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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1945



BOROUGH OF RAMSCATE.

Health Centre,

Remsgate. 9th October 1946.

AMMUAL REPORT 1945.

RRATUM.

Water Supply.

Water should read - Total hardness 25 dogrees, temporary hardness 16 degrees and permanent hardness 7 degrees, instead of the figures as printed.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

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AND

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FOR THE YEAR

1945

J V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

J. V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (on active service)

H. M. CARGIN, M.D., D.P.H. (Deputy)

Dental Officer (Part-Time)
J. B. REED, L.D.S.

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 and School Nurses:

Miss G. D. CLARK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss W. E. CARPENTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss F. N. EVERITT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert. R.S.I.

Miss D. M. GARDNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Cert. R.S.I,

(Resigned 25-8-45).

Miss R. HOWELLS, S.R.N. (Temp. from 27-8-45)

Clerical Staff:

J. S. ROBERTSON (released from active service, 22-5-45)

R. M. IMPETT (on active service)

Mrs. E. F. CARTHEW (Resigned 19-5-45)

Mrs. M. P. COOPER (Temporary from 7-5-45)

Miss S. P. SMITH

Miss V. GUMBRELL (Resigned July 1945)

Miss B. O. BUSH

Miss J. E. A. BUSHELL (Temporary from 10-9-45)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1945-1946

Chairman: Councillor T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor T. SMITH.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Alderman S. E. AUSTIN, J.P.)

Alderman A. E. FETLEY

Alderman the Rev. HARCOURT SAMUEL

Councillor Mrs. BILLINGHAM
Councillor W. HAWKINS
Councillor D. M. HUGHES
Councillor J. MARTIN
Councillor Mrs. WILKINSON

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE.

1945-1946

Chairman: Alderman the Rev. HARCOURT SAMUEL

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Alderman S. E. AUSTIN, J.P.)
Councillor Mrs. BILLINGHAM
Councilor W. HAWKINS

Councillor J. MARTIN.

Councillor Mrs. WILKINSON Mrs. ALLEN Miss M. A. ANDREWES Mrs. GRIGGS

Councillor T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Deputy Medical Officer of Health and in the absence of Dr. Walker, on War Service, I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1945.

The health of the community has been good, and apart from a mild epidemic of measles, there has been no undue prevalence of infectious disease. I would like to record my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their sympathetic consideration of the suggestions put before them.

My thanks are due to the Staff of this department for the co-operation which they have always given me, and to my colleagues in other departments of the Corporation for their help and advice.

I am,

Your obedient servant,
H. M. CARGIN,

(Deputy Medical Officer).

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

I. Statistical Review.

=			=			
GENEF	RAL	STATI	STIC	3.		
Area of Borough in acres						4,778
Population, Census 1931						33,603
Registrar General's estimate, 1						24,620
Rateable Value						£241,468
Estimated product of 1d. rate						£750
Number of inhabited houses						8,000
Total sunshine in hours, 1945						1647.6
Total rainfall in inches, 1945	**	**				16.21
EXTRACTS FF	ROM	VITA	L ST	TATIST	ICS.	
Live Births—						
Total				E00	Male	Female
Total Legitimate				590 438	253 229	237 209
Illogitimata				52	24	28
					77	20
Birth rate per	1,000 €	estimated	popula	ation, 24	.0	
Still Births—						
					Male	Female
Total				14	10	4
Legitimate				13	10	3
Illegitimate				1	_	1
Stillbirth Rat						
Percentage of	total	births ill	egitima	ate, 8.7.		
Deaths-						
					Male	Female
Total				330	174	156
Death rate per 1	1,000 e	stimated	popula	ation, 13	.4.	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—						
-					rate per ind still)	1,000 total births.
Puerperal sepsis			Nil			Nil
Other Puerperal causes			3			4.9
INFANTILE MORTALITY.						
The Death Potes of Infant	e und	011 0110 110	on of	0.000	00 5011	OWA
The Death Rates of Infant All infants per 1,000 live i				- Committee		
All illiants per 1,000 live i	ontins					25.4

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births

27.4

57.6

MORTALITY TABLE.

Classified under the Headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes of Death.

Death.			
CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	_	_	_
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	_	_	_
3. Scarlet lever	_	_	-
4. Whooping cough	_	_	_
5. Diphtheria	_	_	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	11	4	15
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	_	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	_	1	1
9. Influenza	3	1	4
10. Measles	_	_	_
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-			
encephalitis	_		_
12. Acute infective encephalitis	_	_	_
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and			
œsophagus (M), uterus (F)	7	1	8
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	5	13
15. Cancer of breast	_	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	22	13	35
17. Diabetes	2	3	5
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	23	15	38
19. Heart disease	40	38	78
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
21. Bronchitis	10	12	22
22. Pneumonia	5	3	8
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
23. Other respiratory diseases 24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	1	4
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	1	2
26 Appendicitis	-	4	4
26 Appendicitis	4	3	7
28. Nephritis	5	2	7
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	_	_	_
30. Other maternal causes	-	3	3
31. Premature birth	2	3	5
32. Congenital malformation, birth in-			
juries, infantile diseases	_	1	1
33. Suicide	2	_	2
34. Road traffic accidents	1	-	1
35. Other violent causes	8	7	15
36. All other causes	13	25	38
All causes	174	156	330

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were three cases of Maternal Mortality in 1945, two due to toxæmia of pregnancy and the other due to shock and loss of blood following an operation after an incomplete miscarriage. One case of Puerperal Fever and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia were also notified during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The following table shows the causes of the 15 deaths in Infants under one year of age.

Cause of Dea	th.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total
Suffocation					1		1	1				2
Prematurity			4	1			5				***	5
Broncho-pneumonia			1	***	***		1	1		1	1	4
Acute Gastritis									1		***	!
Cause Unknown	444	***	1	***	***		11					1
Gastro Enteritis			***				1	***		1	***	
Intestinal Obstruction	***		1				1					,
Total	-		7	1	-	-	9	2	1	2	1	15

AGES AT DEATH.

-	1	Percentage of total deaths ever 63 years	58.0	68.5	63.2
		lo exchesived sitrab Infor sitray of revo	28.7	44.2	36.4
	Old Age.	Over 75 years	50	69	119
	0	Percentage of total destins be- tween 65-75 yrs.	29.3	24.3	26.8
GROUPS.		65-75 years	51	38	68
AGE GR	ity.	Percentage of total deaths be- tween 45-65 yrs.	27.0	17.3	22.1
THE A	Later Maturity.	45-65 years	47	27	74
SHOWING	ity.	Percentage of total deaths be- tween 15-45 yrs.	7.4	10.2	8 7
	Early Maturity.	15-45 years	13	16	59
CAUSES		Percentage of states from the state of the s	7.4	3.8	6.1
ALL	Childhood.	All under 15 years	13	9	19
FROM		S-15 years	. 01	-	60
TOTAL DEATHS	Infancy and	1-5 years	-		-
TAL I		Under 1 year	10	م	15
T		səzy IIV	174	156	330
		Age at Death.			
		at I			
		Ass	Men	Women	Total .

The following table shows the birth-rates, death-rates and rates of causes of certain classified deaths for England and Wales, etc., as compared with Ramsgate.

	England and Wales	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Adminis- trative County.	RAMSGATE.
	Ra	tes per 1,0	000 Civilian	Populati	on.
Births: Live Still	16.1 0.46	19.1 0.58	19.2 0.53	15.7 0.40	24.0 0.5
Deaths:-					
All Causes	0.00 0.00 0.02 0.02 0.08 0.02	0.00 0.00 0.02 0.02 0.07 — 0.02	0.00 0.00 0.01 0.02 0.07 0.02	0.00 0.00 0.02 0.01 0.07 0.01	13.4 - - 0.1 -
		Rates pe	r 1,000 Liv	e Births.	
Deaths under I year of age	46	54	43	53	25.4
Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	3.4

ELDERLY PERSONS.

The attendance of Elderly Persons at this Clinic held on Friday mornings at 11 a.m., has been disappointing.

The total attendances for the year were 30. On many occasions there were no attendances. Three possible reasons for this result are advanced:

- 1. The Health Centre is not easily accessible to these elderly and often feeble patients as it is not in the centre of the Borough.
- The requirements of these old people are already met to a considerable extent:
 - (a) The Public Assistance Board and their Medical Officer.
 - (b) A Public Dispensary, existing as it has done for many years in Broad Street, provides advice and treatment for these and other patients.
- 3. Facilities at the Health Centre are limited as only examination and advice are provided.

The Clinic will still continue to function for as many of these elderly persons as wish to make use of it.

The Nursing Home for Elderly Persons which was established in 1944 as a private concern, still continues to do excellent work, but it can only cope with a small number of the applicants for admission.

II. Public General Medical Amenities.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All bacteriological and serological specimens for examination were sent as hitherto since 1940, to the County Laboratory, Maidstone. The following tables show the number of specimens sent:

Blood tests	 	 	 70
Throat swabs	 	 	 9
Smears	 	 	 5
Sputa	 	 	 16
Milk	 	 	 78

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The circumstances described in the Annual Report for 1943 remain the same. Two ambulances belonging to the St. John Ambulance Brigade are available for ordinary civilian needs, supplemented by another ambulance, supplied by the British Red Cross and St. John Society. The drivers remained on the pay roll of the Civil Defence Ambulance Service with a retaining fee from the St. John Brigade, until the 1st July, 1945, when they came completely under the command of St. John Brigade. For the removal of infectious cases to Hospital up to the 1st July, 1945, the arrangements as detailed in previous reports continued. From July 1st, the Ambulance belonging to the Joint Isolation Hospital Board was garaged and serviced at a local garage, a driver and attendant being constantly available for all cases. This arrangement was most satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME,

The Ramsgate District Nursing Association continued to supply a service of nursing in the home, employing for this purpose two Queen's Nurses. The Hon. Secretary of the Association has very kindly provided an analysis of the work carried out during the year from which the following figures are extracted:

Individual patients nursed	 	 894
Total number of visits made	 	 6,629
Average number of visits per patient	 	 7.4

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following table shows the facilities under the above heading provided by the local authorities in Ramsgate. For the sake of completeness, those administered by the Kent County Council are included. The times of sessions are as follows (Summer 1946):

	-		
Purpose of Clinic.	Where Held,	Time.	By Whom Administered.
Dental M.C.W	Health Centre, Newington.	Tues. 2.30-4.	Ramsgate Council: M.C.W. Committee.
Sunlight Clinic	Health Centre Newington.	By arrange- ment.	
Diphtheria Immunisation	Health Centre, Newington.	Fridays at 2.15	Ramsgate Council: M.C.W. Committee
Maternity and Child Welfare:			
Mothers' Clinic	Health Centre,	Thurs. 2.0-4.0 Mons.	Ramsgate Council: Maternity & Child
Babies' and Toddlers' Clinic	Newington.	Weds. & Fris. 2.0-4.0.	Welfare Sub- Committee.
School Medical Service:			
Ear, Nose and Throat	Ramsgate General Hospital (Mr. Clarke)	Tues. at 2.0 p.m.	Kent Education Committee.
Minor Ailments	Health Centre, Newington.	Daily at 9 a.m.	Kent Education Committee.
Ophthalmologi- cal	1, Torrington Villas, West Cliff Road. (Mr. W. J. Dunlop).	Weds. at 10.30.	Kent Education Committee.
Tuberculosis	The Dispensary, South Eastern Road.	Fri. 10.30-12.30.	Kent County Council.
Uncleanliness: Scables Pediculosis	Men at Disinfecting Station, Broad Street. Women and Children at Health Centre, Newington.	By arrange- ment.	Ramsgate Council: Public Health Committee.
Venereal Diseases	Eton House, St. Peter's Road, Margate.	Men: Sats. 2.30-3.30. Women: Sats, 1.30-2.30.	Kent County Council.

VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Officers of the East and West Districts of Ramsgate have kindly supplied me with the following particulars:

Total births registered locally (i.e. children	due for	vaccina	tion)
Children successfully vaccinated			
Children insusceptible to vaccination			
Number of certificates from conscientious	objector	S	
Died unvaccinated			
Postponed for medical certificate			
Removed from district			
Number not yet dealt with on 31-12-45			

The ever-present danger of the introduction of small-pox into any part of this country as a result of war conditions, a threat already realised by small outbreaks of this disease, should make parents very seriously reconsider their policy with regard to the vaccination of their children. There is little, if any, reasonable doubt that successful vaccination confers protection against smallpox, amounting to complete immunity if carried out within a reasonable time before exposure to infection, or even if done immediately after exposure.

The majority of conscientious objectors do, in fact, offer themselves and their families for vaccination when an actual outbreak has occurred, showing that they admit the efficacy of the process. Why, then, should they not obtain the benefit as soon as possible which not only provides an immediate protection, but minimises the risk of complications if the vaccination is again repeated at a later age

SCABIES AND UNCLEANLINESS.

The arrangements for the treatment of Scabies occurring in women and children continues to be carried out at the Health Centre as before. Men are treated at the Disinfecting Station, Broad Street. Appointments to suit the patients are made in each individual case.

The number of cases treated at the Health Centre was:

No refusals to have treatment were received, though there was a certain reluctance in some instances.

The provision of a bath with hot water has become an urgent necessity at the Centre. This would facilitate the work of treating scables besides enabling verminous persons or unclean children to have attention. At the moment, only a sink or hand basin is available.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Verminous heads continued to be treated by Lethane Oil. Clothing and other articles found to be infested were dealt with at the Cleansing Station. In cases where dwellings were found to be verminous, special insecticides were used under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The number of such dwellings treated during 1945 was 21.

III. Sanitary Circumstances and Control of Food Supply.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

There were no changes in 1945 in the water supply which maintained its excellent reputation for purity and freedom from contamination. 638,637,000 gallons were pumped as compared with 513,236,700 gallons in 1944. Bacteriological examinations were made monthly, both at the adits before chlorination and from the household taps after chlorination.

The hardness of the water is a matter of importance, and especially so at the present time.

The total hardness of the water is approximately 33 degrees, and of this, 22 degrees are temporary (that is reduced by boiling) and 11 degrees are permanent. Each degree of hardness above six is said to result in the waste of 22oz. of soap in 100 gallons of water.

The effects of this hardness on the household may be summarised briefly as follows:-

- Great waste of the commodity soap which is difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain.
- 2. Increase wear and tear of clothes due to the extra scrubbing required by the shortage of soap.
- waste of fuer caused by attempting to heat water in vessels often covered with fur-the deposit from hard water.
- Unnecessary risk to the household through blocked pipes and bursting
- 5. Expenditure in having this fur removed from boilers and in having blocked pipes renewed.

It seems false economy not to start the softening process which was in use before the war. An adjacent Authority continues to reduce the hardness from a similar high level of 33 degrees to approximately nine degrees.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the following report detailing the numerous and varied duties carried out during the year.

The end of the war at once brought an influx of persons back to the Town, including a record number of visitors during the summer season. Extra work was entailed by increased Meat Inspection duties, vermin and moth infestation, Housing defects of all descriptions and rodent control, etc.

In conjunction with the Food Control Committee all applications for Catering Licences and other Food Shops were considered by this department from a sanitary aspect, and a report made to the Food Control Committee. By this means considerable improvement in restaurant facilities and food shops generally was attained.

I desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their help and to acknowledge the loyal co-operation and efficient work of Messrs, T. L. Martin and F. Brown.

.. ..

Yours faithfully, E. YOUNG. Senior Sanitary Inspector.

> 17 445

Complaints. Number of complaints received and dealt with 855 Inspections. 24 Accumulations Animals, keeping of ... 35 Bakehouses Camping Sites and Caravans 12 . . Common Lodging Houses 33 .. 788 80 13

	Housing						41
	Houses let in lodgings			**			-
	Ice Cream Vendors						45
	Intectious Diseases						59
							295
	Marine Stores, etc.,						7
							-
	Milkshops and Dairies						63
	Miscellaneous					* * *	193
							4
	Number inspected under F	lousing	Acts		+>		_
	Outworkers						1
	Overcrowding						3
	Public Health Acts and oth				Orders		-
	Rats and Mice	4.7	* *	* *			28
	Refuse Receptacles						31
	Repairs and subsequent re	evisits					958
		**			* *		247
	Rooms measured						59
	Schools						1
	Shellfish						5
							2
	Shops Act Slaughter-houses						45
	Stables				**		580
	Stables Timber Control Permits				**		07
	Timber Control Permits						27
	Tuberculosis				* *		82
	Verminous Premises						72
Not	ices Served, etc.						
1101				200			
	Preliminary notices served				11		266
	Nuisances abated on verba	instruc	ctions		**	* *	134
11/0	rk done in connection with	Drainag	e and H	ousing			
11.0							12
	Accumulations removed				**	* *	12
					**		
	A 4 1141 1 THE CH. 1				* *		
			**			* *	192
	Cesspools emptied Cesspools repaired	* *					104
	Chimney stacks and flues i	rangired				**	
						4.4	51
	Coppers repaired or renewe	d				**	-
	Disused cesspools filled in						1
	Danne constant						29
	Eavesgutters repaired or r	enewed			• •	**	22
	External walls cement rene					***	
	External walls repointed or	renaire	ed				
	Floors relaid or repaired	repasse	·u				37
	Flushing cisterns repaired						34
	Fresh air inlet valves fixed						4
	Gully traps fixed						23
	Hand rails to staircases p	rovided					9
	Houses at which drains we						51
	Houses re-drained						4
							8
	Inspection chambers built,	new cov	ers prov	ided and	render	ed	17
	Intercepting traps fixed						1
	Miscellaneous						30
	Miscellaneous repairs						
	New flushing cisterns provi	ded					11
	New sinks and baths provi	ded	1				25
	Overcrowding abated						_
	Rain water pipes disconnec						2
	Roofs repaired						50
	Rooms fumigated and clear						58
	Sanitary bins provided						12
	Sash cords renewed				. 4		105
	Sink waste pipes renewed a						37
	Soil and vent pipes fixed or						19
	Stoves repaired or renewed						25
	Sub-floor ventilation provide						6
	Urinale removed						

Urinals repaired or cleansed		 	-
Ventilated food cupbcards fixed		 	1
W.C. pans fixed		 	117
Wall plaster and ceilings repaired		 	76
Walls treated with damp-proofing material		 	7
Water supply pipes renewed		 	53
Windows made to open		 	42
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	**	 	15

Inspection of Controlled Premises.

The following table shows the number of premises, etc., and inspections made to such premises during the year:—

		NO.	inspections made.
Slaughter-houses	 	 2	580
Fish-fryers	 	 14	17
Marine Store Dealers	 	 4	7

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the borough at the end of the year was 32. Inspections were made and the few defects discovered were remedied upon the occupier's attention being called to them.

Shops Acts, 1934.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 45 visits regarding the requirements of Section 10 as to the arrangements for ventilation, temperature and sanitary and washing facilities, etc.

Rodent Control.

The methods of extermination employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Food and the following is a summary of the work carried out during 1945.

Complaints received of	Rat or	Mice in	nfestatio	n	 271
Rats. Visits to dwelling h Visits to other pren					 2,043 750
Number of rats estir formula (including Harbour premises	nated k	illed as primated by	per Min	86 on F	8,960
Mice. Premises cleared:— Dwelling houses					 32 13
Other premises	4.1		* * *		 10

The Sanitary Inspectors deal with unusual infestations and the rat-proofing of premises whilst the Rodent Operator carries out the routine work of rodent destruction. The Sanitary Inspectors and the Rodent Operator have been trained by the Ministry of Food in rodent destruction and I am of the opinion that the Council's decision to appoint the Rodent Operator has been a sound one in that better results have been achieved and the Inspectors are left with more time to devote to other public health work.

Verminous Houses.

Number found to	o be infe	sted:			
Council hou	ises		 	 	9
Others			 	 	12
Number of prem	ises disi	nfested:			
Council hou	ses		 	 	9
Others			1995		12

Disinfestation of premises other than Council houses is carried out by local builders under the supervision of this department.

Disinfestation of Persons and Clothing.

There are two baths at the Disinfecting and Cleansing Station, Broad Street, used for the cleansing of verminous persons. Considerable use of the baths was made by persons suffering from scabies who, on account of residing in houses not possessing baths, were unable to carry out the treatment recommended by their doctor. As each person passes through the bathroom the clothing and bedding, etc., is fumigated in the disinfecting plant adjoining.

Disinfection.

One hundred and twelve rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases

or on the request of the tenants.

Three hundred and thirty-six sets of bedding after infectious diseases, and one hundred and eighty-five sets of bedding for vermin were fumigated in the steam disinfector.

Emergency Water Tanks.

These were periodically inspected and those under the supervision of the National Fire Service were found to be free from mosquito larvae. Some of the smaller containers on householders premises were not altogether satisfactory, and steps were taken to have the containers cleansed by the Corporation Staff.

Wasps and Flies, etc.

As in previous years, numerous appeals from householders for assistance in dealing with wasps' nests in or near to houses were received during the summer months. The Inspectors were also able to help Service establishments who sought help in dealing with infestations of flies in canteen kitchens. It is probable that house mes were more numerous than in previous years, and this increase was due to the greater number of rabbits and fowls being kept by householders as a war-time measure.

Vermin-Flies, Bugs, Fleas, etc.

Experiments were being made regarding the use of D.D.T. and Gammexane preparations for treatment of these vermin, and results to date appear very satisfactory, further particulars will be given in 1946 report.

Moths.

Householders who had been away from the town sought help in ridding

their carpets and furniture from moth.

A proprietory liquid was used on the upholstered furniture, and carpets and similar articles were disinfected by steam in the Corporation disinfecting station. The insecticide was bought in bulk by the Corporation and a charge made for the amount of fluid used. Where steam furnigation was employed, a nominal charge was also made for this service.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Order, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

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

Cowsheds Dairies			::		Number 5 20	Number Inspect 33 63	
Milk	(Special	Designa	tions) (Order, 1	1936-1943.		
To produce To produce Licences issued	Puberculin Accredited by the Bo	Tested Milk rough (Milk .				1 3
To distribute Borough To Pasteuris To distribute	se Milk						1 4 1

Milk Samples taken during 1945 for Cleanliness.

Twenty-one samples of milk were taken at the request of the County Council from Tuberculin tested and Accredited producers.

Twenty-one samples were obtained and results show:-

Fifteen to be satisfactory. — Six not to be satisfactory.

Three bulk samples of milk were taken for biological tests and showed no evidence of tuberculosis.

In addition, samples were taken for the Ministry of Food Milk Division of Pasteurised and Heat Treated Milk (Defence Regulations 55g) and the appropriate tests were carried out by the Public Analyst with the following results:

Class of Milk	Number	Failed	Failed
Pasteurised	tested 27	Phosphatase test	Methylene Blue Test
Heat Treated	30	8	2

Other Licences granted under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

mbei	of premises registered for:				
(a)	Sale of Ice-Cream				67
(b)	Manufacture and sale of Ice-Cream				13
(c)	Preparation or manufacture of	sausages,	press	ed,	
	pickled or preserved food				29
(d)	Fish curing and smoking				2
(e)	Fish frying				14
(I)	Pickle and sauce manufacturing				3

Ice-Cream.

Now that the manufacture and sale of this commodity has been resumed there is one point to which attention could be usefully directed. The manufacture is already partly controlled by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and when a definite standard for chemical quality and bacterial purity is laid down, the ice-cream leaving the plants will be a safe and wholesome food. The weak link in my opinion is the serving of loose ice cream on the beaches and promenades, which renders the ice-cream in the cabinets liable to contamination by dust, by reason of the frequent removal of the lids. The Town Council could set a very useful lead by inserting a clause in the contracts given to persons authorising the sale of ice-cream on the beaches that the ice-cream must be sold in a pre-packed state.

Meat and Other Foods.

There was no change in the arrangements for the slaughtering of animals and two slaughter houses in the Borough were used for the preparation of animals for consumption in the Isle of Thanet.

The slaughterers still continue to crowd the kill of animals into three or four days per week instead of spreading the work over the week. Consequently the hanging rooms become congested and killing extends into the late evenings. These two factors mean that the work of inspecting the meat by the Sanitary Inspectors is made more difficult and causes overtime on each killing day.

Number of	animals	inspected	at	the	slaughter	houses	during	the year:
Cattle	(ex-Cows)							1341

	102-00	1113)	 	**	**	 CAR
Cows			 			 548
Calves			 			 1548
	and La	ambs	 			 5622
Pigs			 			 619
	Total		 			 9678
	2000		 		**	
Carcases co	ndemn	ed:				
Cows			 			 29
Heifers			 			 6
Steers			 			 3
Calves			 	4.4		 8
Sheep			 			 19
Pigs			 	* * *		 20
	Total		 		**	 85

The amount of diseased or otherwise unsound meat diverted from human food during 1945 was 20 tons 12 cwts. 0 qrs. 14 lbs. and in addition there was 4 tons 14 cwts. 2 qrs. 3 lbs. of unsound foodstuffs surrendered from grocery premises.

The arrangements made by the Ministry of Food for the colouring of diseased meat with a green dye before being collected by the salvage firm was continued during the year.

Twenty-nine bovines were found after slaughter to be affected by generalised tuberculosis, and as in previous years, the name and address of each person sending these animals to the Collecting Centre was ascertained from the Chairman of the Livestock Control Committee. This information, together with a description of the beasts, was sent to the County Medical Officer of Health so that special attention could be given to the farms concerned.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 65 samples (55 formal and 10 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted to the Public Analyst as follows:— Twenty-five samples of Milk-one not genuine being deficient in fat, to the extent of 4.6 per cent.

Three samples of Self-Raising Flour. One sample of Soya Flour.

Two samples of Sausage.

Three samples of Jam and Marmalade,

Three samples of Cordials. One sample of Pea Flour.

Two samples of Lemonade Powder. Two samples of Saccharin Tablets. Two samples of Spice and Sage.

One sample each of Vinegar, Sunny Spread, Banana Flavouring, Edible Cake Decorations, Meat Patty, Gravet, Curry Powder, Powdered Gelatine, Cayenne Pepper, Fish Paste, Camphorated Oil.

Ten informal samples consisting of: Bottled Cherries, Castor Oil, Cascara Sagrada Tablets, Glycerine, Castor Vims, Syrup of Figs, Aspirin Tablets, Canned Soup, Junket Powder (2).

With the exception of the Milk, Public Analyst reports that all may be considered as "genuine."

The Public Analyst's reports show that the Milk samples were above the recognised standard.

The average figures being:

Non-fatty solids, 8.70. Total solids, 12.13. Fat, 3.43.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

The following 48 samples were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of preservatives or added colouring matter:

Milk		25	Meat Patty	 1
Sausage		2	Gravy Powder	 1
Vinegar	**	1	Junket Powder	 2
Gelatine		1	Table Decoration	 1
Curry Powder		1	Sunny Spread	 1
Jam and Marmalade		3	Banana Flavouring	 1
Spice and Sage		2	Cordials	3
Pea Flour		1	Lemonade Powder	 2

A.R.P.

The cessation of hostilities brought to an end the various A.R.P. services in which the Sanitary Inspectors had spent a considerable amount of time during the War years.

The number of persons habitually sleeping in the deep turnel shelters became less as 1945 proceeded and, in looking back to 1940 when more than 2,000 persons flocked into the tunnels and more-or-less took up a permanent abode there, one cannot help, but be thankful that no epidemic diseases occurred. In 1940 the sudden influx of persons seeking shelter in the Tunnel and who constructed all manner of tents therein to secure privacy, created congested conditions likely to be harmful to health and dangerous from the point of view of fire. There is no doubt that the resolute way in which the Corporation tackled this urgent public health problem by re-placing the tents with fire proofed cubicles, well spaced out, and allocating to each occupant a numbered bunk as well as appointing tunnel wardens and staff for the sick bays, contributed in no small measure to the freedom of infectious diseases.

The Decontamination Schemes to deal with clothing and food were "wound up" during the year. The enthusiasm and time spent by volunteer members of the various squads is much appreciated, considering the strain to which the townspeople were put during the war years.

Exhibition.

The Civic Association in conjunction with N.A.L.G.O, arranged at the Public Library an exhibition, "What we get for our Rates."

The opportunity was taken to bring to the notice of the Public the various activities of the Health Services.

The Ministry of Food Infestation Division sent exhibits and particulars of Rat Control. The Health and Cleanliness Council lent two attractive electric models, also gave various posters, booklets or leaflets.

The interest taken by the Public was well worth the labour and trouble involved.

Port Sanitary Administration, 1945.

TABLE A .- AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING 1945.

	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected, by the Health Staff.	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.
Steamer	2	355	_	_	_	_
Foreign Motor	20	975	2	-	_	_
Saming		-	-	-	_	_
Fishing	-	-	-	-	_	-
Total Foreign	†22	1330	2	-	-	-
/ St amers	36	975		_	_	_
Coast- Motor	120	3272	-	-	-	-
wise Sailing	26	1356	_	_	_	-
(Fishing		-	-		-	-
Total Coastwise	182	5603	-	-	_	_
Total Foreign and Coastwise	204	6933	2		_	_

^{*} Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

† Includes 16 H.M. Ships.

H-CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B .- PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING THE YEAR 1945.

No. of Passengers	1st and 2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	356	-	-
Outwards	184	-	-

In addition to the passengers landed and embarked, 540 Foreign Pilots were landed and embarked.

During the major part of 1945, as in the preceding war years, the port was under the control of the Royal Navy and civilian access to it had been at a minimum.

It will be noticed that the number of registered tons in proportion to the number of vessels is very low. This is accounted for by the fact that a large number of the vessels were tugs which have little or no registered tonnage.

On the re-opening of the Harbour to ordinary traffic towards the end of the year the coastwise vessels brought coal and the foreign vessels imported timber from Sweden.

The passengers referred to in Table B were merchant seamen arriving or embarking at the port.

III.-Water Supply.

This is obtained from the town's supply and there are no water boats in use.

IV .- Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

The arrangements outlined in the previous reports are still in operation.

Tables C and D.

No case of infectious sickness coming within the jurisdiction of the Local Health Authority was landed during the year. On two occasions the Medical Officer of Health examined stowaways landed at the port.

V.-Measures Against Rodents.

As the Navy relinquished control of the Harbour premises, it became apparent that there was a considerable infestation of "black" rats. The Corporation Rat Catcher, employing the technique recommended by the Ministry of Food, estimates, from the accepted formula for determining the number of rats poisoned, that 486 rats were killed on the Harbour premises.

VI.-Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

Of the vessels inspected, the crews' quarters and accommodation were found to be clean and satisfactory.

VII.-Food Inspection.

No inspections of food were made by the Port Health Authority. Shell Fish.—The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations continue to operate.

VI. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Births.

During the year 566 births were notified and amongst these there were 24 stillbirths, giving a percentage rate of 4.2. Midwives notified 264 births, and the General Hospital 270. Eleven cases were notified by doctors and 21 came from both doctors and midwives.

Institutional Provision for Expectant Mothers.

Very few mothers were evacuated—actually one—though several cancelled their arrangements to evacuate to areas of greater safety during 1945. The greater proportion of mothers had their babies born in their own homes. The only institution providing facilities for births in the Borough is the Maternity Ward of the Ramsgate General Hospital with 12 beds.

The beds are totally insufficient for the requirements of the population and are all booked months ahead. Indeed, so keen has become the competition for these beds that women are advised to book immediately they are aware of their pregnancy.

There are no maternity homes in the Borough though the demand for such accommodation is great. The furnishing and staffing of these institutions are the stumbling blocks.

Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality.

There were three deaths under this heading, all occurring in the General Hospital. Two had been sent in because of eclampsia and toxæmia of pregnancy—these complications causing death. One patient was sent into hospital with incomplete miscarriage and died from loss of blood following an operation. None of these cases originated in Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The particulars of children attending the Welfare Centre during 1945 was as follows:

Total number of children who first attended d and who on the date of their first attenda			ar
Under one year of age			364
1-5 years of age			10
Total number of children who attended and who	at the	end	
of the year were—			
Under one year of age			297
1-5 years of age			515
Total number of attendances by children—			
			3,574
			1,438
Mothers' Clinics.			
Ante-Natal consultations:	1		
Number of women who attended for the first ti	me		252
Number of women who attended			273
Total attendances			796
Post-Natal Consultations:			
Number of women who attended for the first	time		7
Number of women who attended			7
Total attendances			18
	12.00	1000	1000

Supply of Milk and Vitamins, etc.

The Welfare Authority continued to supply, at the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health, proprietary brands of dried milk to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children. In a few instances, where the Committee was satisfied as to the necessity, the milk was provided free of charge.

Cod Liver Oil, Cod Liver Oil Capsules and Orange Juice were distributed on behalf of the Food Office. Virol and Parish's Food are available on the recommendation of the Medical Officer.

Work of Health Visitors.

Among visits paid by the Health Visitors	s were th	ne follo	wing:	
Number of infants under one year of age				474
Total visits to infants under one year of	age			2,437
Total visits to children 1-5 years				4,849
Number of expectant mothers visited				138
Total visits to expectant mothers				190

Care of Premature Infants.

This Department worked in close association with the local hospital so that supervision of these children in the home was complete.

Infant Life Protection.

	Foster-Mothers	Foster-Children.
No. on Register 1st January, 1945	6	8
No. on Register 31st December, 1945	6	9
No of individuals during year	14	28

In a number of cases the Health Department acted as agent in bringing together the foster-mother and the child in need of her care. Every woman who satisfactorily carried out her duties was noted by the Department as an approved person for this work.

No applications were received for payment of foster-mothers by parents of the children, although such an arrangement has been approved by the Local Authority.

Adopted Children.

The work carried out under the Adoption of Children (Regulations) Act, 1939, can be summarised as follows:—

Number of persons who ga	ave notice	unde	r Section 7	(3)	luring	
the year						1
Total number of children	in respect	of w	hom notice	was	given	
during the year						1
Under supervision at end						1
Who died during the year						Nil

Illegitimacy.

During the year assistance was given in several cases of illegitimacy, using a variety of expedients as the occasion demanded. In three instances financial liability was accepted for the admission of the mother to a Home for Unmarried Mothers, the cases being referred from the Thanet Moral Welfare Association.

A special weakness in the welfare of illegitimate children, was the lack of nursery accommodation, as a result of which considerable hardship was experienced by some mothers who were unable to dispose of their children and hence were unable to find work. Nursery classes would go far to remove this difficulty. In other cases, the mother was able to find a foster-mother.

Home and Domestic Helps.

The situation with regard to these workers has remained difficult. It has been impossible to obtain a panel of workers sufficient to meet the demands. In a town given up to the entertainment and accommodation of visitors, there must inevitably be a difficulty in such a scheme as this in the summer months when much higher remuneration is easily available.

It was impossible in a number of instances to supply the help so urgently required. During the winter months it is hoped the position will be satisfactory.

Number of Home and Dor	nestic	Helps	employed	during	1945	9
Number of cases assisted:-	-					
Home Help cases						11
Domestic Help cases						6

Nursing Homes.

The Nursing Home for the aged and infirm, organised by Miss Butler at Brenan House, still continues its excellent work. So great has been the demands for beds in her home that Miss Butler is contemplating a considerable extension of her premises.

There is one other Nursing Home at 6, Crescent Road, owned by Mrs. White, which was established before the war, and is now accepting cases. There are no Nursing Homes for maternity cases in Ramsgate, though some four or five are available in adjoining areas.

V. Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases (civilian), apart from Tuberculosis, in Ramsgate, during 1945. There were 464 notifications, as compared with 514 in 1944, 188 in 1943, and 294 in 1942.

		-											
	Suarter	ф. Ч ₁ Ъ	19	16	63	12	63	1	1	07	-		55
TOTALS	Сиатет	3rd	255	9	100	7	9	-	-	1	1	1	79
TOT	Quarter	PuZ	67	15	2	00	1	1	1	1	-	1	95
	Suarter) isl	10	13	9	9	4	1	1	1	1	1	35
		Over 5 65	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
		45-65	1	1	M	1	7	1	1	1	1	- 1	10
		35-45	-	Н	M	1	03	1	1	1	١	- 1	7
	.:	15-20 20-35 35-45 45-65	1	10	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	00
	INCIDENCE.			7	1	٦	1	1	1	1	-	1	9
	IDE	10-15	13	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	25
	INC	5.10	162	26	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	-	200
	AGE	4.5	33	П	1	9	П	1	1	1	1	-	7
	AC	3.4	49	2	1	63	1	1	1	1	1	1	54
		2.3	40	6/3	7	20	1	1	1	-	1	- 1	49
		1-2	36	03	1	9	Н	1	1	1	1	1	45
		1-0	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	63	14
s	tal Death	оТ	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Í	1	-1	1
l l	ses admitt estiqeoH o	Cas	1	26	1	1	1	1	1	63	1	63	33
	Total Cases Notified		346	20	16	33	12	1	1	63	1	63	464
	Disease		Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Puerperal Fever	Diphtheria	Chickenpox	Ophthalmia .Neonatorum	Total

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—COMPARABILITY TABLE, 1944.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000).	London Administra- tive County.	RAMSGATE.
		Rates per	1.000 Populat	tion (Civilia	ns)
Notifications:			1		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	2.02
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	2.03
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	1.34
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.08
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.49
Small-pox	0.00	0.00 10.89	11.19	9.03	14 05
Measles Pneumonia	11.67 0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.65
(a) Rates per 1,000 Total B Notifications :—					
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	1.65

Abortion wit	h Sepsis	Abortion Seps		Puerperal Infect		ns Other Car	
E. & W.	R.	E. & W.	R.	E. & W.	R.	E. & W.	R,
0 25	_	0.08	_	0.24	_	1.22	4.96

Diphtheria.

Two cases were notified during the year. Neither of these cases had previously been immunised.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 26 of which were admitted to various Isolation Hospitals in the adjoining areas. The type of the disease remained mild and free from complications.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A diphtheria immunisation campaign was held during the spring months of 1945 with good results. In returns made to the Ministry of Health it was estimated that 333 children under five, and 247 children whose ages were from five to fifteen years were completely immunised during the year. In another return made to the Ministry it was stated that 2,104 children had been completely immunised since the beginning of the immunisation scheme in Ramsgate.

The following table shows the approximate number of immunised children under 5 years and of school age (5—15). It will be appreciated that reliable statistics relating to immunisation have been very difficult to collect owing to the constant return of evacuees and others to the Borough. No record either of a certificate or of a scar as in vaccination is left with an immunised child as evidence, and half-yearly returns to the Ministry have to be based largely upon the information given by parents.

	19	942	19	1943 1944		1945		
Age	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months	lst 6 months	2nd 6 months	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months
0-1	4	14	14	-	6	_	_	_
1-2	19	41	78	37	64	82	64	145
2—3	16	29	28	3	2	7	62	21
3-4	20	33	37	7	5	1	10	16
4-5	17	19	28	7	2	6	8	_ 7
5-6	27	34	35	7	12	6	36	14
6-7	25	29	22	3	4	1	30	11
7-8	19	25	15	4	12	-	12	9
8-9	30	27	5	3	6	2	22	8
9-10	21	15	- 11	1	4	-	15	10
10-11	22	15	8	3	1	2	13	7
11-12	17	11	5	1	10	1	12	14
12-13	17	15	15	1	6	1	10	4
13-14	19	8	6	-	3	1	11	1
14-15	-	1	1	-	_	-	_	8
15	4	_	7	_	-	_	_	_

Measles, etc.

A mild epidemic of measles visited the town during the summer months. There were few complications and no deaths.

Other Infectious Diseases.

No special comment is called for in respect of other common infectious diseases of childhood.

Tuberculosis.

Fifty cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1945 as compared with 54 in 1944, 36 in 1943 and 38 in 1942. Of these, 43 were of pulmonary disease. Fifteen deaths were certified as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, and 2 to non-pulmonary.

		New	Cases.		Deaths.				
Age Periods.	Respir	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		on- ratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 1-5 5-10 10-15 20-25 25-35 35-45 45-55 55-65	1 1 2 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	- 2 - 1 1 4 5 3 - 1 1	1 - 1	- 2 - 1 - - 1 - -	- - - - 2 1 4 1 1 2	- - - - 2 1 - - 1			
Total	. 25	18	3	4	11	4	2	-	

Number of deaths due to Tuberculosis hitherto unnotified .. Nil Percentage of deaths due to Tuberculosis hitherto unnotified .. Nil

Venereal Diseases.

This Authority is not responsible for the treatment of these complaints. The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with the following figures of persons giving Ramsgate addresses who were treated during the year at Eton House, Margate.

			Male	Female
Syphilis	 	 **	4	
Gonorrhoea		 	11	19
Non-venereal		 	9	22
			24	48