits to 2,193 individual children at their homes.

8. Medical Treatment.

The arrangements in connection with the payment by parents for medical treatment of their children, through the Clinics, provided by the Education Committee, which were approved by the Board of Education and were fully stated in a previous Annual Report, continued during the year.

The total amount paid in respect of such treatment in accordance with the scales, from 1st January to 31st December, was £61 7s. 6d.

From time to time children of necessitous parents come under observation at the routine inspections and school inspection clinic whose ailments do not fall within the scope of the school treatment clinic. Such children are referred for medicinal or local treatment to the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Dispensary, and during the year the Education Committee, with the approval of the Board of Education, made a grant of ten guineas to that institution in respect of the medical treatment of children of school age.

(a) Minor Ailments.

The School Treatment Clinic is held on five mornings each week when the schools are in session and during the school holidays as required. The great majority of children suffering from minor ailments are treated at this clinic until 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, 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 the 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.	Number of Children.	Attendances.
Impetigo	211	1,901
Vermineous Impetigo	2	17
Eczema, Seborrhœa, etc	57	277
Abscesses, Whitlows, Cuts, Burns, Abrasions, etc	266	1,823
Ringworm of Scalp	7	213
Ringworm of Body	3	17
Scabies	16	96
External Eye Diseases	84	511
Otorrhœa	32	321
Nose, Mouth & Throat Conditions	116	281
Tuberculosis, all forms	9	80
Other Diseases or Conditions	760	2,003
Total	1,563	7,540

In addition, 104 children who were convalescent from or contacts of infectious disease, made 136 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. No case was thus treated during the year.

(b) Tonsils and Adenoids.

During the year 126 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 20 children were operated on for the removal of enlarged tonsils or adenoids; six of these received treatment privately, and 14 at the Ramsgate General Hospital, through the Education Committee's scheme, under which the Hospital Authorities were paid £1 11s. 6d. in respect of three children of a group of seven or eight, and £1 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 Dis-

pensary in the town for treatment by the Tuberculosis Officer, who periodically informs the School Medical Officer as to the fitness or otherwise of the children to attend school.

(a), (e) and (g). Dealt with under "Minor Ailments."

(f) Vision.

During the year 468 children were referred for further examination owing to errors of refraction; of these, 452 were examined and prescribed for at the School Eye Clinic, refraction under the influence of homatropin being carried out in 149 cases. The Ophthalmic Surgeon conducted the Eye Clinic on 43 occasions in 1931. Three other children received treatment privately. Glasses were prescribed for 401 children and up to the end of the year had been procured in 395 cases. The children made 1,011 attendances at the Clinic.

The cases examined were as follows :

26	...	Hypermetropia.
48	...	Hypermetropia with Astigmatism.
14	...	Myopia.
23	...	Myopia with Astigmatism.
10	...	Mixed Astigmatism.
17	...	Strabismus.

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

2 Nystagmus.	1 Corneal Ulcer.
8 Conjunctivitis.	5 Styas.
5 Phlyctenular Keratitis.	3 Injury to eye.
1 Blepharitis.	1 Foreign body in eye.
1 Corneal Opacities.	

(h) *Dental Defects.*

The agreement entered into in 1927 with the authorities of the Ramsgate General Hospital for the treatment of children who require extraction of teeth while under the influence of a general anæsthetic was continued. During the year 6 children were dealt with under this scheme at the Hospital.

Inspections by the Dental Surgeon at the Schools took place at three sessions, the average number of children inspected at each session being 151. The Dental Clinic was held on 64 occasions and the work carried out is summarised in Table IV., Group IV., which will be found at the end of this report.

A large but gradually decreasing number of parents unfortunately refuse to take advantage of the facilities available for the preservation of their children's teeth, and many parents still postpone treatment until further deterioration leading to pain takes place.

(i) *Crippling Defects and Orthopædics.*

Following the appointment on the Honorary Staff of the Ramsgate General Hospital of an Orthopædic Surgeon, the Education Committee adopted a scheme for the Borough for the orthopædic treatment of non-tuberculous school children. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Town Council decided to participate in the scheme in order to secure orthopædic treatment for children under five years of age, and the scheme was approved by the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health at the end of 1928. Details of the scheme were fully stated in the Annual Report for 1928.

Fifteen children were dealt with at the Orthopædic Clinic at the Ramsgate General Hospital during 1931; in four of these cases surgical appliances were supplied. One child was an in-patient at the General Hospital for a period of three weeks, an operation for tenotomy being performed; in one other case surgical instruments were required and at the end of the year the parents were, at their own request, negotiating to obtain the instruments through the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

In addition to those mentioned above, two children attended the National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, one child being an in-patient for a considerable period; one other child periodically attended Guy's Hospital for observation and treatment.

9. Open-Air Education.

There is no open-air school in the Borough. Open-air classes are held in the playgrounds of the public elementary schools, and it is highly desirable that every facility should be given to Head Teachers to increase the number of such classes. A definite need exists for a school in which certain children could be educated throughout the year under open-air conditions. A reference to Table III. at the end of this report shows the numbers in different groups of physically defective children who would benefit from open-air education.

While there can be no doubt as to the need for an open-air school in the Borough, the very considerable expenditure involved will probably for some time cause the erection and equipment of such a special school to be postponed. Some such provision cannot, however, be indefinitely postponed, and it is to be regretted that it was not considered feasible to arrange in connection with the new school to be erected at Northwood for one or two classes in which children could receive open-air education throughout the year.

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 takes place in the school playgrounds. The co-operation of the Head Teachers is requested in connection with children found at the inspections specially to 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 arrangements 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 slight lateral curvature of the spine, round shoulders, flat foot, etc.

11. Provision of Meals.

No meals are provided but milk is supplied at the schools and other assistance arranged for through the Children's Aid Committee, on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer. The total cost to the Education Committee for milk and cocoa supplied during the year was £12 1s. 2d.

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 341 parents attended at the routine inspections of 449 Entrants; 308 parents attended at the routine inspections of 488 Intermediates; 230 parents attended at the routine inspections of 466 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 inspections; it may be added that they compile from the school registers lists of children of the code groups due for routine medical inspection. At each occasion on which routine medical inspections are carried out in a department the Head Teachers refer for examination as "specials" all children who are not due for 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 Officer.

This officer brings 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 Officer, who, accordingly, informs the Head Teacher and sees 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 Officer is 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 him 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 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 two children received supplies at the School Clinic. 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 or near the Borough.

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 of children is practically limited to delivering newspapers and milk, running errands for tradesmen, or, in the case of girls, assisting at homes.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections.

(a) ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections :

Entrants ...	...	...	...	...	449
Intermediates	...	...	...	...	488
Leavers ...	...	...	...	...	466
				Total	1,403

Number of other Routine Inspections ... 36

(b) OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections...	...	...	1,416
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	359
		Total	1,775

TABLE II.
(A) *Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1931.*

Defect or Disease.					Routine Inspections		Special Inspections.	
					No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
					Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Skin	Malnutrition	...	...	...	1	39	2	6
	Uncleanliness (see Table IV. Group V.)				—	—	—	—
	Ringworm:							
	Scalp	...	...	...	—	—	7	—
	Body	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
	Scabies	...	...	...	—	—	16	—
	Impetigo	...	...	...	4	—	219	—
	Other Diseases (non-tuberculous)	...	...	...	4	—	83	—
	Blepharitis	...	...	...	1	—	7	—
	Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	—	—	19	—
Eye	Keratitis	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
	Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	...	...	...	104	29	39	13
	Squint	...	...	...	7	1	8	—
Ear	Other Conditions	...	...	...	3	2	61	—
	Defective Hearing	...	...	...	3	1	1	—
	Otitis Media	...	...	...	13	3	30	—
	Other Ear Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	7	—
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils only	...	...	...	50	7	29	21
	Adenoids only	...	...	...	5	—	—	1
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	3	—	7	3
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	33	1	49	—
Heart and Circulation	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuberculous)	...	...	...	—	1	7	1
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	4	—	—	—
	Teeth—Dental Diseases	...	...	...	209	—	257	—
	Heart Disease:							
	Organic	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
	Functional	...	...	...	1	24	—	2
	Anæmia	...	...	...	2	—	1	—
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	—	4	—
	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	1	23	17	—
	Pulmonary:							
Tuberculosis	Definite	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Suspected	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
	Non-Pulmonary:							
	Glands	...	...	...	—	1	4	—
	Spine	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Hip	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
	Other Bones and Joints	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
	Skin	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Epilepsy	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Nervous System	Chorea	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
	Other Conditions	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Deformities	Rickets	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
	Spinal Curvature	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Other Defects and Diseases	Other Forms	...	...	...	3	—	4	—
		...	...	...	14	5	382	—

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

Group.	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require treatment.
	Inspected.	Found to require treatment.	
Code Groups:			
Entrants	449	67	14.92
Intermediates	488	97	19.87
Leavers	466	83	17.81
Totals (code groups)	1403	247	17.60
Other routine inspections	36	11	30.55

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

			Boys	Girls	Total
Children suffering from the following types of Multiple Defect, i.e., any combination of Total Blindness, Total Deafness, Mental Defect, Epilepsy, Active Tuberculosis, Crippling, or Heart Disease ...			—	1	1
Blind (including partially blind).	(1) Suitable for training in a School for the totally blind	At Certified Schools for the Blind ...	2	—	2
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	(2) Suitable for training in a School for the partially blind	At Certified Schools for the Blind or Partially Blind ...	1	2	3
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
Deaf (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf).	(1) Suitable for training in a School for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	At Certified Schools for the Deaf ...	1	—	1
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	(2) Suitable for training in a School for the partially deaf	At Certified Schools for the Deaf or Partially Deaf ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
Mentally Defective.	Feeble-minded	At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	2	2
		At other Institutions ...	1	—	1
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
Epileptics.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	At Certified Schools for Epileptics ...	1	—	1
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
Physically Defective.	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	At Public Elementary Schools ...	1	1	2
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Active pulmonary tuberculosis (including pleura & intrathoracic glands).	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	1	1
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	2	6	8
	Quiescent or arrested pulmonary tuberculosis (including pleura & intrathoracic glands).	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 ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Tuberculosis of the peripheral glands	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	1	—	1
		At Certified Residential Open-air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	16	8	24
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	1	1
	Abdominal 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 ...	4	4	8
		At other Institutions ...	—	1	1
		At no School or Institution ...	1	—	1

TABLE III—*continued.*

			Boys	Girls	Total
Physically Defective (continued)	Tuberculosis of bones and joints (not including deformities due to old tuberculosis).	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	2	1	3
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	5	3	8
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	1	1	2
	Tuberculosis of other organs (skin, etc).	At Sanatoria or Hospitals Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Delicate children i.e., all children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School.	At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	13	7	20
		At other Institutions ...	1	—	1
		At no School or Institution ...	4	1	5
	Crippled children (other than those with active tuberculous disease who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life.	At Certified Hospital Schools ...	1	—	1
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	1	—	1
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	7	7	14
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	1	1	2 (2)
	Children with heart disease, i.e., children whose defect is so severe as to necessitate the provision of educational facilities other than those of the public elementary school,	At Certified Hospital Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions ...	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects treated during the year ended 31st December, 1931.

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 ...	7	—	7
Ringworm, Body ...	3	—	3
Scabies	15	1	16
Impetigo	213	10	223
Other Skin Disease ...	45	30	75
Minor Eye Defects	65	20	85
Minor Ear Defects	34	9	43
Miscellaneous	303	37	340
Total	685	107	792

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

	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)	452	3	—	455
Other Defect or Disease of the Eye ...	26	—	—	26
Total	478	3	—	481

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	401
(b) Otherwise	3

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	395
(b) Otherwise	3

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.		
14	6	20	111	131

GROUP IV.—*Dental Defects.*

(1) Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by Dentist :

Aged :		5	...	—			
		6	...	60			
		7	...	85			
		8	...	96			
		9	...	21			
Routine Age Groups		10	...	31	Total	...	453
		11	...	75			
		12	...	31			
		13	...	44			
		14	...	10			
Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	506
Grand Total							959
(b) Found to require treatment							828
(c) Actually treated							637

(2) Half days devoted to	{	Inspection	...	3	}	Total	...	67
		Treatment	...	64				
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment			...	...		...	...	1,005
(4) Fillings	{	Permanent Teeth	...	195	}	Total	...	214
		Temporary Teeth	...	19				
(5) Extractions	{	Permanent Teeth	...	228	}	Total	...	1,257
		Temporary Teeth	...	1,029				
(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions at Ramsgate General Hospital		...	...	...		...	...	6
(7) Other Operations	{	Permanent Teeth	6		}	Total	...	6
		Temporary Teeth	—					

GROUP V.—*Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.*

(1) Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	14
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	18,111
(3) Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	...	...	...	96
(4) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—						
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	1



