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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

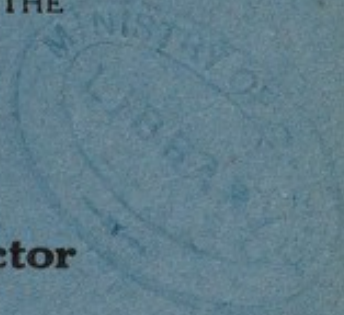
REPORT

OF THE


Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1951







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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, JUNE, 1951.**

Chairman:

Councillor W. H. Greenstreet

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor D. M. Hughes

His Worship The Mayor

(ALDERMAN P. TURNER, J.P.)

Alderman Mrs. E. M. Billingham

„ A. E. Petley

Councillor W. L. Austin

„ L. F. Davey

„ W. F. Howard

„ G. Jefford

„ J. H. Lewis

„ Mrs. L. M. Maile

„ W. E. Martin

„ Mrs. Robson

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT*Medical Officer of Health:*

H. M. Cargin, M.D., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

E. Young, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector

Sanitary Inspectors:

F. Brown, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.A. of
Scotland

C. H. Weller, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector

Clerical Staff:

J. S. Robertson

J. Newing

Miss V. Toleman (Temporary, Resigned 30.11.51)

Disinfectors and Drain Testers:

H. J. Farley

G. C. Riordan

Rodent Destruction Operators:

J. Moyse (Resigned 19.5.51)

J. G. Piner (Resigned 30.6.51)

V. C. Barker (Commenced 20.8.51)

Public Analysts:

Messrs. Hawkins and Hawkins, Canterbury

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the report on the working of this Department for the year 1951.

The health of the Borough was maintained at its usual high standard. Apart from a mild outbreak of Measles, which was fairly general in England and Wales, there were few infectious cases reported.

I have again to express my thanks to the Staff of this Department and to my colleagues in other Departments of the Borough for their co-operation and for the information so freely supplied.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. CARGIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1952.

I.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of the population mid-1951	35,840
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	11,573
Rateable Value	£294,463
General Rate	23/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,150

1.—Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	490	262	228
Illegitimate ...	34	18	16
Total ...	524	280	244

The illegitimate births formed 6.4% of the total, 3.1% less than for the previous year.

TOTAL BIRTH RATE

(Uncorrected) 14.7 per 1,000 of population	} See Page 12
(Corrected) 15.2 per 1,000 of population	
(England and Wales — 15.5)	

Stillbirths:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	14	7	7
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Total ...	15	7	8

Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 Births) ... 27.8

The number shows an increase of nearly 100% this year.

Total Deaths:	Total	Male	Female
All causes	553	282	271
Death Rate (uncorrected) ...	15.4	} See Page 10	
Death Rate (corrected) ...	13.2		
(England and Wales — 12.5)			

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	16	9	7
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Total ...	17	9	8

Infantile Mortality Rates:

Death Rate of Infants (i.e. under one year of age)
per 1,000 Live Births:

Total	32.4
Legitimate	32.6
Illegitimate	29.4

The Infant Mortality Rate in England and Wales was 29.6.

2.—Causes of Death.

The following tables show the causes of death as given in the Registrar General's statistics.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis—respiratory	10	7
2. Tuberculosis—other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	31	13
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—
16. Diabetes	2	7
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	63
18. Coronary disease, angina	29	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	7	3
20. Other heart disease	48	53
21. Other circulatory disease	4	8
22. Influenza	9	3
23. Pneumonia	11	6
24. Bronchitis	20	17
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	1
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhœa	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	3
31. Congenital malformations	3	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	27	33
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2
34. All other accidents	4	4
35. Suicide	3	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	282	271
	553	

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	Over 75	Total
MALES ...	10	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	6	10	32	44	73	102	282
FEMALES ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	6	10	15	24	71	134	271

3.—Population.

The population, as given by the Registrar General, was 35,840, which shows a decrease of 120 compared with 1950.

4.—Births.

The number of births registered was 524, a decrease of 19.

5.—Death Rate.

This shows a decrease of 0.5. A correction factor has been supplied by the Registrar General. This factor is based upon the disparity in age and sex groups found in certain health resorts where there may be a high percentage of elderly people as pertains in Ramsgate. It is used to secure uniformity between death rates, say in Ramsgate and in other areas where the age and sex groups are more evenly distributed.

The factor for this Authority is 0.86, this multiplied by the uncorrected death rate gives a corrected death rate of 13.2 as compared with 15.4.

6.—Maternal Mortality.

There were three deaths allocated by the Registrar General as being due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

7.—Infant Mortality.

The next table shows the infant deaths (17) from various causes, stated in accordance with the age at death. Of this total, 9 were male and 8 female infants. The headings of the table are those of the latest annual report of the Ministry of Health.

The greatest increase amongst the infantile deaths was in those classified as of premature birth, in these deaths there was an increase of five. It is difficult to ascribe a cause for these deaths other than the strain and stress of modern life due in part to economic and housing difficulties affecting the mothers. It should be remembered in dealing with these small figures, chance variations may lead to unjustified conclusions.

INFANTILE DEATHS TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH

Cause	Days										Months												Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-14	14-28	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12			
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Tuberculous diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5		
Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3		
Premature Birth ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6		
Injury at Birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Asphyxia, Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Congenital Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Hæmolytic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Other causes ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2		
Totals	5	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	17		

8.—Birth Rate.

The uncorrected birth rate is 14.7, i.e., the total births per 1,000 of the population. Again, as in the case of deaths, the Registrar General has supplied a correction figure (to meet the unequal distribution of the population according to age and sex) for this area. The correction figure is 1.04 and this multiplied by the above, results in a birth rate of 15.2. The comparable figure for England and Wales was 15.5. Both show a decrease of 0.6 and 0.3 respectively.

Since 1947, the period of highest birth rate in later years, there has been a steady decline in the number of children born. This decrease was from 24.6 to 15.2 per 1,000 of the population and of these births the greatest reduction has been amongst the female children.

9.—Table Showing Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases.

	Ramsgate	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns. Population 25,000-50,000
Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
<i>Births:—</i>			
Live Births	15.2	15.5	16.7
Still Births	0.41	0.36	0.38
<i>Deaths:—</i>			
All causes	13.2 (corrected)	12.5	12.5
<i>Deaths due to:—</i>			
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.47	0.31	0.31
Influenza	0.33	0.38	0.38
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.00	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.47	0.61	0.63
<i>Notification of Infectious Diseases:—</i>			
Typhoid Fever... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.02	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	0.80	1.11	1.20
Whooping Cough	3.04	3.87	4.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.11	0.14	0.12
Small-pox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	13.56	14.07	14.82
Pneumonia	0.41	0.99	0.96
Acute Poliomyelitis —			
Paralytic	0.00	0.03	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.13	0.08
Rates per 1,000 live births			
<i>Deaths:—</i>			
All causes under 1 year of age	32.4	29.6	27.6
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.81	1.4	1.0
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.			
<i>Notifications:—</i>			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	3.71	10.66	8.08

II.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough is situated in the south eastern part of the Isle of Thanet, has a southerly aspect and is approximately 72 miles from London. In general, Ramsgate stands on high ground, has a chalk sub-soil and enjoys some protection from north and east winds. There is a high sunshine and low rainfall rate, which makes the town an attractive one as a health resort for holiday-makers, and for permanent residence.

Many of the inhabitants are engaged directly or indirectly in meeting the requirements of the large number of visitors during the summer months. Certain industries, such as flour milling, brewing and railway work, and other more recently established manufactories, give employment to a considerable number of inhabitants.

Other manufactories, fireworks, toys, stockings, etc., have been begun within a short distance of Ramsgate.

III.—METEOROLOGY

Meteorological observations were carried on throughout the year. Twice daily telegraphic reports and monthly returns were transmitted to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry. Daily information was also supplied to the Press.

Sunshine.

Monthly sunshine duration:

January	...	...	57.3	hours
February	...	...	73.7	"
March	...	...	121.2	"
April	...	...	194.2	"
May	...	...	185.5	"
June	...	...	264.9	"
July	...	...	246.2	"
August	...	...	178.9	"
September	...	...	132.7	"
October	...	...	114.8	"
November	...	...	64.1	"
December	...	...	33.4	"

The highest sunshine record in any day was on 20th June with 14.9 hours. Only 72 days were recorded as sunless.

Rainfall.

The total rainfall for the year was 27.56 inches as compared with 22.38 inches for 1950. Thunder was heard on 13 days and snow fell on five days.

IV.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1.—Laboratory Facilities.

Besides the facilities that have existed for some years at the County Council Laboratory, Maidstone, a laboratory has now been instituted at the Ramsgate General Hospital under the supervision of the Pathologist, Dr. I. B. Morris.

2.—Ambulance Facilities.

As from 5th July, 1948, the provision of an ambulance service has been the responsibility of the Kent County Council. Three ambulances are stationed at the Health Centre and controlled from the Divisional Headquarters at Broadstairs (Phone, Thanet 61461).

3.—Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following table gives particulars of the days and times of clinics which are provided by the Kent County Council:

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

	<i>Health Centre</i>	<i>Sussex Street</i>
Infant Clinics	Mon. and Wed. 2-4 p.m.	Tues. and Thurs. 2-4 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinics	2nd and 4th Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 noon
Women's Welfare Clinics	1st and 3rd Fridays 10-12 noon	

SCHOOL HEALTH

Minor Ailment Clinics	Mon., Wed., Sat. 9-11 a.m.
Dental Clinics	Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. and Fri. 9.15 a.m.-4 p.m.
Ophthalmic Clinics	Monday 9-11 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinics	Alternate Wednesdays 9.30 a.m.- 12 noon

4.—Hospitals.

(a) General.

Mr. R. A. G. White, Administrator of the Ramsgate General Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information concerning the number of new patients dealt with during 1951:

IN-PATIENTS

Maternity	...	...	...	325
Others	...	...	...	1,900

OUT-PATIENTS

Casualty Department	4,928
---------------------	-----	-----	-------

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS

Medical	...	...	...	321
Surgical	...	...	...	788
Gynaecological	...	...	...	240
Ophthalmic	...	...	...	451
Paediatric	...	...	...	84
Aural	...	...	...	998
Rheumatism	...	...	...	76
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	321
Dermatological	...	...	...	381
Urological	...	...	...	292
Neuropsychiatry	...	...	...	177
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	1,090
Dental	...	...	...	92
Physical Medicine	...	...	...	783
Physiotherapy	...	...	...	1,735

EXAMINATIONS

X-Ray	...	...	...	6,991
Pathological	...	...	...	8,108

(b) Infectious Disease Hospitals**(i) SMALLPOX**

Under an arrangement by the Regional Hospital Board, cases of smallpox may be admitted to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford. There were no cases during the year.

(ii) OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Cases of infectious disease other than smallpox are admitted to the Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate, now under the administration of the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee.

(c) Maternity

The only beds provided for patients requiring institutional treatment are the 13 beds in the maternity department of the Ramsgate General Hospital. The beds previously available in nursing homes are now used for other purposes. Three hundred and twenty-five maternity patients were admitted to the hospital, an increase of 69 from the previous year.

5.—Public Health Act, 1936—Part VI. Nursing Homes.

The registration and supervision of nursing homes still remains the responsibility of the Local Authority.

The number registered in the Borough was 5, and these provide 107 beds. The homes were kept under supervision during the year. The maternity home accommodation was discontinued. One new nursing home was registered—Faulklands, Albion Place, with accommodation for 22 patients.

The particulars of all the nursing homes registered are as follows:

	No. of Beds
Ferriby Lodge, Hollicondane Road ...	17
21, Vale Square and annexe 11, Crescent Road ...	56
Arundel, West Cliff Road ...	10
3, Nethercourt Gardens ...	2
Faulklands, Albion Place ...	22

6.—National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

This gives authority to secure necessary care and attention for persons who:

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Application was made to the Court for the removal of two persons and orders were made by the Justices. In one case the necessary care and attention were obtained without enforcing the order. In the other case the patient was removed to a hospital.

7.—National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50.

Under the provisions of this section, five persons were buried at the expense of the Local Authority, at a total cost of £58 0s. 0d.

8.—Superannuation Examinations.

Six medical examinations of Corporation employees were made.

V.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.—Water Supply.

The source of supply is rain, which falls mainly on an agricultural and a sparsely populated area. The rain water as such, is soft, but in its fall it becomes slightly acidified and picks up some chlorides. The water becomes further acidified in its filtration through the soil and sand, and thus is enabled to dissolve the chalk on its way through the fissures in the chalk to the adits. Thence it passes to the deep wells and to the pumps for general distribution.

The main supply is obtained through the Whitehall Pumping Station, where there are three pumps, though there is a supplementary pump at the Lord of the Manor.

The high degree of purity of this constant water supply is shown from the results of the frequent samples submitted. The figures for Chlorine as Chlorides in this seaside supply vary from time to time, though the hardness remains high.

The following report from the Public Analyst shows average figures for the year:

	Parts per 100,000
Appearance	Clear
Smell	None
Chlorine in Chlorides	13.17
Chlorine calculated as Sodium Chloride ...	24.50
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates...	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.12
Ammonia	0.0001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0016
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.019
Hardness before boiling (Total)	27.5
Hardness after boiling (Permanent) ...	8.6
Total solid matter	56.1
Microscopical examination of deposit ...	Unimportant

Besides samples of water taken for examination by the Water Department, 36 samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors of treated and untreated water for bacteriological examination. Four samples were also taken by the Inspectors for chemical analysis.

Although the results throughout were excellent, free chlorine to the extent of 0.15 to 0.2 parts per million is added by the Water Department as an additional precaution against bacteriological contamination.

The following report from the Water Engineer gives figures of the consumption of water during 1951:

Total gallons pumped	626,398,000
Average daily	1,716,159
Maximum day consumption (July 17th) ...	2,501,000

Approximately 204,262,000 gallons of the total amount consumed was used for industrial purposes, and the remainder for domestic use.

It is to be hoped that some means will shortly be devised whereby a much softened water supply will be available.

2.—Drainage and Sewerage.

The Borough Engineer reports that the 450 yard extension of the main trunk sewer serving the Nethercourt Housing Estate has been completed during the year.

Consideration was given to the number of cesspools etc. existing in those areas which were transferred to the Borough of Ramsgate under the County of Kent Review Order of 1935, namely, the parishes of St. Lawrence Extra and part of the parish of Minster. To obviate any risks that might arise from infrequent emptying of the containers in these areas, it was decided that this cleansing should be carried out by the Corporation workmen, thus ensuring regular emptying and inspection. The estimated cost of this work if one gully emptier with a crew of two men were employed would be £1,400 per annum and approximately double that amount would be expended if a second machine and crew were needed.

The Differential Rating enjoyed by these outside areas was 5s. in the £ less than the Borough General Rate, and amounted to a total sum of approximately £1,350 per annum. Application was made to the Ministry of Health by this Authority for the annulment of this differential in view of the amenities already enjoyed and proposed for these areas. The Ministry approved the application and decided the reduction in the differential should take place over periods as follows:

Periods	Amounts in the £ less than the Borough General Rate
1st April, 1951 — 31st March, 1952 ...	From 5/- to 3/6
1st April, 1952 — 31st March, 1953 ...	From 3/6 to 2/-
1st April, 1953 — 31st March, 1954 ...	From 2/- to 1/-

and thereafter the relief of rates allowed by the Order of 1935 shall cease to apply to the transferred areas.

3.—Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

4.—Public Cleansing.

The Borough Engineer reports: "Controlled tipping is a method of disposal of house refuse and has been started on a site of 14 acres in the Pegwell Bay—Cliffsend area. At the present time approximately one-third of the refuse is disposed of in this way and there has been no complaint of any nuisance being caused by this."

This scheme was put in force because of the overloading of the Destructor, despite the recent addition of two cells.

5.—Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of Manston, Cliffsend and Nethercourt areas, all houses in the Borough are connected with the water carriage system.

6.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspectors paid 5,667 visits. Information on their work, together with lists of notices served, and the result of such notices, are included in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

7.—Shops Act, 1950—Section 38.

This Act, which became operative on the 1st October, 1950, replaced the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934.

Sixty visits were made to shops to ensure that the provisions relating to the health and comfort of the staff were being carried out. These visits resulted in the following improvements being effected:

Drains relaid	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared	...	...	...	1
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	1
Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	1
Premises renovated	...	...	...	1
New floors laid	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	3
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	1

This Department continues to receive helpful co-operation from the Food Executive Officer, thereby ensuring that every applicant for a licence becomes aware of the requirements of the Department before the premises are licensed by the Food Control Committee.

8.—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

No. of Premises		No. of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power	...	39	36
Factories without mechanical power	...	158	81
Other premises	...	15	—

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	7	7	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Defective	6	4	—	1
Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—
Other offences	2	2	—	—

In no case was it found necessary to institute proceedings.

OUTWORKERS

There were only eight outworkers registered, all of whom are engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

9.—Moveable Dwellings.

In addition to the two existing sites in the Borough, a further site was provided during 1951. This is situated in the well wooded and enclosed grounds of what was a large unoccupied house in the Pegwell

Bay area. The house now provides all the amenities of an hotel and is open for the use of campers, while the lawns and wooded parts, with sea views, give excellent accommodation for caravans.

Food, games, beds and baths if required, are available in the mansion, while shower baths and laundry facilities are also available. Space is provided for 70 caravans, but no tents or converted vehicles are permitted.

Thirty-nine inspections of the sites were carried out, and no serious defect was found. Makeshift caravans, converted buses, etc., are not encouraged, and attempts are made to confine the users of these sites to genuine trailer caravans.

10.—Smoke Abatement.

It has not been necessary to take any action with regard to nuisance arising from smoke.

11.—Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Marina Bathing Pool is the only swimming bath open to the public. Close supervision was maintained on the general sanitary conditions and 24 samples of water were taken during the summer months and were submitted for analysis. This water is pumped from the sea. It is then filtered and chlorinated to the amount of one part per million—this acts as a disinfectant for the protection of bathers. It is known that chlorination of the water is capable of inactivating the virus of Poliomyelitis and other infections. There is no proof that it has any harmful effects on the human body.

12.—Offensive Trades.

Six marine stores are registered under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907, and of these only two dealing in both rags and bones are registered as offensive trades under the Public Health Act, 1936.

13.—Fish Fryers.

Twenty-three fish fryers are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Periodic inspection is carried out, and a high standard has been maintained.

VI.—HOUSING

Building of houses to meet the needs of the population still continues, though the numbers are considerably reduced owing to the shortage of the necessary materials.

The demand for houses is still acute and the allocation of such houses as are available is an unenviable task.

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)	497
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,121
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(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	433

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	401
--	-----

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

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ...	15
(a) By owners	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceeding under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d) Proceeding 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
(e) Proceeding under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Areas	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

In spite of the provision of Council houses, a considerable number of properties are being sub-let, and although the permitted number of the whole premises has not in itself been exceeded, there is a considerable amount of overcrowding in the sub-let portion of these premises.

Under these conditions, the application of this part of the Housing Act is considered impracticable.

5.—Council Houses.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following detailed information:—

Number of newly constructed properties passed to Housing Department for letting during 1951:

Traditional type	four-bedroomed	non-parlour	4
Traditional type	three-bedroomed	non-parlour	72
Traditional type flats (two storeys)	two-bedroomed	non-parlour	28
Total ...			104

6.—Future Building Programme.

Further schemes are being prepared for the approval of the Ministry of Housing.

7.—Housing Applications.

The number of housing applications registered with the Council at 31st December, 1951, was 1,017.

8.—Tuberculosis.

Applications from families wherein open cases of this disease exists, are brought to the notice of the Housing Manager, and are then subject to the consideration of the Housing Committee. Five cases were referred for consideration during the year.

9.—Allocation of Accommodation.

Number of families and persons accommodated by the Housing Committee for the year, including transfer of tenancies, are as follows:

	Houses	Families	Persons
Council Houses ...	140	142	569
Pre-fab bungalows ...	23	23	72
Flats ...	41	41	105
Requisitioned properties	11	12	39
Total ...	215	218	785

The number of properties controlled by the Council at the end of 1951 was:

Pre-war schemes ...	...	583
Post-war schemes:—		
Traditional houses ...	...	558
Traditional flats ...	...	144
Pre-fabricated bungalows ...	...	199
Requisitioned properties ...	...	70
Houses purchased by the Council	...	14
Total ...		1,568

VII.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1.—Statistics.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified, in age groups, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases:

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths Registered	AGE INCIDENCE.											
				0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever ...	29	22	—	—	1	2	5	4	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	486	7	—	6	84	76	76	129	104	5	6	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	100	6	—	4	27	18	18	22	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	15	—	*17	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	2	6
Erysipelas ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

* All forms of pneumonia

2.—Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation.

Again a year in which no case of Diphtheria occurred in the Borough, but lest complacency arises in the minds of the public, this remarkable decline in this deadly disease should be considered in conjunction with the circular from the Ministry of Health issued to Local Authorities. This circular states: "It is vital to secure that not less than 75% of babies are immunised before their first birthday. The highest rate so far achieved has only been 55%, and only about 28% of the estimated children reaching one year of age in 1951 were immunised in that year.

Diphtheria is still a deadly disease and still constitutes a serious threat. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of the disease of the possibility of which there have been one or two sharp reminders in late months."

That protection is afforded by immunisation is shown by the reduction in the number of deaths from this disease. In 1944 there were 934 deaths in England and Wales, but in 1951 there were only 34 deaths.

The last case of this disease in Ramsgate occurred in 1947. This excellent result is no doubt largely due to the protective injection given to the children. Information supplied by the Kent County Authority shows that 534 children received their first inoculation and 1,025 children received re-inforcing injections during 1951. This Authority also estimates that only 63.2% of the Ramsgate children under 15 years of age have so far been immunised. This estimate may be slightly low owing to immunisation carried out by private doctors not being included in the above figures.

3.—Smallpox and Vaccination.

No cases or suspicious cases occurred.

The County Medical Officer informs me that 385 persons were vaccinated and 161 re-vaccinated during the year.

ASSISTANCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX

A panel of doctors has now been formed to assist in the diagnosis of this disease. The instruction from the Ministry states: "When a general practitioner or a member of the Hospital staff raises the possibility of the diagnosis of smallpox, he should in every case first call in the Medical Officer of Health to decide whether he requires a further opinion. The fees of the consultants will be paid by the Ministry only when a further opinion is called for by the Medical Officer of Health."

An additional help in the diagnosis of this disease is now available by bacteriological methods. Crusts, blood serum or pus taken from the patient, and sent to Colindale Laboratory will be diagnosed within 2 to 72 hours from their receipt, the time depending on the quantity of the specimens sent.

4.—Individual Diseases.

(a) PARA-TYPHOID FEVER:

One case of this disease occurred in Ramsgate.

(b) CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER:

One case was notified during the year.

(c) POLIOMYELITIS:

Two cases were notified and removed to hospital.

(d) MEASLES:

There was a decrease in the number of notifications received, 486 as compared with 567 in 1950. No deaths were reported.

(e) WHOOPING COUGH:

One hundred and nine cases were notified as compared with 307 during the previous year. There were no deaths ascribed to this disease.

(f) SCARLET FEVER:

Twenty-nine cases were notified and of these 22 were removed to hospital. The disease continued to be of a mild type, and there were no deaths.

5.—Tuberculosis.

Formal notification in respect of 28 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory cases were received. In addition 17 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources:

		Respiratory	Non-respiratory
Transferred from other areas	...	12	1
Restored to register	...	4	—

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths according to age groups:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-5 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 ...	4	9	—	1	—	3	—	—
25-35 ...	5	7	—	—	—	2	—	—
35-45 ...	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45-55 ...	—	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55-65 ...	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total ...	16	22	—	1	10	7	—	—

The number of cases remaining on the register on 31st December, 1951, was:

		Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	...	148	116	264
Non-respiratory	...	18	29	47
Total	...	166	145	311

6.—Venereal Diseases.

Sixteen new patients from Ramsgate (8 male, 8 female) were treated at the clinic provided by the Regional Hospital Board. A total of 1,083 attendances were made by all patients.

VIII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors for the following particulars.

1.—Milk.

There was a marked increase in the number of persons requiring registration as Distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and as Dealers under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949. This was brought about largely because Sterilised milk was introduced into the area for the first time and many small general shops became retailers.

These additional registrations and annual renewals involve no small amount of work, and the practical advantage of having a person who retails milk in hermetically sealed bottles subject to two registrations, one of which requires annual renewal, is difficult to understand.

The retailing of sterilised milk in hermetically sealed containers is in no way different from the sale of canned condensed and canned evaporated milk, and its retail sale should be removed from the control of the two regulations previously mentioned.

(a) LICENCES

Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:

Dairies	...	...	...	6
Dairymen	...	...	...	6
Distributors	...	...	...	65

All 6 Dairymen are licensed under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, as Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Four of the dairies are licensed Pasteurising establishments under the provision of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, and the occupiers of the remaining 2 dairies are licensed to use the special designation "Pasteurised" in relation to pasteurised milk bottled on the premises.

Three of the Pasteurising establishments are subjecting all their milk, including T.T. milk, to the pasteurising process, and retailing the latter as "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)." This undoubtedly gives (bacteriologically) a high grade of milk.

Of the 65 Distributors, 49 hold Dealers' licences to use the designation "Pasteurised," 18 hold Dealers' licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" and 35 hold Dealers' licences to use the designation "Sterilised."

(b) EXAMINATION AND TESTING

The following table denotes the number of samples of milk taken for examination and testing.

	Class of Milk			
	Pasteurised	Pasteurised T.T.	Tuberculin tested	Sterilised
No. of samples tested	52	14	6	8
Satisfactory:				
Methylene Blue test	49	12	6	—
Phosphatase test ...	50	14	—	—
Turbidity test ...	—	—	—	8
Failed:				
Methylene Blue test	3	2	—	—
Phosphatase test ...	2	—	—	—
Turbidity test ...	—	—	—	—

The Methylene Blue test is designed to determine the keeping quality and cleanliness of the milk, and the Phosphatase test is to ascertain whether the milk has been correctly pasteurised.

One sample of untreated milk, submitted for examination for the possible presence of Tubercle bacilli, was found to be negative, and therefore satisfactory.

Milk samples have again reached a high standard and reflect with credit the work put in by the Sanitary Inspectors in supervising the various premises.

Two hundred and fifty-three visits were made to dairies and milk-shops, and every effort was made to secure the co-operation of dairymen in achieving a high standard of handling and processing, and in no case was legal action found necessary.

During the year, paragraphs 5 (1) and (2) of Part I of the second schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations were implemented, and in accordance with the views expressed by the Kent County Council in their letter of 1st August, 1950, relating to the above, all pasteurising licences issued were endorsed with the following conditions, which were to become operative on 1st July, 1951:

- (a) Each milk pasteurising plant shall be fitted with the following efficient indicating thermometers:
 - (i) One such thermometer so placed in the heating section of the plant as to indicate the temperature to which the milk is raised during pasteurisation.
 - (ii) One such thermometer so placed in the cooling section of the plant as to indicate the temperature to which the milk is lowered on cooling after pasteurisation.

- (b) Each milk pasteurising plant shall be fitted with an efficient recording thermometer so placed in the heating section of the plant as to record the temperature to which the milk is raised and the period of time throughout which temperatures are maintained during pasteurisation.
- (c) Each milk pasteurising plant shall be fitted with an efficient recording thermometer so placed in the cooling section of the plant as to record the temperature to which the milk is lowered on cooling after pasteurisation.

Because of supply difficulties, however, all the pasteurising plants were not fully equipped with thermometers on the cooling sections by the date specified, but all were equipped and operating satisfactorily before the end of the year.

Regular monthly reports showing the results of all tests are submitted to the Area Milk Officer and also the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food.

(c) ADULTERATION

Sixty-four samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The average standard attained was found to be well above the minimum required, and all samples were free from preservatives:

Average fat content	...	...	3.65%
Average non-fatty content	...	...	8.92%
Average total solids	...	...	12.57%

2.—Ice Cream.

Samples of ice cream, pre-packed and loose, were taken for examination. The method of assessing the standard of cleanliness, namely the Methylene Blue test, was employed, and the results of 28 samples taken, 8 pre-packed and 20 loose, were as follows:

No. Taken

19	...	Grade 1	...	Methylene Blue reduced in 4½ hours or more. Satisfactory
5	...	Grade 2	...	Methylene Blue reduced in 2½ to 4 hours. Fair
2	...	Grade 3	...	Methylene Blue reduced in 0 hours. Unsatisfactory
2	...	Grade 4	...	Very unsatisfactory.

Of the 4 samples falling into Grades 3 and 4, one was manufactured outside the Borough. The Medical Officer of Health of the district was notified. Follow-up samples of the remaining 3 unsatisfactory samples manufactured in the Borough were taken later and were found to be satisfactory.

Attention was again concentrated on premises in the Borough where ice cream was made or sold. Nine samples were taken for analysis and

six of these were genuine. Three, all from the same manufacturer, were slightly under standard. No action, other than a warning letter was taken, as the excuse given, namely, that the ices were prepared before the Order came into force on 1st March, 1951, may well have been genuine.

This Order prescribes that the standard for ice cream shall be as follows:

Fat	...	...	...	5%
Total solids	other	than	fat	7½%
Sugar	...	...	...	10%

Dealers in ice cream were registered as follows:

Manufacture and sale, all forms of ice cream	5
Storage and distribution for retail only	1
Sale only, all forms	131
Sale of pre-packed only	72
Total	209

One hundred and ten visits were made to these premises and it is pleasing to note the number of those selling pre-packed ices is increasing and that the vendors of the loose commodity are fewer.

Ice cream, in its loose form, for cornets, wafers, etc., is open to contamination on each occasion when a sale is made, whereas the pre-packed ices escape these dangers of service.

Two of the premises concerned in the sale of ices installed a hot water supply for cleansing.

3.—Food Preparing Premises.

The number of restaurants increased from 96 to 112, snack bars and tea rooms increased from 62 to 66 and hotel restaurants decreased from 18 to 11.

Two hundred and twenty-seven visits were made, and the campaign to improve the structural and hygienic standard of these premises was continued with good results.

The following improvements have been carried out by occupiers of food premises in the town:

Hot water supply introduced	...	...	4
New sinks installed	...	...	6
New pedestal pans fitted	...	...	4
New drainage carried out	...	...	4
Premises renovated	...	...	3
New flooring	...	...	3
Lavatory basins provided	...	...	4

One firm unresponsive to repeated warnings was proceeded against on 13 counts for uncleanness under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Clean Food Bye-laws made under the same Act. A conviction was recorded on each count and a fine of £13 was imposed.

4.—Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were 32 bakehouses on the register, none of which came under the category of "Underground Bakehouses."

Bakehouses rebuilt and re-equipped with modern plant	2
Premises renovated	5

5.—Preserved Foods.

Fifty premises are registered under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to prepare various types of preserved food, these are as follows:

Preparation of sausages, cooked and pickled meats	32
Preparation of cooked meats only	3
Bacon smoking and ham curing	1
Fish curing and smoking	2
Cooking and preparing of shellfish	2
Manufacture of pickles	3
Manufacture of sugar confectionery	7

These were all periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

6.—Fish Frying.

Twenty-three premises are registered.

7.—Slaughterhouses.

There are two slaughterhouses in use in the Borough occupied by the Ministry of Food, supplying meat to Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate. Work on reconstruction of one of these slaughterhouses was commenced during the year.

Improvements have been made to the slaughter hall and lairages, and the premises were re-drained. The work was not completed at the end of the year, and slaughtering has continued with improvised equipment, which added considerably to the difficulties of meat inspection, as there have been no proper facilities for hanging either carcasses or offal. It is anticipated that the work of reconstruction will be completed in the near future.

8.—Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was eight.

9.—Meat.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1981	441	1463	3324	1068
Number inspected	1981	441	1463	3324	1068
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	9	11	16	71
Part carcasses condemned	690	223	1	419	137
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	34.7	52.3	0.8	13.0	19.4
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	21	3	—	8
Part carcasses condemned	137	94	—	—	53
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.6	26.0	0.21	—	5.8

Total animals killed and inspected — 8,277

The total weight of meat condemned during the year was:

31 tons 11 cwts. 1 qrs. 12 lbs.

10.—Offals.

It is now the practice of the Ministry of Food to reserve for pharmaceutical purposes certain organs considered to be medicinally valuable. These organs, glands, etc., are removed from the carcass immediately upon slaughter, and are deposited in a quick freeze refrigerating unit installed for the purpose.

11.—Other Foods Condemned.

A total of 7 tons 19 cwts. 3qrs. 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of various tinned goods, eggs, butter, cheese, fish, etc., was surrendered during the year by shopkeepers. These articles of food were certified as unsound and were destroyed.

12.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Adulteration.

One hundred and twenty-seven samples (83 formal, 44 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample	Formal	Informal
*Milk	63	1
*Sausage meat (pork)	6	—
*Sausage meat (beef)	12	—
Ice cream	1	8
*Mineral waters	—	3
*Cream (synthetic)	—	3
*Cherries	—	3
*Paste (meat and fish)	—	2
Vinegar (malt)	1	—
*Coffee, chicory extract	—	1
*Sweets	—	3
*Coconut ice	—	3
Milk lollies	—	1
*Soup (tomato concentrated)	—	2
*Milk compound (whipping)	—	1
Pepper compound	—	1
Flour	—	1
*Gelatin	—	1
*Mixed peel	—	2
*Yoghourt	—	1
*Cheese cake	—	1
Ground rice	—	1
*Horsradish relish	—	1
*Honey	—	1
Biscuits	—	1
*Jelly	—	1
Lemon juice	—	1

The Tomato concentrated soup was found to contain an excess of tin, and the coconut ice was found to be rancid. In both cases the vendors surrendered the remainder of their stocks.

Three samples of cherries were examined, after complaint by the public, for the presence of poisonous sprays (arsenic, copper, lead, D.D.T. or Gammexane). The Analyst reported that all were absent and no chemical substance was found which was harmful.

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

The 111 samples of food marked * in the preceding table were also examined under the above Regulations and were found to conform to the requirements.

14.—Shellfish.

Experiments have shown that steam under pressure will sterilise shellfish completely in 1½ minutes. Subsequently handling can, and does, contaminate them with a variety of organisms. The extent of the organismal infection bears a definite relation to the time elapsing between

sterilising and retailing. Cockles sold in this area arrive in closed containers and under guarantee of sterilisation. Whelks and mussels are collected locally (some are imported) and are prepared by boiling, usually on the premises of the vendors.

Eleven premises are registered for the preparation of shellfish, in all cases by boiling, 10 of these are retailers and one only prepares and supplies retailers. Close observation was carried out on all these premises and no contravention of the Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations were discovered.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations are still in operation. These Regulations, which came into force in December, 1925, prohibited the sale of cockles taken from the prescribed area until they have been subjected to sterilisation by steam under pressure for at least six minutes. The sterilisation must be carried out either by the Sanitary Authority or in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the cockles are landed.

The washing facilities, two hand basins and a sink, provided in the Pier Yard for the vendors of shellfish in that area, continues to show increasing usage.

PORT HEALTH REPORT, 1951

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, Article 17(5), the following report on the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics are submitted for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

1.—Amount of Shipping Entering the Port.

TABLE A.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected	Number reported defective	Number reported to Min. of Transport Surveyors	No. with I.D. on board
FOREIGN:						
Steamers	1	383	1	—	—	—
Motor	216	4302	9	—	—	—
Sailing ..	9	33	—	—	—	—
Fishing ..	545	7360	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign	771	12078	10	—	—	—
COASTWISE:						
Steamers	16	193	—	—	—	—
Motor	742	11720	—	—	—	—
Sailing ..	35	916	—	—	—	—
Fishing ..	3	93	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise	796	12922	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign & Coastwise	1567	25000	—	—	—	—

2.—Character of Trade of Port.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING THE YEAR:

Inwards	...	918 in Yachts
Outwards	...	Do.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC:

Imports from Foreign ports	...	Timber from Finland
Imports from British ports	...	Wheat

3.—Water Supply.

The source of supply is drawn from the town mains, both for the use of the port and for shipping entering. No Water Boats are in use.

4.—Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945.

The arrangements as detailed in previous reports remain unchanged.

Cases of infectious Sickness landed from vessels ... Nil

Cases of Infectious Sickness during voyage but
disposed of prior to arrival ... Nil

5.—Measures Against Rodents.

Periodic inspections and treatment are carried out by the Rodent Operator of the Local Authority. Wharves, stores, etc., in the vicinity of the Harbour are all dealt with.

Since the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, it has not been found necessary to issue any certificates under this Order. (This Order came into force on 1st October, 1951.)

Consultation with the Harbour Authorities have taken place and full co-operation is assured.

6.—Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British ..	—	—	—	—
Other Nations ..	10	—	—	—

7.—Food Inspection.

No food is imported into the port.

PUBLIC HEALTH (AIRCRAFT) REGULATIONS, 1950

Owing to the fact that the Ramsgate Aerodrome is not in use, no action was found necessary under these Regulations, which deal with all matters of health in the case of passengers or crew arriving from abroad or from infected areas.

It is proposed that the aerodrome be opened in 1952 for the convenience of passengers arriving from France via Lympne, but no direct foreign service is contemplated at present.

**REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1951.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This will be the 21st annual report presented as your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Looking back, it is interesting to note the many improvements in the general conduct and outlook of those concerned, in particular with the manufacture, preparation and handling of food, and to compare these methods with those existing in pre-war years.

FOOD CONTROL.

After the first year's experience of carrying out the Bye-laws in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, I am of the opinion that without adequate staff it is not possible to give sufficient attention to this all important work, particularly in a seaside resort.

The time must come when food hygiene is looked at in its proper perspective, and when qualified officers are provided with sufficient staff to allow them to perform properly their important duties. The staff should, in my opinion, include a female sanitary officer, who would also prove invaluable in matters pertaining to the employment of female labour in other directions.

HOUSING.

The question of housing repairs remains a problem. Though the Local Authority is charged with the duties of maintaining satisfactory housing conditions in their area, these statutory obligations are becoming increasingly difficult to discharge with any degree of satisfaction. The Sanitary Inspectors' Association has requested the appropriate Ministerial Department to give urgent consideration to the problem of carrying out repairs of defects which arise mainly from age and from the inability of the owners to do the necessary work from their current rent yield.

MEAT INSPECTION.

One hundred per cent of the animals killed at the two Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses were inspected.

The Meat Inspectors, Messrs. Brown and Weller, have given long hours and their week-ends to achieve this result, but this has meant a guarantee that the consumer obtains meat fit for human consumption.

In my long experience it is gratifying to know that the Sanitary Inspector is more often looked upon as a friend and guide, rather than one who is looking for something wrong.

I desire to record my appreciation of the help received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and to express my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspectors and Office Staff for their assistance and valuable support.

E. YOUNG,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

1.—Camping Sites.

There are three licensed sites in the Borough, an increase of one over last year, which are subject to periodic inspection. A total of 39 inspections were made during the year.

For seaside resorts, the question of the use of caravans by holiday makers is acute during July and August, and many sites would be required to satisfy their needs. This particular aspect could be a source of revenue to the Local Authority, and some have decided to develop sites controlled by themselves. This was considered by the Ramsgate Corporation on ground on the West Cliff, but the Corporation ultimately decided to lease the ground for this purpose. The main conditions incorporated in the lease were:

- (1) The land to be used for the accommodation of bona fide mobile caravans only, i.e., trailer caravans specially designed and constructed for drawing by private cars and in full mechanical order and roadworthy condition, in all cases complying with statutory requirements and Ministry of Transport Regulations.
- (2) No caravan upon the land shall (except with the express consent in writing of the Council) be occupied at any time other than during usual holiday seasons.
- (3) The number of caravans not to exceed 70 at any one time, and such caravans to be placed in positions approved from time to time by the Council, the minimum distance between each to be 20ft.
- (4) The leaseholder shall provide and maintain at all times in a condition to the satisfaction of the Council:
 - (a) Separate sanitary accommodation for both sexes on the basis of three flush lavatories for men and four for women, and in addition a men's urinal comprising three stalls.
 - (b) At least one shower bath for each sex.
 - (c) A large sink and mangle for laundry purposes, a specified drying ground and a point for an electric iron.
 - (d) At least one standard dust bin per three caravans, suitably placed and screened and emptied at least twice a week.
 - (e) Water stand pipes and drains for waste water of a number and in positions to be approved by the Council.
 - (f) Wash basins in each lavatory block, two for men and three for women.
 - (g) Swill bins for waste food to be emptied daily.
 - (h) Adequate fire fighting appliances in accessible positions.
 - (i) Adequate electric lighting in the grounds for the convenience and safety of campers, and electric lighting for items (a), (b) and (c) above.
- (5) No internal closets shall be used in caravans.
- (6) The land shall at all times be kept under proper supervision by the leaseholder and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition to the satisfaction of the Council.

The National Caravan Council are very co-operative in giving assistance and advice to local authorities.

2.—Housing.

In spite of the number of Council houses erected and in course of erection, the housing position still requires serious consideration, particularly with regard to sub-standard property. These houses are being sold with vacant possession at a much higher figure than this class of property warrants, to persons anxious to get a roof over their heads.

The Housing and Town Planning Committee have appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the whole question of slum clearance and development areas, and they are in consultation with the Kent County Council concerning this.

3.—Cinemas, Theatres, Dance Halls.

The places of amusement licensed for public music and/or dancing in the Borough number 75, and may be classified as follows:

Cinemas	...	...	...	...	4
Theatres	...	...	...	...	3
Halls (Religious Denominations and others)					10
Hotels, Public-Houses	...	...	...	...	46
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4

Periodic inspections were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

4.—Licensed Premises.

Following the survey of licensed premises reported last year, some improvements have been made, but progress on the whole has been slow. This has not been due to unwillingness on the part of the brewers, but rather to difficulties in obtaining building licences for works of reconstruction. There is also some reluctance to spend money on piecemeal improvements where a complete reconstruction of the premises is contemplated in the near future.

In one licensed house, a general reconstruction has been carried out, with alterations to the lay-out of the bars, and reconstruction of the men's urinal and the provision of sanitary accommodation for female customers. Improvements to sanitary accommodation have been carried out in two other premises, this including the provision of w.c. accommodation for male customers.

Cold water supply has been laid on to the bars in one instance, new sinks and trapped waste pipes together with hot water supply have been made available in the same premises.

Hot water has been provided to the bars in six other premises, usually by means of instantaneous sink water heaters, and in one case staff washing facilities were provided.

5.—Supervision of Food.

Detailed particulars concerning the supervision of food, milk supply, meat inspection, sampling, under the Food and Drugs Act, etc., are shown in Part VIII, on Page 28.

6.—Prosecutions.

Under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, action had to be taken against a restaurant proprietor. Thirteen summonses were served for dirty premises and equipment in this restaurant and the proprietor was fined a total of £13.

Two Rag and Bone merchants were prosecuted under Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for giving children under 14 years of age beach balls in exchange for old clothing. They were fined £1 each.

7.—Shellfish.

The question of shellfish as a danger to public health is still being considered by the Association of Municipal Corporations. Further meetings took place at which the Sub-Committee met representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Health, and the Public Health Laboratory Service. The decision was that another meeting should be held at a later date, after the points put forward had been considered by the various Ministries.

8.—Complaints.

The number of complaints received was 887. These complaints must receive attention, thereby curtailing the full systematic inspection of other premises necessary under the Shops, Factories and Housing Acts, etc.

9.—Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	...	290
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	...	257
Statutory notices served	... ..	23
Statutory notices complied with	... ..	20

There were no prosecutions during the year for non-compliance of statutory notices, and it is gratifying to note that most owners are willing to carry out repairs immediately in order to safeguard further deterioration of their property.

10.—Inspections and Visits.

The following list details the number of inspections and visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year to various types of properties, etc., this by no means conveys the idea of the amount of time spent and the work involved in investigation.

GENERAL NUISANCES:

Inspection of verminous premises	...	114
Accumulations	... ..	47
Animals, keeping of	... ..	54
Absence of refuse receptacles	... ..	298
Smoke nuisances investigated	... ..	7

FOOD PREMISES:

Bakehouses	48
Fish Fryers	28
Ice cream premises	110
Milkshops	253
Restaurants	227
Shellfish vendors	30
General food shops, grocers, etc. ...	608

FACTORIES:

Mechanical	81
Non-mechanical	36
Outworkers premises	3
Work places	16

HOUSING:

Inspections under Housing Acts ...	15
Inspections of Council property ...	91
Inspections re overcrowding ...	1

LICENSED PREMISES:

Inspections for Music and Dancing ...	43
Special survey	20

DRAINAGE:

Inspections of work in progress ...	689
Drains tested	48

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Visits of investigation or follow-up of contacts	181
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MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

Camping sites or caravans inspected ...	39
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RODENT CONTROL:

Visits to premises to ascertain degree of infestation	161
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REPAIRS:

Inspection after service of notice or on request	1,121
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SHOPS ACT, 1950:

Inspections under Section 38	60
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SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

Visits re inspection of meat	576
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MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS:

Marine stores	11
Schools	13
Shipping	11
Stables	3
Swimming Pool	...	...	35
Water sampling	...	...	40
Miscellaneous visits not classified	...	...	549
Total	...	...	<u>5,667</u>

11.—Results of Inspections and Visits:

Remarks similar to those under Section 10, apply to the following list of improvements effected.

IMPROVEMENTS

DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

Drains cleared or amended	...	...	105
Fresh air inlet valves provided	...	...	2
Gully traps provided	...	...	20
Inspection chambers built	...	...	10
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	3
Soil and vent pipes fitted	...	...	8
Houses re-drained	...	...	5

INTERNAL REPAIRS:

Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	40
Flushing cisterns provided or repaired	...	...	51
Sash cords renewed	...	...	41
Sinks trapped	...	...	27
Sinks or lavatory basins provided	...	...	48
Stoves, fireplaces, etc., repaired or renewed	...	...	24
New W.C. pans provided	...	...	82
Defective plaster repaired	...	...	117
Water supply improved	...	...	27
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	29

EXTERNAL REPAIRS:

Chimney stacks, flues, etc.	...	...	1
Eaves gutters	...	...	12
Walls re-pointed	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	65
Yards paved	...	...	16
Walls treated with damp proofing materials	...	...	12

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

Cleansed or limewashed	...	...	3
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	1

MISCELLANEOUS:

Accumulations removed	...	...	13
Houses cleansed	...	...	1
Houses renovated throughout	...	...	11
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	113
Minor items of repair	...	...	195
Total	...	...	1,085

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

12.—Infectious Disease.

Investigations were made as a routine measure in certain cases of infectious disease, and contacts were followed up. In all, a total of 181 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

13.—Disinfection.

One hundred and eighty-two rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases and cancer and 129 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfectors. In addition, 233 sets of bedding were disinfected on behalf of the General Hospital after infectious disease or for other causes.

14.—Pest Control.

(i) DISINFESTATION

The work of destroying insect pests of all types is carried out by the department, no charge being made for the service.

The methods employed are chiefly by spraying with liquid insecticides or by using insecticide powder containing D.D.T., or Gammexane. Both methods have given satisfactory results.

The following table shows the number of premises treated, together with the type of infestation.

	Council Property		Other Property	
	Premises	Rooms	Premises	Rooms
Bugs	1	5	28	57
Fleas and Flies	6	23	24	67
Beetles, insects, etc.	5	11	20	53

In addition, 19 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Fifty-nine sets of filthy bedding were removed for treatment, and 27 were destroyed at the request of the owners.

(ii) RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into force on 31st March, 1950. This Act takes the place of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. The new Act places the duty on every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that their district is kept free from rats and mice. Particular regard is to be paid to inspections of property to ascertain any degree of infestation and to destroy these pests should infestation be found. In addition, Local Authorities are to keep such records as may be required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The methods of extermination employed are those recommended by the Infestation Division of the Ministry, and the Council receives 50% of any expenditure incurred. No charge is made for rodent destruction in dwelling houses or in the property of the Local Authority, but a charge is made for work carried out in business premises.

The quarterly meetings of the Workable Area Committee for Rodent Control were attended during the year. This Committee is composed of representatives from Local Authorities in East Kent, and problems concerning rodent control in all its aspects are considered.

One full-time operator was engaged on this work in Ramsgate.

In order to make uniform the statistics on rodent control throughout the country, the Ministry issued a return to be completed by all Local Authorities. The particulars for the year are summarised below:

		Number of:—			
		Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Property
Infestations:					
Notified by occupier ...	5	161	37	1	
Otherwise discovered ...	17	5	3	—	
Infested by:					
Rats—Major ...	7	10	5	1	
Minor ...	10	94	30	—	
Mice only ...	5	62	5	—	

In addition to the above treatment, a further 7 blocks of property were treated by the Operator. Sewer maintenance treatments were carried out on two occasions (April and November) with satisfactory results.

