

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Ramsgate Borough.

Contributors

Ramsgate (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer


FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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







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Printers:

"The East Kent Times," Ltd.,
85, High Street, Ramsgate.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(1938 - 39).

Chairman: Councillor T. H. PRESTEDGE.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. HAWKINS.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor J. MARTIN.
(Alderman A. B. C. Kempe,	„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.
J.P.)	„ Mrs. H. L. NICHOLSON
Alderman H. STEAD.	„ A. E. PETLEY.
Councillor S. E. AUSTIN.	„ Miss M. A. WILSON.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. F. L. DUNN, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor A. E. PETLEY.
(Alderman A. B. C. Kempe,	„ T. H. PRESTEDGE.
J.P.)	Mrs. CRESSWELL.
Councillor W. HAWKINS.	Mrs. DEVESON.
„ J. MARTIN.	Mrs. HORSLEY.
„ Mrs. H. L. NICHOLSON	

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Alderman H. STEAD.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman W. T. SMITH.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	Councillor Miss M. A. WILSON.
(Alderman A. B. C. Kempe,	Councillor C. R. WOODHAMS.
J.P.)	Mrs. M. L. EVANS.
Alderman R. J. MALLAM.	Rev. Fr. N. LAPWORTH.
Councillor E. E. DYE.	Rev. RODRIGUES-PEREIRA.
„ R. G. LOVATT.	Rev. HARCOURT SAMUEL.
„ T. W. MOCKRIDGE.	Mr. W. A. DAVIES.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938, 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.

Due to the fact that all the information supplied by the Registrar-General was not received till 31st May, the completion of this Report was necessarily delayed.

The Registrar-General estimates that the population of the Borough at mid-year 1938 was 34,390, which is 70 less than the estimate for 1937. This follows on an estimated decrease of 140 between mid-year 1936 and mid-year 1937, and it is certainly strange that an estimated decrease of 210 in the population should coincide with the considerable increase in the number of houses in the Borough and the large number of houses now sub-divided into flats in view of the fact that few houses are unoccupied.

The low incidence of Infectious Diseases continued and the table of comparative statistics shows that the figures for the Borough compare favourably with those for similar districts and for the country as a whole.

The Death Rate for the year was 11.19 per 1,000, as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales, and the rate of 11.83 for the Borough in 1937.

The Birth Rate for the year was 12.85 as compared with 15.1 for England and Wales and the rate of 14.2 for the Borough in 1937.

There was no maternal death in the Borough in 1938.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 52 comparing with the rate of 53 for England and Wales and with the rate of 51 for the Borough in 1937.

This Report gives details of the large amount of work carried out in connection with the various services and schemes. With the additional work allotted to the Health Department during the year and in view of the need for development, the re-organisation which has been approved by the Council has become essential.

I acknowledge with gratitude the support given me by Chairmen and Members of Committees, the loyal co-operation of my staff and the assistance rendered by my colleagues.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BANNISTER,

*Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.*

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

June, 1939.

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Staff of Health Department

1938.

*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., F.S.I.A.

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors :

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

Cert. Meat Inspector R.S.I.

F. BROWN, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.A. of Scotland.

Health Visitors :

*Miss **CLARK**

*Miss **W. CARPENTER**

Miss **A. ASHWELL (deceased)**

Miss **R. HOWELLS**

†*Miss **D. GRIFFITHS (Appointed 18th July, 1938)**

*Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

†Health Visitors Certificate, R.S.I.

Clerks :

J. S. ROBERTSON

R. M. IMPETT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

1.—General Statistics

Area of the Borough in acres ...	...	...	...	4,778
Population—Census 1931 ...	...	...	...	33,603
Estimated (Registrar-General) mid-year, 1938				34,390
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to				
Rate Books ...	...	...	...	9,696
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£256,979
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	...	£980
Rainfall ...	...	...	...	22.95 ins.
Sunshine ...	...	...	...	1792.9 hrs.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1938

		Total.	Males.	Females.		
Live Births—						
Legitimate	...	416	218	198	} Birth Rate	12.85
Illegitimate	...	26	16	10		
Still Births—						
Legitimate	...	13	5	8	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	13.22
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—		
Deaths	...	453	233	220	} Death Rate (corrected)	11.19
Deaths from puerperal causes—						
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes			...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—						
All infants per 1,000 live births			...	...	...	52.03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					...	50.47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					...	76.92
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...		...	...	...	80
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...		...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...		...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				...	...	2

The following table has been drawn up to render possible a comparison as regards Vital Statistics for 1938, between England and Wales as a whole, and Ramsgate.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	RAMSGATE.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
<i>Births:—</i>					
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	12.85
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.37
<i>Deaths:—</i>					
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	11.19
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.08
<i>Notifications:—</i>					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	1.48
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.40
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.23
Pneumonia	0.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.69
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57	52.03
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	4.52
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	Not available			0.00
Others	2.19				0.00
Total	3.08				0.00
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	Not available			0.00
Others	2.11				0.00
Total	2.97				0.00
<i>Notifications:—</i>					
Puerperal Fever... ..	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53	—
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.46	4.39

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 4,778 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 of 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 subsoil of chalk, comparative freedom from rain and fog, abundant sunshine, an equable temperature and some 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 the 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 eight wards: East Central, East Cliff, West Central, West Cliff, Southwood, St. Lawrence, Northwood and Sir Moses Montefiore.

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 temperature.

SUNSHINE, 1938.

Month.	Total Sunshine in hours.	Daily Average in hours.
January ...	51.6	1.66
February ...	92.1	3.28
March ...	202.2	6.52
April ...	176.7	5.89
May ...	198.1	6.39
June ...	261.4	8.71
July ...	221.1	7.13
August ...	196.1	6.32
September ...	154.1	5.13
October ...	141.1	4.55
November ...	42.8	1.42
December ...	55.6	1.79
Total ...	1792.9	

RAINFALL, 1938.

Month.	Total in inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.	No. of Days with 0.01 inches or more.
January ...	2.994	0.527 on 26th	15
February ...	.643	0.137 on 18th	10
March ...	.49	0.31 on 25th	3
April ...	.926	0.397 on 30th	6
May ...	1.856	0.763 on 17th	14
June ...	1.297	0.964 on 1st	4
July ...	2.208	0.519 on 7th	12
August ...	3.048	2.06 on 7th	8
September ...	2.373	.54 on 26th	12
October ...	2.587	.39 on 3rd, 5th and 30th	16
November ...	2.122	.401 on 25th	11
December ...	2.411	.405 on 20th	14
Total ..	22.955		

MEAN TEMPERATURE, 1938.

	Deg.		Deg.
January ...	44.0	July ...	56.0
February ...	42.3	August...	62.9
March...	49.8	September	60.3
April ...	47.2	October	52.8
May ...	51.9	November	49.8
June ...	60.2	December	40.1

Highest mean temperature, 76 degrees on 12th August.

Lowest mean temperature, 22 degrees on 21st, 22nd December.

Population.

The Registrar-General estimates that the population of the Borough at mid-year 1938 was 34,390, on which figure the statistics for the year have been based, which shows a decrease of 70 in the population as compared with 1937.

In 1938 the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 11.

Births.

The number of births registered for the Borough during the year was 442—girls 208, boys 234; the birth rate for the year was therefore 12.85 per 1,000 as compared with the rate of 14.21 in 1937 and 14.30 in 1936. Of the total number of births 26 were illegitimate children, a percentage of 5.8 as compared with 5.1 in 1937. Thirteen stillbirths were registered during the year—five males and eight females legitimate.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during the year was 391; of these 34 were non-residents and must be deducted; 96 deaths of residents occurred outside the Borough, and these must be added. The net number of deaths of residents was consequently 453—233 males and 220 females—giving a net death rate of 13.17 per 1,000 of population as compared with a rate of 14.21 in 1937 and 13.38 in 1936.

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 Areal Comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar-General. The corrected death rate for 1938 for the Borough is therefore 11.19 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 11.83 in 1937 and with a rate of 11.6 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 23, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 52.03 per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 51.02 in 1937 and 60.60 in 1936.

Of the infants under one year of age who died, two were illegitimate, and as the births of 26 illegitimate children were registered during the year, the mortality rate amongst illegitimate infants was 76.92 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

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

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1938.

Ward.	Under 1 Year	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65—75	Over 75	Total
E. Central ...	5	...	...	1	1	5	24	15	19	70
W. Central...	1	...	...	1	2	6	21	22	38	91
East Cliff ...	4	1	1	...	1	4	13	10	13	47
West Cliff ...	3	...	...	1	4	3	10	12	18	51
Southwood...	1	...	1	1	2	2	8	12	17	44
St. Lawrence	5	1	2	...	1	6	11	11	15	52
Northwood...	2	...	...	1	2	11	16	12	13	57
Sir Moses Montefiore	2	1	...	...	2	4	11	7	14	41
Total ...	23	3	4	5	15	41	114	101	147	453

MORTALITY TABLE.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1938.

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	...	437	23	3	4	5	15	41	108	96	142	107
	Uncertified	...	16	.	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	5	...
<hr/>													
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever			1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough			1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria			2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Influenza			3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			22	...	1	...	1	4	11	5	...	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases			3	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Syphilis			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease			80	...	...	...	...	...	4	31	23	22	16
Diabetes			6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.			31	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	16	5
Heart Disease			107	...	...	...	...	...	6	26	35	40	9
Aneurysm			2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
Other circulatory diseases			26	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	12	10	5
Bronchitis			19	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	13	3
Pneumonia (all forms)			13	3	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases			5	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	2
Peptic Ulcer			5	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	4
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)			2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis			1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of liver, etc.			3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1
Other digestive diseases			8	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	3	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis			17	...	...	1	1	2	5	5	...	3	9
Puerperal Sepsis			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other puerperal causes			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.			15	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Senility			19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	17	...
Suicide			5	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...
Other violence			18	...	...	...	...	2	5	3	2	6	16
Other defined diseases			38	...	1	1	1	3	3	8	11	10	9
Causes ill-defined or unknown			1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
<hr/>													
			453	23	3	4	5	15	41	114	101	147	107

INFANT MORTALITY, 1938.

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	...	...	14	...	1	...	15	4	3	...	1	23
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prematurity	..	..	..	10	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	10
Bronchitis	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Atelectasis	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Convulsions	..	..	..	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Congenital Debility	..	..	..	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Spina Bifida	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1

Net Births in the year { Legitimate 416
Illegitimate 26

Net Deaths in the year { Legitimate 21
Illegitimate 2

Infectious Diseases.

The infectious diseases notifiable in the Borough were as stated in last year's annual report.

There was no undue prevalence of any infectious disease, but influenza and catarrhal conditions were somewhat prevalent in the early and late months of the year. Three deaths were ascribed to influenza as compared with eighteen deaths in 1937.

The utilisation of the Isolation Hospital accommodation was increased in 1937 by the decision to admit certain cases of measles certified by the Medical Officer of Health to be suitable cases, and at the end of the year the Joint Hospital Board decided to admit cases of erysipelas.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1938.

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	14	14	—	—	—	—	1 (1)	10 (1)	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Scarlet Fever	51	49	—	—	1	1	4	22	11	4	5 (1)	—	3	—	1	
Pneumonia	24	8	4 (3)	3	—	—	2	7	—	1	1 (1)	—	3 (4)	3 (5)	13	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	3	—	
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Total	105	73														16

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty-one cases were notified during the year and forty-nine were treated at the Isolation Hospital. Six of the cases occurred in institutions and there was one "return" case. This disease was chiefly of the prevalent mild type, but one death occurred.

Legal action was taken against the parents of a child who was definitely diagnosed as suffering from Scarlet Fever. Although the parents were so informed and warned as to the case being infectious, they removed the child to London in a taxicab without previously informing the owner or driver that the child was suffering from an infectious disease.

The parents were convicted and fined 10s. each and £2 17s. 6d. costs, the chairman of the Bench remarking that it was an offence the gravity of which cannot be over-emphasised.

Diphtheria.

Of the 14 cases notified all were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Five of the cases occurred in institutions. Two deaths occurred, and in each of these cases there was delay in seeking medical advice.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin.

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

In 1938 a total of 64,000 units of Diphtheria Anti-toxin were supplied to local medical practitioners, the total cost to the Council, in respect of 16,000 units issued free of cost for use in necessitous cases, in accordance with the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, was 14s. 4d.

The great importance of the administration of anti-toxin 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 admitted to the Isolation Hospital, is advocated.

Enteric Fever.

No case of typhoid fever was notified.

Dysentery.

Two cases of dysentery were notified. Both were mild cases and were not confirmed bacteriologically.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-four cases of acute primary or influenzal pneumonia were notified during the year. The number of deaths from all forms of Pneumonia was 13.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases were notified during the year. Two of the cases were treated at their homes, the parents being assisted in carrying out the doctor's instructions by the Health Visitors and in both these cases vision was unimpaired. The other case was an infant who was in hospital on account of convulsions and whose death was certified as due to Bronchitis.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

Non-notifiable Diseases.

Catarrhal conditions and Influenza were prevalent at the beginning and towards the end of the year. Three deaths were ascribed to Influenza during the year.

Information as to the existence of Measles, Chickenpox, Whooping Cough and Mumps is obtained chiefly through intimations sent by the head teachers, and during the year 33 cases of Chickenpox, six cases of Whooping Cough, 307 cases of Measles and 39 cases of Mumps were intimated by head teachers on the special form provided for the purpose.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This is carried out satisfactorily in the Borough and explanation of any failure to notify before death is required.

During the year one death occurred from Tuberculosis of a person who had not been notified during life, and a satisfactory explanation was received.

Investigations were made as to the possible need for taking action under Article 3 of the Public Health (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 Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1	2	—	3	2	1	—	—	1
5	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
10	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—
15	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
20	3	4	—	—	2	—	—	—
25	4	3	1	3	4	3	1	—
35	5	3	—	—	2	2	—	—
45	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	22	14	8	10	16	6	1	2

Percentage of non-notified tuberculosis deaths - 4.00

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	2	1*	2	—	—	1*

* Death certified as due to Bronchitis.

Vaccination.

The Vaccination Officers for the district have kindly supplied me with the following particulars, which, as regards the number of children unvaccinated, must be considered most unsatisfactory.

Of 506 children due for vaccination in the district, 30 were removed and 20 died unvaccinated. Particulars of the remaining 456 children are as follows :—

Successfully vaccinated	..	..	..	..	187
Vaccination postponed	..	..	..	..	Nil
Certificates procured by Conscientious Objectors	..	..	..	..	269
Insusceptible to vaccination	..	..	..	..	Nil

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

506 Entrants	205 (40.51%) were vaccinated.
557 Second age group	254 (45.60%) were vaccinated.
508 Third age group	251 (49.40%) were vaccinated.

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, including a small special motor van.

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 23 persons who had been killed by accident or had died from other causes.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

There are no part-time officers 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.

One Sanitary Inspector, who holds the Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

One Sanitary Inspector, who holds the Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland and the Food Hygiene Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Four Health Visitors, three of whom, in addition to being trained Nurses, hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and one who also holds the Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Two Clerks.

Two Disinfectors.

Complete lists of Public Health Officers of the Authority and of the medical and dental officers employed in connection with the School Medical Service are given at the beginning of each report.

Health Education.

In connection with the National Campaign to encourage the wider use of the health services in the area, posters were displayed and folders dealing with the different services were widely distributed.

The film "One Hundred Years" was displayed for a week at one of the local cinemas.

*LABORATORY FACILITIES.**Bacteriological Work.*

(a) At the Borough Bacteriological Laboratory at the Health Office the Medical Officer of Health carries out the ordinary bacteriological examinations required for the Borough.

During the year 1938 the specimens examined and reported upon were as follows:—

	Total number examined.	Number positive.
Swabs from noses and throats—as to presence of		
Diphtheria Bacilli	331	6
Sputum—as to presence of Tubercle Bacilli	49	3
Hair—as to presence of Ringworm Fungus	3	1
Blood—as to Widal Reaction	1	—
Swabs—for Gonococci	2	2
Total	386	12

(b) To the Kent County Pathological Laboratory, Maidstone, are sent samples of water from the public supply, from wells and from swimming pools. Tests as to virulence of cultures of diphtheria bacilli from patients or "carriers" are made on request and examinations of specimens for the isolation of special organisms are carried out.

The bacteriological examination of Graded and Ordinary Milks is also carried out at these laboratories, and during the year 58 samples were submitted, of which 18 were reported upon as being unsatisfactory. Ten samples of milk supplied to schools were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and one was positive. Frequent sediment tests taken by the Sanitary Inspectors at the cowsheds at the time of milking has helped to stimulate the interest of the various milkers regarding the necessity of clean milk production.

Chemical Work.

Samples of milk and other foodstuffs are submitted to the Public Analyst, South Eastern Laboratory, Canterbury, particulars of reports on samples sent during the year under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act and under the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations are given at the end of this report.

A chemical analysis of a sample of water from the public supply to the Borough is also made each quarter by the Public Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities, Nursing Arrangements.

No change or development was made in these services during the year. The two ambulances of the St. John Ambulance Brigade are adequate for all normal requirements.

Clinics, Treatment Centres, Hospitals.

These were as detailed in previous annual reports. At the end of the year the Isle of Thanet Joint Hospital Board decided that cases of Erysipelas could be admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Births.

During the year 501 births were notified; of these 488 were live births and 13 were still-births; one was not notified. Failure to notify births as required by the Public Health Act has now become infrequent in this Borough. In the event of failure the attention of the party is drawn to the omission and an explanation is requested.

Of the live births, doctors notified 198, midwives 281, doctors and midwives 22; seven of the still-births were notified by doctors and six by midwives. The number of live births registered for the Borough during the year was 442, giving a birth rate of 12.85 per 1,000, as compared with the rate of 14.21 in 1937.

Institutional Provision for Mothers.

The scheme under which complicated maternity cases, cases with pre-natal abnormalities and cases in which home conditions are unsuitable for confinement, are admitted to the Maternity Ward of the Ramsgate General Hospital on behalf of the Council, continued in force during the year, and 14 such cases were admitted.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

The arrangements which obtained in 1937 continued during the year.

Ante-Natal Clinics—Monday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.

'Toddlers' Clinics—Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.

Infant Consultation Clinics—Friday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.

During the year plans for the new Health Centre were approved by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and it is anticipated that the construction will be completed by October, 1939.

The number of children and attendances during 1938 are as follows :

Total number of children who first attended during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were—

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	283
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	61

Total number of children who attended and who at the end of the year were—

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	236
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	437

Total number of attendances by children

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	4,647
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	2,196

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers who attended	..	..	..	..	157
Total attendances	..	..	..	..	493

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 children under five years of age. Mothers who are granted milk are, as a rule, certified at the Centre to be in need of it for themselves or for their children, owing to health reasons, by the Medical Officer of the Centre; in other cases certificates are given by the Medical Officer of Health.

There was a considerable increase in the quantity of fresh and dried milk supplied as compared with that supplied in 1937, greater elasticity in the application of the scale adopted as to necessitous condition having been agreed upon.

The total amount of milk supplied by the Town Council (free of cost) and by the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Maternity Association (at cost price) was as follows:—

By the Town Council—						
Fresh milk	..	..	..	..	..	15,069 pints
Dried milk	..	..	..	..	..	1,308 lbs.
By the Association—						
Dried milk	..	..	..	..	..	7,170 lbs.

Work of Health Visitors.

The arrangements of the work of the Health Visitors as described in previous annual reports was continued, particulars of the work carried out during the year by the Council's four Health Visitors in connection with the home visiting of infants, young children and expectant mothers are as follows:—

Number of infants visited for first time in 1938	..	..	460
Number of infants visited during 1938	..	..	806
Number of visits to infants under 1 year of age	..	..	1,738
Number of children between 1 and 5 years visited	..	..	1,584
Number of visits to children between 1 and 5 years	..	..	3,894
Number of expectant mothers visited during 1938	..	..	68
Number of visits to expectant mothers	..	..	179
Number of visits to homes in connection with cases of Infectious Disease	..	..	33

Infant Life Protection.

The four Health Visitors act as Infant Life Protection Visitors under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Particulars of the work during the year are as follows:—

	Foster-Mothers.	Children.
Number on Register on 1st January, 1938	22	25
Number on Register on 31st December, 1938	15	23
Number of Reception Notices received	..	22
Number of notices of removal:		
(1) To addresses in the Borough	..	12
(2) To addresses outside the Borough	..	10
Number of visits paid by Health Visitors	..	201

Orthopædic Treatment.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Town Council participate in the Education Committee's scheme to secure orthopædic treatment for children. Details of the scheme, which was approved by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education at the end of 1928, were fully stated in the annual report for that year.

During the year, one child received treatment at the National Orthopædic Hospital, Stanmore, and one child at the St. Thomas's Babies' Hospital.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

Two maternity homes, each for one patient, and one nursing home for eight medical patients, were on the register during the year. Eight visits of inspection were made by the Medical Officer of Health.

No application for registration was received during the year.

A list of the registered nursing homes is periodically sent to all medical practitioners practising in the Borough with a request to notify the existence of any unregistered nursing home.

Provision of Home Helps.

An extension of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme during the year was the arrangement for the provision of a service of home helps which was approved by the Ministry of Health in January. The Committee interviewed applicants for the position and appointed six women to form a rota, orders to attend and assist daily at the homes of mothers after confinement being issued strictly in accordance with this rota.

The financial circumstances of each applicant for the services of a home help is considered by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and a recommendation is made to the Council as to the amount of the contribution towards the cost to be made by the applicant.

During the year home helps were supplied in three cases at a cost to the Council of £8 15s., of which amount applicants contributed £3.

The duties of home helps and the conditions of their employment by the Council are given in the following list, a copy of which is given with each order.

DUTIES OF HOME HELPS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

The Home Help must be prepared to be called out any morning up to 12 noon. She must attend daily at the home between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (Sundays excepted).

She must—

- (a) Keep the home in a clean and orderly condition;
- (b) Do the necessary cooking for the family;
- (c) See that the children are properly looked after during the time she is in attendance;
- (d) Do two weeks' washing for not more than two adults and six children if attending for a fortnight.

She must not interfere with the instructions of doctor or midwife. She is not allowed to wash the patient, nor make the bed, nor undertake the duty of a nurse.

She must supply her own food and is strictly forbidden to have any intoxicating drink while on duty.

She must be clean and tidy in appearance, be very particular regarding the cleanliness of her nails, and wear overalls or pinafores while on duty.

She must be prepared to attend at any home within the Borough on the receipt of a written order from the Medical Officer of Health.

In case of an infectious disease occurring in her own home, she must cease attendance at the house of the patient and report to the Health Office.

If by reason of personal illness or other cause she would be unable to accept an order on any day, she must notify the Health Office before 10 a.m.

Any conduct on the part of the Home Help to which exception is taken will be reported to the Public Health Committee, who may cease to employ the Home Help.

Payment at the rate of 5s. (less National Health Insurance contribution) for each full day's service will be made by the Public Health Department as soon as proof is obtained of satisfactory service for 12 days. No charge must be made to the patient. A written order will be sent to the Home Help when her services are required, giving name and address of patient. Without such order payment cannot be guaranteed. If requested to attend a case in an emergency the written order will be forwarded later.

W. J. BANNISTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1938.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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 adits and thence to the pumping station at Whitehall, which is situated in the northern part of the Borough, and to the supplementary pumping station at the "Lord of the Manor."

The high degree of purity of the constant water supply and the fact that this obtained throughout the year was shown by the results of the examination of the numerous samples submitted.

A sample is sent each quarter to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. The following report on a sample taken in June, 1938, is typical :—

Description.	Parts per 100,000.
Appearance	Clear
Colour	Blue-green
Smell	Normal
Chlorine in Chlorides	11.60
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.24
Ammonia	Trace only
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0030
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.018
Hardness before boiling (Total)	7.3
Hardness after boiling (Permanent)	2.5
Total solid matter	57.20
Microscopical examination of Deposit	Slight and unimportant
Metallic Impregnation (Copper, Lead, Zinc)	None

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 in Chlorides," "Hardness" and "Total solid matter" are higher than when last examined in March last.

During the year six samples of the water were taken by the Medical Officer of Health each month from different places in the Borough for bacteriological examination. The results of bacteriological examination of two samples taken and examined by the Water Department each week were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health.

The results of examinations of samples taken in June and December, 1938, were as follows:—

No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at—	Samples taken in June.			Samples taken in Dec.		
	Well at Pumping Station.	East.	West.	Well at Pumping Station.	East.	West.
37 degrees C.	0	0	1	4	0	0
22 degrees C.	0	0	2	2	2	0
B. Coli in 100 c.c.	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

The remarks in last year's report regarding the existence of cesspools and their being a potential source of danger still apply. The importance of being able to obtain fair samples of untreated water from the adits is obvious, and at the end of the year special arrangements were being made to enable such samples to be taken, the well at the pumping station, the only place hitherto available, was found to be unsatisfactory owing to the water therein having been found to contain available chlorine.

Very careful consideration was given during the year to the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1684 and to the separate communication addressed to undertakers deriving water for public supply from borings into chalk. All the known facts in connection with possible sources of danger to the public water supply of the Borough were given to the Public Health Committee, who accepted the advice of the Medical Officer of Health and decided to advise the Council to obtain the opinion of an expert on water supplies as to action which might be taken to ensure complete security in all circumstances.

At a conference of representatives of the Public Health Committee and the Water Department early in 1939 it was definitely decided to employ a recognised expert on water supplies to furnish a report on all aspects of the matter.

The chlorinating and water softening plants functioned throughout the year. Ample reserves of water were available and the average daily consumption per head was 39.92 gallons, as compared with 38.3 and 36.5 per head in the years 1937 and 1936 respectively.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage of the Borough flows by gravitation in the water carriage system from all parts of the town to the outfall sewer, which discharges itself into the sea at a point 1,250 feet from the shore.

Increase in the amount of sewage and surface water carried takes place each year with the construction of new streets and houses, and in order to deal better with the increased volume at time of excessive rainfall the storm overflows have been widened at two places and a by-pass formed at the outfall in order to relieve back pressure.

The construction of sewers to serve those areas of the Borough in which the large and increasing number of cesspools are situated is a matter which requires consideration, as is also the desirability of some form of treatment of the sewage before its ultimate disposal.

A systematic examination of the cesspools was commenced during 1938 and this work was still proceeding at the end of the year. These visits of examination make considerable additional demands on the time of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of 336 houses on the outskirts of the Borough, all houses are connected with the water carriage system, the soil pipes 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 the 336 houses mentioned.

Of these, 274 are connected to cesspools, 55 have pail closets, 2 have chemical closets, 2 have earth closets, and 3 have privies.

Manston Cottage Homes and St. Lawrence Extra Schools have a combined septic tank system.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse.

The Corporation collects refuse from all premises in the town; this is conveyed to the four-celled Horsfall Destructor. This work is carried out by the Works Department and the Borough Engineer has supplied information that 10,822 tons 15 cwts. 1 qr. were collected and dealt with during the year, the average amount each month being 901 tons 17 cwts. In addition, 992 loads of road sweepings and 230 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 Byelaws, were continued: 790 visits to premises were made in connection with the provision of sanitary bins and 517 bins were supplied after service of preliminary notice.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement summarises the work carried out during the year by Inspectors and has been prepared by Mr. E. Young, Senior 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.

Complaints.

Number of complaints received and dealt with	368
------------------------------------------------------	-----

Inspections.

Under Public Health Acts and other Acts, Regulations and Orders	13,600
Of houses, number inspected under Housing Acts	1,551
Inspections of drainage systems and subsequent revisits	1,212
Drains tested	337
In connection with Infectious Diseases	150
Animals, keeping of	8
Bakehouses	140
Cowsheds	116
Common Lodging Houses	22
Camping Sites and Caravans	105
Fish Fryers	43
Food Shops	253
Factories	192
Houses let in lodgings	130
Ice Cream Vendors	70
Marine Stores, etc.	25
Milkshops and Dairies	154
Merchandise Marks Act	260
Outworkers	2
Overcrowding	199
Premises licensed for music and dancing	70
Premises as to provision of refuse receptacles	790
Premises with reference to rat infestation	128
Repairs and subsequent revisits	513
Restaurants	143
Schools	48
Shipping	21
Slaughter-houses	1,209
Stables	58
Tuberculosis cases	86
Verminous premises	62
Shops Act	375
Miscellaneous	347

Notices Served, etc.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	272
Nuisances abated on notice or letter	241
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	275

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH DRAINAGE AND HOUSING.

The following defects were remedied and improvements carried out :—

Houses re-drained	37
Houses at which drains were repaired	94
Choked drains cleared	23
Intercepting traps fixed	37
Gully traps fixed	99
Inspection chambers built, new covers provided and rendered	95
Fresh air inlet valves fixed	27
Cesspools emptied	126
Disused cesspools filled in	7
Cesspools repaired	2
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	69
W.C. pans fixed	217
Additional W.C.'s built	32
Additional urinals fixed	22

Urinals repaired or cleansed	24
New flushing cisterns provided	70
Flushing cisterns repaired	3
New sinks and baths provided	126
Additional sinks provided	22
Sink waste pipes renewed and trapped	127
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	41
Rain water pipes disconnected from drain	7
Roofs repaired	55
External walls repointed or repaired	2
External walls cement rendered	4
Walls treated with damp-proofing material	6
Wall plaster and ceilings repaired	44
Floors relaid or repaired	14
Windows repaired	18
Sash cords renewed	39
Windows made to open	4
Stoves repaired or renewed	24
Coppers repaired or renewed	9
Water supply pipes renewed	44
Rooms fumigated and cleansed for vermin	60
Houses renovated	22
Chimney stacks and flues repaired	10
Handrails to staircases provided	1
Ventilated food cupboards fixed	11
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	50
Miscellaneous repairs	44
Accumulations removed	17
Urinals removed	1
Sanitary bins provided	517
Overcrowding abated	53
Miscellaneous	21

Schools.

Sanitary conveniences inspected	48
Number of schools at which additional closet accommodation was provided	2

Disinfestation of premises.

(1) Number found to be infested.

(a) Council houses	14
(b) Other houses	17

(2) Number of premises disinfested.

(a) Council houses	14
(b) Other houses	17

Disinfestation of premises other than Council houses is carried out by local builders under the supervision of the Sanitary Authority, and as in previous years, proprietary compounds such as Cimex blocks and Bombay liquid have been employed.

The bedding, etc., belonging to tenants in houses scheduled for demolition is examined prior to removal to Council houses. If found to be verminous, the Corporation disinfest free of charge in their steam disinfector, in several cases where the bedding was old, in addition to being verminous, it was destroyed by the Corporation staff at the request of the tenants.

Whenever disinfestation is carried out for tenants they are instructed how to prevent re-infestation and co-operate in washing bedsteads, picture frames, etc., with the use of "Bombay" liquid. There is evidence that with the removal to improved surroundings this education has led to suppression of vermin and engendered a desire to live under better conditions.

Disinfection.

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

Disease or cause.					No. of Rooms
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	69
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	29
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	71
Cancer	...	...	...	...	13
Other causes	...	...	...	...	21

Also 518 sets of bedding, clothing, etc., were removed from houses, disinfected at the station and returned. A suitable motor van is used for this purpose. The Corporation's Disinfecting Station, in which is installed a Manlove Alliott Steam Disinfector, is situated in Broad Street.

Sanitation of Schools.

All public elementary schools in the Borough are supplied with lavatory basins with water from the public supply, and with the exception of one school, St. Lawrence Extra, the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. A special report on the unsatisfactory arrangements at St. Lawrence Extra Schools was made by the Medical Officer of Health, but conditions had not been remedied by the end of the year.

Action taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among school children is referred to in the report on the School Medical Service, 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.

No action was taken during 1938 for school closure by the Sanitary Authority under Article 57 of the Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, 1922.

The sanitary conditions of the schools were inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors on 48 occasions during 1938.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one Common Lodging House on the register. This is situated in Central Road and is registered for 36 males.

Considerable improvements, such as the erection of a brick building and washing facilities and additional closet accommodation, were effected before a licence was granted under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. The premises have been kept under observation during the year and 22 visits of inspection were made. Two minor defects discovered were remedied and the house has been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition and well conducted.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There were 25 of these houses on the register during 1938, to which 130 visits of inspection were made. No proceedings under the Byelaws were found necessary; any defects discovered were remedied.

Slaughter-houses.

In the early part of the year there were 7 private slaughter-houses in the Borough. The Corporation acquired the ownership of one registered slaughter-house under a road widening scheme and the premises were closed pending demolition. Of the 6 other slaughter-houses, 5 are registered and one is licensed yearly.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 1209 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 fairly satisfactory condition and no occasion arose for any action under the Regulations or Byelaws.

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 abolition of these slaughter-houses would appear to be the only remedy for the unsatisfactory conditions now existing.

During the year one person was licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter-house, making a total of 30 persons who hold licences. All animals are stunned by mechanical means, and in two slaughter-houses electrical stunning apparatus is used.

Offensive Trades.

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

	Premises	Inspections.
Fish Fryers	19	43
Marine Store Dealers	5	21
Fat Melters and Bone Boilers	1	4

The premises were kept in a satisfactory condition. Minor defects discovered at visits of inspections were remedied promptly. All the fried fish shops in the Borough are fitted with modern fish frying ranges.

Stables.

Owing to difficulty in securing a frequent removal of manure and to reduce fly infestation to a minimum, the Council by resolution now require, under the provisions of Section 80 of the Public Health Act, 1936, removal twice weekly of manure from the 1st June to the 30th September, and removal once weekly from the 1st October to the 31st May.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Sanitary Conditions of Theatres, Music Halls, etc.

The places of public amusement licensed for public music and dancing in the Borough numbered 59 and may be classified as follows :

Cinemas and Music Halls	5
Theatres	2
Halls (religious denominations and others)	14
Hotels and Restaurants	24
Miscellaneous	14
	—
	59
	—

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

All sanitary defects discovered were remedied upon attention being called to them.

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 128 inspections of premises were made. During "Rat Week" the usual campaign was undertaken; advertisements were inserted and articles published in 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." In addition the Senior Sanitary Inspector was fortunate in having loaned to him for display of notices during Rat Week the window of an unoccupied shop in one of the main thoroughfares near the centre of the town. In this window were placed various types of traps, varieties of poisons, prepared specimens of two kinds of rat found in this country, as well as various posters and notices.

A large number of poison baits were laid in sewer headings and special attention was given to premises likely to be harbouring rats and mice, in particular the Corporation's refuse dump. There is no doubt that a large number of rats were destroyed during the campaign.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

TABLE I.

Premises.	No of Inspections	No. of Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	94	24	—
Factories without mechanical power	98	11	—
Other premises	—	—	—
Total	192	35	—

TABLE II.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness ..	15	15	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	4	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	11	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	4	4	—	—
Total	35	24	—	—

TABLE III.

HOMEWORK.

Outworkers' Lists. Section 110.						
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	20	—	20	10	—	10
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Trades	6	—	6	3	—	3
Total	26	—	26	13	—	13
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists :—						
Making Wearing Apparel	—					
Furniture and Upholstery	—					
Total	—					

TABLE IV.

FACTORIES ON REGISTER AT END OF THE YEAR.

	Mechanical	Non-Mechanical
Bakehouses	32	10
Building trades	12	13
Upholsterers	1	2
Plumbers and tinsmiths	2	4
Watch and clock repairs	2	6
Tailors	—	7
Printers	6	—
Laundries	5	1
Milliners and dressmakers	—	3
Motor engineers	11	5
Boot and shoe repairs	4	1
Timber yards and saw mills	3	—
Miscellaneous	29	14
	107	66

TABLE V.

OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Improper fencing of machinery	1
Matters notified by H.M. Inspector to Council:	1
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

The majority of factories were inspected at the end of 1938, with the result that only a few of the larger defects, such as badly arranged sanitary accommodation without the necessary intervening ventilated space, were remedied before the end of the year.

Bakehouses.

The number of Bakehouses in the Borough and on the register at the end of the year was 42, and of these only four are underground bakehouses. The number of notices served and verbal notices given in connection with bakehouses during the year was 10, and 140 inspections were made. The notices served were 6 as to limewashing, 3 dirty floors, and 1 damp walls.

These defects were in each case remedied.

Rag Flocks Acts, 1911 to 1928.

No action was found to be necessary under these Acts during 1938.

Shops Act, 1934.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 375 visits regarding the requirements of Section 10 as to the arrangements for shop ventilation, temperature and sanitary and washing facilities, etc.

Under the provision of the Shops Act and Public Health Act, 1936, considerable attention was given to the sanitary conveniences of Public Houses in the Borough during the year. As a result of such inspections, 7 Public Houses have been modernised as regards sanitary conveniences and additional accommodation provided, and in 45 cases schemes will be put forward for reconstruction or alteration during 1939.

Camping Sites.

There is no doubt that holiday-making on camping sites is becoming popular and that 1938 showed a great increase in the number of campers over previous years. This is likely to continue now the sites are equipped with adequate sanitary arrangements and are subject to more control.

The Council received applications from 7 persons for licences to use land as camping sites and 5 licences were granted, two being refused as the sites were considered unsuitable. In addition there were 7 other sites used for short periods by Boy Scouts and works organisations, etc.

It is estimated that in the peak period in early August there were 1,000 persons camping in the Borough.

Ninety-two visits were paid to the camping sites during the year and they were found to be well conducted.

A prosecution for using an unlicensed camping ground for more than 42 consecutive days resulted in the defendant being fined £1.

Swimming Pool.

The Marina salt water swimming pool is privately owned but is open to the public.

Visits for the purpose of inspecting the sanitation of the arrangements, taking of samples of water from the pool for bacteriological examination and investigation as to the working of the continuous filtration and chlorination plant, are made by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors.

This is a modern pool constructed in 1935 and the efficiency of the plant, under the control of an engineer, in maintaining the purity of the water has been shown by the bacteriological reports on samples of the pool water.

Samples of water from three parts of the pool were taken in June, July and on two occasions in August.

The results of the bacteriological examination of the samples taken on 3rd August, when the pool was being used to its maximum capacity, was as follows:—

	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar		B. Coli (presumptive)
	at 37 C.	at 22 C.	
1. Sample taken from West end of Pool	2	8	Absent in 100 c.c.s.
2. Sample taken from Middle of Pool ..	40	42	Absent in 100 c.c.s.
3. Sample taken from East end of Pool	0	0	Absent in 100 c.c.s.

Aircraft Regulations.

The Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1938, came into operation on 1st July, 1938, and for the Ramsgate Airport certain existing wooden buildings at the airport were approved for the purposes of the Regulations. The Medical Officer of Health was appointed Medical Officer of the Airport and the Senior Sanitary Inspector was appointed as Assistant Officer.

The premises of the Ramsgate Airport being partly in the area of the Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District District, it was subsequently agreed that the Medical Officer of Health of that district should deputise for the Medical Officer of Health during periods when he may be away from Ramsgate.

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE A.

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1938.

		Number	Tonnage	Number inspected.		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
				By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector			
Foreign	Steamers	73	28038	—	3	1	—	—
	* Motor ...	158	5887	—	5	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	18	124	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing...	159	1617	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ...		408	35666	—	8	1	—	—
Coastwise	Steamers ...	218	90301	—	5	2	1	—
	* Motor ...	712	22804	—	8	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	131	3266	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ...	7	215	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise ...		1068	116586	—	13	2	1	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...		1476	152252	—	21	3	1	—

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

Included as entering the port under Table A are vessels engaged in passenger traffic during the summer months, private yachts and foreign fishing vessels seeking shelter during bad weather.

II.—CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

(a) *Passenger traffic during the year.*

This is limited to short coastal trips during the summer months.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*

The imports from foreign ports consist chiefly of timber and cement; coal is imported from the Tyne, wheat re-shipped from the London Docks, and salt. A large number of the entries is in connection with the important fishing industry based at the Port of Ramsgate.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.*

Mainly from ports in Sweden, Belgium and Finland. During 1938 vessels arrived from Skoghall, Trangsund, Kasko, Antwerp, Flenburg, Kauma, Helsingfors and Copenhagen.

III.—SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

The constant water supply of the Borough is available for the port and for shipping. No water boats are in use.

IV.—PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

- 1.—Declarations of Health are obtained by the Preventive Officer of H.M. Customs and Excise, and forwarded immediately to the Port Medical Officer of Health.
- 2.—All vessels on arrival are boarded by the Customs Officers.
- 3.—Vessels which enter Ramsgate Harbour have hitherto not been equipped with wireless transmitting apparatus.
- 4.—Proposals as to Mooring Stations, submitted by the Port Medical Officer of Health, and under consideration since 1933, were agreed to by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise in January, 1935, and are established as follows :—
 - (a) Under Article 10 (1)—Mooring Station within Docks—the place of mooring, discharge or loading, the ship being shored off from the quay and so moored so as to prevent contact with any other ship.
 - (b) Under Article 10 (2)—Additional Mooring Station outside Docks—the Outer Middle Ground Buoy in the Outer Basin of Ramsgate Harbour.
- 5.—Standing Exemption from the provisions of Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer in respect of ships with infectious diseases other than cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever, and smallpox on board, and ships otherwise clean arriving from ports in areas listed under Article 11.
- 6.—In the event of any vessel arriving with infectious disease or suspected infectious disease on board, no person would be allowed to board or leave the vessel without the permission of the Medical Officer.
- 7.—(a) No premises or waiting rooms are available for medical examination.
- (b) Facilities for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings exist at the Council's Disinfecting and Cleansing Stations. Any fumigation found to be necessary in a ship after infectious disease would be carried out by the Health Department.
- (c) No premises are available for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purpose of the Regulations.
- (d) The Infectious Diseases Hospitals for the Borough are available if required.
- (e) The existing ambulance facilities for the Borough are available if required.
- (f) Any contacts would remain under the supervision of the Medical Officer.

- 8.—No special arrangements have been made for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats; if necessary, examinations would be made at the County Laboratory, Maidstone.
- 9.—The arrangements made and facilities available in the Borough for other bacteriological and pathological examinations would apply.
- 10.—Information as to the facilities available for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases is given by means of posters displayed at various places in the Harbour and by means of leaflets handed to the crews. Posters giving such information and printed in the German, Scandinavian and English languages, are displayed in the various conveniences in the harbour.
- 11.—No special arrangements have been made for interment of dead.

TABLE C.

No case of infectious sickness was landed from any vessel during the year.

TABLE D.

No case of infectious disease occurred during the voyage on any vessel which arrived at the port during the year.

V.—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Owing to the work of extermination carried out in previous years, the presence of rats was not evident. Traps laid at various places in the harbour, but only occasionally rats are caught.

TABLES E AND F.

Rats destroyed in 1938	Nil
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TABLE G.

Vessels "infected" or "suspected" from infected ports ...	Nil
Vessels submitted to measures of rat destruction ...	Nil

VI.—HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

During the year three ships were found to have defects. One defect, namely, dirty w.c. pan on a British vessel, was remedied on attention being called to it. A broken w.c. pan was discovered on a Swedish ship and as yet I have no intimation of the same having been remedied. Other defects were an offensive w.c. pan, faulty discharge pipe from crew's closet, flushing apparatus to officers' closet broken, and smashed lockers in galley on a British ship. A letter drawing attention to these defects was sent to the owners and a copy also forwarded to the Board of Trade.

VII.—FOOD INSPECTION.

- 1.—No food is imported into the Borough by means of vessels entering the Harbour.
- 2.—*Shellfish.* The cockle beds at Pegwell Bay are known to be polluted and the Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations were made by the Minister of Health and came into force on 1st December, 1925, with a view to the control of the sale and distribution of cockles gathered from these beds.

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.”

3.—In connection with Port Sanitary Administration, no samples of food were taken during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

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

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	605
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1551
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	188
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	359
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(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 ...	467

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	415
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

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

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied 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	59
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
(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

OVERCROWDING.

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	43
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	43
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	275
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	26
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	53
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	333
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	None	
(e)		Houses licensed to exceed Permitted Number during the summer season	... ..	6

The five year plan of unfit properties submitted in 1933 to the Ministry of Health related to 112 houses. The scheme was accelerated and by the time of completion in 1938, 89 additional houses had also been dealt with under Clearance Orders.

The two Clearance Orders confirmed during 1938 were Camden Cottages area of two houses and Leopold Street area of 32 houses. The latter area was the largest area yet dealt with and in order to properly develop the site, the Corporation decided to acquire, under a Compulsory Purchase Order, other properties in addition to those scheduled as being unfit for human habitation.

In connection with Clearance Orders made in 1937 and 1938, a total of 39 houses were demolished during the year.

The development of the Council's housing estates was completed during the year by the construction of 80 houses. This scheme, begun in 1926, has involved the building of 583 houses by the Council; of these, 260 are "parlour" type, 299 "non-parlour" type, and 24 are maisonnettes for aged couples.

There is still a demand for the smaller type of houses at a low rental. Difficulties arise in connection with existing large type houses in which inadequate alterations have been made by the owners to make them suitable for two or more tenants. High rents are often charged and there is a reluctance on the part of the owners to let houses to tenants with large families.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, SECTION 62.

Number of houses in which owners have requested " Permitted

Numbers " for insertion in rent book ...	...	...	863
Number of houses inspected ...	...	...	784
Number of rooms measured ...	...	...	4423

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—Milk Supply.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year and the number of inspections and notices served during the year is shown in the following table:—

Premises.	No. of premises.	No. of inspections.	Notices served.
Cowsheds ...	7	116	—
Dairies ...	30	144	—
Other shops ...	134	10	—

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Licences granted by the Kent County Council :

To produce Accredited Milk	5
--------------------------------	-----	---

Licences issued by the Borough Council :

To distribute " Tuberculin Tested " Milk bottled outside the Borough ...	...	8
To Pasteurise Milk ...	...	3
To distribute Pasteurised Milk not bottled on the premises ...	...	4

RESULTS OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1938.

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total
Samples from Public Elementary Schools ...	12	6	18
Samples from other sources ...	28	12	40
Total ...	40	18	58

RESULTS OF BIOLOGICAL TESTS FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

			Positive.	Negative.	Total
Samples for Public Elementary Schools	...	...	1	9	10
Samples for other sources	...	...	—	10	10
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	1	19	20
			—	—	—

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 six private slaughter-houses in the Borough, but supervision is rendered difficult owing to butchers being free to kill at any time 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, and much improvement, particularly in the conveyance of foodstuffs through streets, etc., has been effected under the Byelaws which came into force in November, 1935.

Ice Cream.

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 quantity of the article sold as such is possibly inferior in quality. Considerable time is occupied by the Sanitary Inspectors in supervising vendors on the streets and sands, the cleanliness of their barrows and utensils not always being all that is desirable, but it is gratifying to note that there has been a steady decrease during the last four years in the number of persons who manufacture ice cream in their houses and distribute it on barrows in the town.

Number of Ice Cream Vendors selling from barrows, stalls, etc.	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Vendors at shops, restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	18
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	70

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed	237	Nil	343	2487	3844
Number inspected	237	Nil	330	1123	3835
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	19	Nil	Nil	23	211
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.02%	Nil	Nil	2.14%	5.8%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	18	Nil	Nil	Nil	202
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.44%	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.8%

PARTICULARS OF FOOD CONDEMNED.

Beef.

		lbs.
2 Carcasses and all offal ..	Tuberculosis	1,486
3 Forequarters	do.	527
18 Heads and tongues ..	do.	360
6 Lungs	do.	24
3 Hearts	do.	15
1 Mesentery and intestines	do.	25
4 Mesenteric fats	do.	32
1 Skirt	do.	4
1 Kidney and fat	do.	5
1 Stomach	do.	10
17 Livers	Fasciola Hepaticum	204
2 Livers	Abscesses	24
Kidney fat	Decomposition	12

Pork.

19 Carcasses and all offal ..	Tuberculosis	2,090
11 Carcasses and all offal ..	Erysipelas	1,251
3 Carcasses and all offal ..	Pneumonia	515
2 Carcasses and all offal ..	Septicæmia	214
2 Carcasses and all offal ..	Jaundice	208
178 Heads and tongues ..	Tuberculosis	1,780
3 Livers	do.	9
2 Haslets	do.	6
19 Plucks	do.	114
101 Stomachs & Mesenteries	do.	299
153 Livers	Cirrhosis	459
9 Livers	Hepatitis	27
5 Livers	Parasites and Cysts	18
11 Lungs	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	22
2 Lungs	Strongyli and Abscess	4
11 Plucks	Pleurisy, Pneumonia & Hepatitis	66
3 Plucks	Pneumonia & Cirrhosis	18
15 Hearts	Pericarditis	4
Miscellaneous Joints, etc.	Bruising & Decomposition	106

Mutton and Lamb.

1 Sheep and all offal ..	Emaciation and Pyrexia	52
2 Sets lungs	Strongyli	3
19 Livers	Fasciola Hepaticum	38
2 Livers	Cysts and Parasites	4

Beef (Imported).

Hindquarter Meat	..	Mould	..	..	690
do.	..	Decomposition	..	..	210
do.	..	Bruised	..	..	171
do.	..	Lipomatous Atrophy	..	..	51
do.	..	Abscess	..	..	35
Forequarter Meat	..	Mould	..	..	1,283
do.	..	Decomposition	..	..	342

Mutton and Lamb (Imported).

1 New Zealand lamb	..	Mould	38
--------------------	----	-------	----	----	----

Fish.

Wet	..	..	Decomposition	..	1,974
Dried	..	..	do.	..	591
Prawns	..	..	do.	..	483
Cockles	..	..	do.	..	60
Jellied Eels	..	..	do.	..	92

Poultry.

6 Ducklings	..	..	Decomposition	..	30
2 Turkeys	..	..	do.	..	26
1 Case of chickens	..	..	do.	..	95

Miscellaneous.

279 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint bottles milk	..	Sour	..	..	105
1 Tinned brisket	..	Decomposition	..	..	4
1 Tin sheep liver	..	do.	..	..	3
1 Tinned gammon	..	do.	..	..	16
1 tin lambs tongues	..	do.	..	..	1
1 Tin Chinese egg yolks	..	do.	..	..	11
5 Tins Spaghetti	..	Unsound	..	..	5
2 Boxes chocolates	..	Unwholesome	..	..	2
4 Boxes crystallised fruit	..	do.	..	..	2
15 Boxes cheese	..	Unsound	..	..	8
3 Jars chicken & ham paste	..	do.	..	..	1
12 Packets jelly crystals	..	do.	..	..	3
112 Packets pudding mixture	..	Unwholesome	..	..	56
441 Eggs	..	Unwholesome	..	..	56

Total weight of all food condemned 7 tons 8 cwts. 1 qr. 3 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

During the year 104 samples (76 formal and 28 informal) were taken by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is the Officer appointed under the Act, and the following were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample.	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	63	2	61	4
Milk separated	1	—	1	—
Butter	—	4	4	—
Sausage	7	—	7	—
Cream	—	4	4	—
Self-raising flour ..	—	3	3	—
Cocoa	—	3	3	—
Vinegar Malt	3	—	3	—
Cordials	—	4	4	—
Sweets	1	—	1	—
Jam	1	—	1	—
Mint Sauce	—	1	1	—
Pastes (Meat and Fish)	—	3	3	—
Sponge Pudding ..	—	1	1	—
Barley Powder	—	1	1	—
Sauce	—	1	1	—
Honey	—	1	1	—

The Public Analyst's reports on the samples of milk taken during the year show the average to be above the recognised minimum standard.

The average figures are : Fat 3.49, non-fatty solids 8.84; total solids 12.33.

Particulars of the four samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine and action taken in regard to each sample :—

Sample No.	Article.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.	Result.
88	Milk	9% deficient in fat	Vendor Cautioned	
101	Milk	2% " " "	"	
115	Milk	57% " " "	Prosecution	Fined £1
150	Milk	6.7% " " "	Vendor cautioned	

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

The following 94 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	...	...	...	...	66
Butter	...	...	...	...	4
Sausages	...	...	...	...	7
Cream	...	...	...	...	4
Cordial	...	...	...	...	4
Jam	...	...	...	...	1
Pastes (Fish and Meat)	...	...	...	...	3
Sponge Pudding	...	...	...	...	1
Barley Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Vinegar (Malt)	...	...	...	...	3

Shellfish.

A considerable quantity of cockles is gathered from a portion of Pegwell Bay situate outside the Borough boundary, and brought into the town for cooking in two steam sterilising plants approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

In addition to these cockles, others are sent into the Borough from Whitstable, Leigh-on-Sea and King's Lynn. A small quantity of oysters is received from Whitstable, but most of the oysters and mussels are received from Billingsgate Market.

Reference is made to the Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations in connection with the report on Port Sanitary Administration.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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

School Medical Staff.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

F. W. G. SMITH, M.A., M.Ch., M.D., B.A.O., D.O.M.S., D.P.H.

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 Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the
Ramsgate General Hospital.

Dental Surgeon:

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

Health Visitors:

†Miss G. CLARK.

Miss A. Ashwell.

†Miss W. CARPENTER.

Miss R. HOWELLS.

*†Miss D. GRIFFITHS.

†Health Visitor's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Certificated Midwife, Central Midwives Board.

Clerks :

J. S. ROBERTSON.

R. M. 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, 1938.

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 half of their time to clerical work in connection with the service. Each Health Visitor carries out the work required in an assigned area, devoting approximately one-half of her time to the School Medical Service.

2. Co-ordination.

The arrangements outlined in previous annual reports continued during the year. Greater facilities for co-ordination will arise on the reorganisation of the Maternity and Child Welfare work in the Borough and the conducting of all clinics in connection with this work and the School Medical Service at the proposed new Health Centre.

3. School Hygiene.

In previous Annual Reports details as to the hygienic conditions of the public elementary schools in the Borough were given. It is regrettable to have to report the continued existence of the very unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements at St. Lawrence Extra Schools, in reference to which a special report was made by me to the Education Committee at the end of 1937. That report advocated the abolition of all obsolete trough closets, etc., and the provision of accommodation in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Education.

The sanitary accommodation at the public elementary schools was inspected on 48 occasions during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors. Additional sanitary accommodation was provided in two of the schools.

The accommodation in the public elementary schools of the Authority is for 5,340 children, the average number on the registers for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1938, was 4,509, and the average attendance was 4,084.

The building of the new school at Ellington, referred to in last year's report, was well advanced towards the end of the year. When completed, this school will be available in connection with the reorganisation scheme for the accommodation of 300 infants on the closure of the Infants' Departments of Ellington and of St. Lawrence Schools. The question of the date for the erection of a new school for 300 senior boys at Hollicondane, as part of the reorganisation scheme, was under discussion at the end of the year.

4. Medical Inspection.

The arrangements in connection with Routine Medical Inspections, the medical examination of "specials," and re-inspections, as detailed

in the annual report for 1936, were continued during the year. The number of children examined at routine inspections of the code age groups was 1,571, and the number of "specials" examined and dealt with during the year was 637.

5. Findings of Medical Inspection.

(a) *Nutrition.*

The classification of the nutrition of children examined at the routine medical inspections is given in Table II (B).

Of the 1,638 children examined in the routine age groups, 1,600, or 97.67 per cent., were found to be of excellent or normal nutrition, and 38, or 2.32 per cent., of sub-normal nutrition, as compared with 97.73 per cent. and 2.26 per cent. respectively in 1937.

Children who were referred as "specials" during the year, those found to be of sub-normal nutrition at the routine inspections, as well as those remaining of sub-normal nutrition from previous years, were periodically examined by the School Medical Officer during 1938. Of 322 such children, it was found that 37 remained in Category C and one in Category D at the end of the year.

(b) *Uncleanliness.*

In addition to the Routine Medical Examinations of children at the school, 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 1,638 children, two children were found to be verminous and four children unclean, as compared with 10 children verminous and three unclean in 1937. At the surveys as to cleanliness of skin, hair, scalp and clothing, 15,126 examinations of children were made by the Health Visitors, who found 27 children verminous and 65 children unclean, as compared with 21 verminous and 83 unclean in 1937.

(c) *Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.*

The minor ailments found during the year at Routine Inspections and at the Inspection Clinic are detailed in Official Table II, and the number of such 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 one new case of scalp ringworm came under observation, as compared with nine in 1937, and 32 cases of scabies as compared with 24 in 1937, 69 cases of impetigo as compared with 25 in 1937.

(d) *Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases.*

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 98, among "Specials" 24.

A total of 26 cases of external eye disease were referred for treatment during the year, as compared with 22 in 1937.

(e) *Nose and Throat.*

During the year a total of 92 children were found to have abnormality of their tonsils or adenoid tissue which required treatment of some kind. The abnormal conditions 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 56 received operative treatment for the removal of excessive lymphoid tissue.

(f) *Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.*

Fifteen cases of otitis media and thirteen cases of other ear conditions were referred for treatment during the year.

(g) *Dental Defects.*

In Table V 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 363 of the 1,638 children inspected had teeth in a perfectly sound condition.

(h) *Orthopædic and Postural Defects.*

Seven children who had deformities came under observation at the routine inspections and among "specials." The defects of children referred to in Table III causing crippling included paralysis of different degrees following infantile paralysis.

(i) *Heart Disease and Rheumatism.*

Twenty-one cases of organic heart disease and four cases of functional heart disease were discovered during the year. These cases were referred for treatment as necessary and kept under observation.

(j) *Tuberculosis.*

Four children in a pre-tuberculous condition came under observation during the year. No child suspected to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis came under observation at the routine inspections or among specials. One of these children was 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 these children have to be excluded from school for long periods.

(k) *Other Defects and Diseases.*

Twenty-nine cases of other defects were referred for treatment at the routine inspections and 166 cases among "Specials." Among these were cases of hernia, sprains, general debility, vermes, etc.

6. Following Up.

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 of 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 634 found to have defective vision who were referred for refraction, no fewer than 579 were dealt with at the Eye Clinic; 1,264 children were referred for dental treatment as the result of dental inspection by the Dental Surgeon and a total of 900 children received treatment at the Dental Clinic. It is chiefly in connection with children who need dental 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 re-visitation 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. The Health Visitors during the year made 4,203 visits to 2,214 individual children at their homes.

7. Medical Treatment.

(a) Nutrition.

All cases of sub-normal nutrition noted at the routine examinations, discovered on visits of the Medical Officers to the schools or among children specially referred by the Head Teachers, Health Visitors, etc., are kept under observation by the School Medical Officer. On detection, taking of height and weight monthly at the schools or school clinic is begun, and the effect of any treatment which may have been advised is observed by periodical examination. In many cases the primary cause of sub-normality is apparent and arrangements are made for appropriate treatment, but in other cases presenting variation from the average, it is often a difficult matter to decide that actual malnutrition exists. Children may be undersized naturally; others may have recovered from infantile diseases which have left a permanent effect on development yet such children may be without any real evidence of debility and continue to have good health. A practice is made of discussing such cases with head teachers, investigation is made as to home conditions, nature and regularity of meals, hours of sleep, etc., and the influence of any adverse factors assessed before concluding that sub-normality is due to lack of food. Cases of sub-normal or bad nutrition without a definite physical cause and in which inadequate or improper food is the chief cause do occur, but such cases are comparatively rare among the children attending the public elementary schools of this Borough. When found on medical examination to be indicated, children of sub-normal nutrition whose parents are ascertained to be necessitous, are supplied with milk at school free of cost, or with meals at the Meals Centre, by the Education Committee on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer. This supply of milk free of cost is supplemented in certain cases by free meals at the Ramsgate Soup Kitchen through arrangements made by the Education Committee. In other cases extra nourishment is granted by the Public Assistance Committee for children convalescing after illness, etc., on medical certification as to need, and through the Tuberculosis Dispensary for children under observation thereat.

Children requiring medical or surgical treatment for the remedying of their subnormality are referred, also through arrangements made by the Education Committee, to the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Dispensary or the Ramsgate General Hospital.

(b) Uncleanliness.

Children found at the routine inspections or at the special surveys at the schools to have unclean hair are excluded from school and their homes visited by the Health Visitors, who explain 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.

The surveys at the schools, which are always made on "surprise" visits, 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 the date of exclusion from school and service of notice are proceeded against under the School Attendance Byelaws. This procedure has proved to be quite efficient and the loss of attendance due to exclusion from school owing to uncleanness has very considerably decreased during recent years.

Legal proceedings were not instituted in any case during 1938.

(c) Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.

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.

X-ray treatment for scalp ringworm is administered by means of the Education Committee's apparatus at the Health Office by Dr. B. H. Palmer. No case was so treated during the year.

(d) Visual Defects and External Eye Disease.

During the year 634 children were referred for further examination owing to errors of refraction; of these 579 were examined and prescribed for at the School Eye Clinic, refraction under the influence of homatropin being carried out in 221 cases. The Ophthalmic Surgeon conducted the Eye Clinic on 37 occasions in 1938. Eight other children obtained treatment privately. Glasses were prescribed for 177 children and up to the end of the year had been procured in 167 cases. The children made 932 attendances at the clinic.

New cases examined during the year were as follows:—

- 76 Hypermetropia.
- 65 Hypermetropia with Astigmatism.
- 28 Myopia.
- 6 Myopia with Astigmatism.
- 19 Mixed Astigmatism.
- 27 Strabismus.

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

- 9 Conjunctivitis.
- 2 Phlyctenular Keratitis.
- 7 Blepharitis.
- 3 Corneal Ulcer.
- 5 Styes.
- 1 Ptosis.
- 1 Foreign Body.
- 3 Cataract.
- 2 Injury to eye.

(e) *Nose and Throat Defects.*

During the year 92 children who required some form of treatment on account of abnormal conditions of their tonsils and adenoid tissue came under observation. These children had various degrees of excessive and 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 56 children were operated on for the removal of enlarged tonsils or adenoids; one of these received treatment privately and 55 at the Ramsgate General Hospital through the Education Committee's scheme, under which the Hospital Authorities were paid £1 11s. 6d. each in respect of three children of a group of seven or eight and £1 each 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 operation every effort is made to follow up each child to ensure the continuation of regular breathing exercises and teeth cleaning.

(f) *Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.*

A total of 33 children received treatment for minor ear defects during the year at the School Clinic, three of which were referred for treatment also at the Ramsgate General Hospital.

(g) *Dental Defects.*

Facilities for dental treatment at the School Dental Clinic were available at four weekly sessions during school terms. Reference has previously been made to the inadequacy of this extended service and the insufficient clinic accommodation. On the proposed new Health Centre becoming available, further development should provide for the dental inspection of each child on its entrance into school life, for at least an annual inspection during school life and for treatment if necessary after each inspection.

Inspections by the Dental Surgeon at the schools took place at six sessions, the average number of children inspected at each session being 166. The Dental Clinic was held on 118 occasions and the work carried out is summarised in Table V which will be found at the end of this report.

Of 682 children at Routine Dental Inspections found to require treatment, 392 signed dental consents for treatment to be carried out at the School Dental Clinic, 103 signified their intention of obtaining private treatment and 250 refused treatment.

This large number of parents unfortunately refused 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.

(h) *Orthopædic and Postural Defects.*

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.

Eleven school children were dealt with at the Orthopædic Clinic at the Ramsgate General Hospital during 1938.

(i) *Heart Disease and Rheumatism.*

Children suffering from Heart Disease are periodically re-examined by the School Medical Officer and advice given as to the need for care in physical exercises, games, etc. In addition, such children are referred as necessary for treatment and advice to their family doctor and in some cases are referred to the Ramsgate Dispensary.

(j) *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 this disease, are referred to the County Council's Dispensary in the town for treatment by the Tuberculosis Officer, who periodically informs the School Medical Officer as to the fitness or otherwise of the children to attend school.

(k) *Other Defects and Diseases.*

Some of the children suffering from other defects receive treatment at the School Clinic, and all the cases are kept under observation. Many of these defects are such that treatment either at the dispensary or by private practitioner or hospital, is indicated, as the class of case dealt with at the School Clinic is strictly limited.

Summary showing cases dealt with and attendances at the School Clinic during 1938 :—

Disease or Condition.	No. of Children.	Attendances.
Impetigo	69	399
Eczema, Seborrhœa, etc.	133	661
Abscesses, Whitlows, Cuts, Burns, Abrasions, etc.	270	2176
Ringworm of Scalp	1	10
Ringworm of Body	4	38
Scabies	29	246
External Eye Disease	59	229
Otorrhœa	14	91
Nose, Mouth and Throat conditions	171	296
Tuberculosis, all forms	2	2
Other Diseases and conditions	303	2263
Total	1055	6411

In addition, 90 children who were convalescent from or contacts of infectious disease made 96 attendances at the Clinic for examination as to their fitness to attend school.

8. Infectious Diseases.

Measles was prevalent among school children at the beginning of the year and Mumps towards the end of the year. No action was taken under Article 12 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 exclusion of children when their exclusion was desirable to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, on the ground that their uncleanly or verminous clothing 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 benefit from the instruction in school.

Certificates of exclusion are brought to the notice of the School Attendance Officer, who informs the Head Teachers. Children excluded are not re-admitted to school until the School Medical Officer is satisfied that they can attend without risk to themselves or others. The School Attendance Officer and Head Teachers give information to the School Medical Officer in reference to children who are absent from school owing to illness, which possibly may be infectious, and all such cases are investigated.

During the year the number of intimations received from Head Teachers was 385. These included intimations in reference to 307 children who were suffering from or suspected to be suffering from Measles, 39 from Mumps, 33 from Chickenpox and 6 from Whooping Cough.

Children suffering from infectious diseases and contacts living in infected houses are excluded from school in accordance with the definite periods set out in the Board's Memorandum of Closure of and Exclusion from School.

Vaccinal Conditions.

At the routine medical inspections it was found that of the 506 entrants examined, only 205 (40.51 per cent.) were vaccinated; of 557 children in the second age group, only 254 (45.60 per cent.); and of 508 children of the third age group, 251 (49.40 per cent.)

It is regrettable that over 54 per cent. of these children were not protected against smallpox.

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 of different groups of physically defective children who would benefit from open-air education.

10. Physical Training.

Physical exercises in accordance with the syllabus of the Board of Education are carried out in all schools, and whenever possible take 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 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.

Throughout the year pasteurised milk was supplied free of cost at schools to children certified by the School Medical Officer to be in need of it in all cases in which the parents were, on investigation, found to be necessitous. For such cases, 1930 bottles were supplied during the year. In addition, the Children's Aid Association supplied in the early months of the year milk for distribution at the discretion of the Head Teachers, and tickets were issued for meals at the Ramsgate Soup Kitchen.

The provision of meals at the Education Committee's Meal Centre began in March, and during the year the School Medical Officer certified under Section 84 of the Education Act, 1921, the need for meals in the case of twenty eight children. The financial circumstances of the parents in each case are investigated by the Committee, and it was found that in four cases incomes exceeded the scale, in four cases particulars as to income were refused by the parents, and three cases left the district.

The total number of meals, with milk, supplied at the Centre during the year was 2,419, and at the end of the year sixteen children were receiving free meals.

Improvements in the premises of the Meals Centre with regard to ventilation and the provision of washing facilities and lavatory accommodation have been indicated, and arrangements have been made for the carrying out of these necessary alterations.

12. Co-operation.

(a) *Co-operation of Parents.*

Parents are always invited to attend at the schools during the routine medical inspections of their children. If present and a

defect is discovered in a child, advice is given 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 420 parents attended at the routine inspections of 506 entrants; 402 parents attended the routine inspections of 557 children in the second age group; 212 parents attended at the routine inspections of 508 children in the third age group.

(b) 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; head teachers refer for examination as "specials" all children who are not due for inspection, but are 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. Head Teachers take great interest in the work, and often 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.

(c) Co-operation by 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, whose duty it is to inform the Head Teachers and see that certificates are acted upon.

Certificates as to illness of school children given by local medical practitioners are, on receipt, submitted to the School Medical Officer. The School Attendance 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 the Attendance Byelaws.

(d) Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

The Children's Aid Association continue to supply milk free of cost during the early months of each year, for distribution at the discretion of Head Teachers, but former co-operation in supplying milk to school children on medical certification as to need, supplying cod liver oil, etc., has ceased.

13. Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children.

(a) The model arrangements of the Board of Education under Elementary School (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, and the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, have been adopted by the local Education Authority.

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

(b) There is no special school in or near the Borough.

14. Full-time Courses of Higher Education for Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Students.

No provision for such courses is made in the Borough.

15. Nursery Schools.

There are no Nursery Schools in the Borough.

16. Secondary Schools.

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

17. Parents' Payments.

The arrangements in connection with the payment by parents for medical treatment of their children, through 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, 1938, was £59 2s. 3d.

From time to time children of necessitous parents whose ailments do not fall within the scope of the school treatment clinic come under observation. 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.

18. Health Education.

In connection with the National Campaign, posters and leaflets advocating the wider use of the Health Services were distributed at the schools during the first three months of the year, and in August arrangements were made for the display at a local cinema of the film "One Hundred Years."

In September, through the courtesy of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom, arrangements were made for dental demonstrations at the schools to children of eleven years of age and over. A trained woman demonstrator gave explanatory talks and the children had the opportunity of examining models showing the progress of decay, etc., and seeing diagrams describing the correct method of cleaning teeth, etc., at 15 sessions lasting about one hour each.

Miscellaneous.*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.

The School Medical Officer undertakes the preliminary medical examination of boys attending the public elementary schools who desire to enter the Royal Air Force as Aircraft Apprentices.

The School Medical Officer co-operates with the local Juvenile Employment or Advisory Committee by advising as to the specific unsuitability of certain children for particular types of work.

Also, in connection with the National Health Insurance (Juvenile Contributors and Young Persons) Act, 1937, by furnishing to medical practitioners confidential information of particulars from the school medical records of young persons whom they have accepted for treatment.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES.

TABLE I.

*Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.***(a) ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups:

Entrants	506
Second Age Group	557
Third Age Group	508
Total	1571
Number of other routine inspections	67
Grand Total	1638

(b) OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	637
Number of Re-inspections	2117
Total	2754

(c) CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual Children found at Routine Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding defects of nutrition, uncleanness and dental diseases).

Group.	For Defective Vision excluding Squint.	For all other conditions recorded in Table IIa.	Total.
Entrants	2	67	67
Second Age Group	44	75	113
Third Age Group	40	41	79
Total (Prescribed Groups)	86	183	259
Other Routine Inspections	2	8	10
Grand Total	88	191	269

TABLE II.

(A) Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

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	Ringworm:							
	Scalp				—	—	—	—
	Body				—	—	—	—
	Scabies				1	—	11	—
	Impetigo				8	—	5	—
	Other Diseases (non-tuberculous)				16	1	45	2
	Total				25	1	61	2
Eye	Blepharitis				8	—	3	—
	Conjunctivitis				—	—	5	—
	Keratitis				—	—	—	—
	Corneal Opacities				1	—	—	—
	Other Conditions				1	—	8	1
	Total				10	—	16	1
Ear	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)				88	52	20	3
	Squint				10	6	4	—
	Defective Hearing				—	1	1	—
	Otitis Media				8	6	7	2
	Other Ear Diseases				4	6	8	1
Nose and Throat	Chronic Tonsillitis only				15	35	3	6
	Adenoids only				8	—	2	—
	Chronic Tonsillitis and Adenoids				10	—	54	26
	Other Conditions				65	4	18	3
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuberculous)				1	1	—	—
	Defective Speech				—	—	2	3
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease:							
	Organic				—	20	—	1
	Functional				—	4	—	—
Lungs	Anæmia				8	—	—	—
	Bronchitis				1	—	—	—
	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases				6	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	Pulmonary:							
	Definite				—	—	—	—
	Suspected				—	—	—	—
	Non-Pulmonary:							
	Glands				—	—	—	1
	Bones and Joints				—	—	—	—
	Skin				—	—	—	—
	Other Forms				1	1	—	1
	Total				1	1	—	2
Nervous System	Epilepsy				—	—	—	2
	Chorea				—	1	—	3
	Other Conditions				—	—	—	—
Deformities	Rickets				—	—	1	—
	Spinal Curvature				—	—	—	—
	Other Forms				2	—	3	1
Other Defects and Diseases (excluding defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)					29	29	166	71
Total					291	166	367	127

(B) *Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.*

Age-groups	Number of Children Inspected.	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	506	75	14.82	422	83.39	9	1.77	—	—
Second age-group	557	45	8.07	490	87.97	22	3.95	—	—
Third age-group	508	88	17.32	415	81.69	5	0.98	—	—
Other routine inspections ...	67	10	14.92	55	82.09	2	2.98	—	—
TOTAL	1638	218	13.30	1382	84.36	38	2.32	—	—

TABLE III.

BLIND CHILDREN.

Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

A blind child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, blind and can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children, and others who have partial sight and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially sighted children. Only the first class should be included in this section.

At Certified Schools for the Blind.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	nil

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.

Enter in this Section only children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially sighted.

Children who are able by means of suitable glasses to read the ordinary school books used by children without fatigue or injury to their vision should not be included in this Table.

At Certified Schools for the Blind.	At Certified Schools for the Partially Sighted.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	—	nil

DEAF CHILDREN.

A deaf child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, deaf and can only be appropriately taught in a school for deaf children, and others who have partial hearing and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially deaf children. Only the first class should be included in this section.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
2	—	—	—	2

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.

Enter in this Section children who can appropriately be taught only in a school for the partially deaf.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Certified Schools for the Partially Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	1	1

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

Mentally Defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools, but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in special schools for mentally defective children.

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
—	2	—	5	7

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM SEVERE EPILEPSY.

In this part of the Table only those children should be included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, i.e., children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

For practical purposes the Board are of opinion that children who are subject to attacks of major epilepsy in school should be recorded as "severe" cases and excluded from ordinary public elementary schools.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	Nil

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.

Tuberculous children in areas other than counties or county boroughs who have been ascertained by the County Tuberculosis Officer should not appear in the Table for the county, but in the Table for the appropriate area.

Only children diagnosed as tuberculous and requiring treatment for tuberculosis at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere should be recorded in this category. Children suffering from crippling due to tuberculosis which is regarded as being no longer in need of treatment should be recorded as crippled children, provided that the degree of crippling conforms to the description of a crippled child given at the head of Section C below. All other tuberculous children who are regarded as being no longer in need of treatment should be recorded as delicate children provided the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools.

1.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

(Including pleura and intra-thoracic glands).

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	Nil.

2.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

(This category should include tuberculosis of all sites other than those shown in (1) above.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
2	15	2	7	26

B.—DELICATE CHILDREN.

This Section should be confined to 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. Such children should be included irrespective of the actual provision of open-air Schools in the area, or of the practicability in present circumstances of sending the children to residential schools. At the same time it should be remembered that children should not be regarded as suitable for admission to an open-air school unless the Medical Officer would be prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	—	Nil

C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

This Section should be confined to children (other than those diagnosed as tuberculous and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life, i.e., children who generally speaking are unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or such activities of the school curriculum as gardening or forms of handwork usually engaged in by other children, and in whose case the Medical Officer would be prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
1	—	1	—	2

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.

This Section should be confined to children in whose case the Medical Officer would be prepared to certify, under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary public elementary schools.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no school or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	3	3

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.

Information is only required in respect of children suffering from any combination of the following types of defect:

Blindness (excluding partially sighted children).
 Deafness (excluding partially deaf children).
 Mental Defect (Feeble-minded).
 Severe Epilepsy.
 Active Tuberculosis.
 Crippling (as defined in Section C above).
 Heart Disease.

Combination of Defect.	At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution.	Total
Dumb and Deaf (partially)	—	—	—	1	1

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects treated during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—*Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see TABLE VI.)*

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin:			
Ringworm-Scalp—			
(i) X-Ray treatment ..	—	—	—
(ii) Other treatment ..	1	—	1
Ringworm-Body	4	—	4
Scabies	29	3	32
Impetigo	69	—	69
Other skin disease ..	117	7	124
Minor Eye Defects	59	—	59
Minor Ear Defects	33	3	36
Miscellaneous	712	55	767
Total	1024	68	1092

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.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	579	8	587
Other defect or disease of the eyes	37	—	37
Total	616	8	624
Number of children for whom spectacles were:	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
(a) Prescribed	177	8	185
(b) Obtained	167	8	175

TABLE VI.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	9.17
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	15,126
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	92
(iv.) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	Nil
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	Nil
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	Nil

