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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

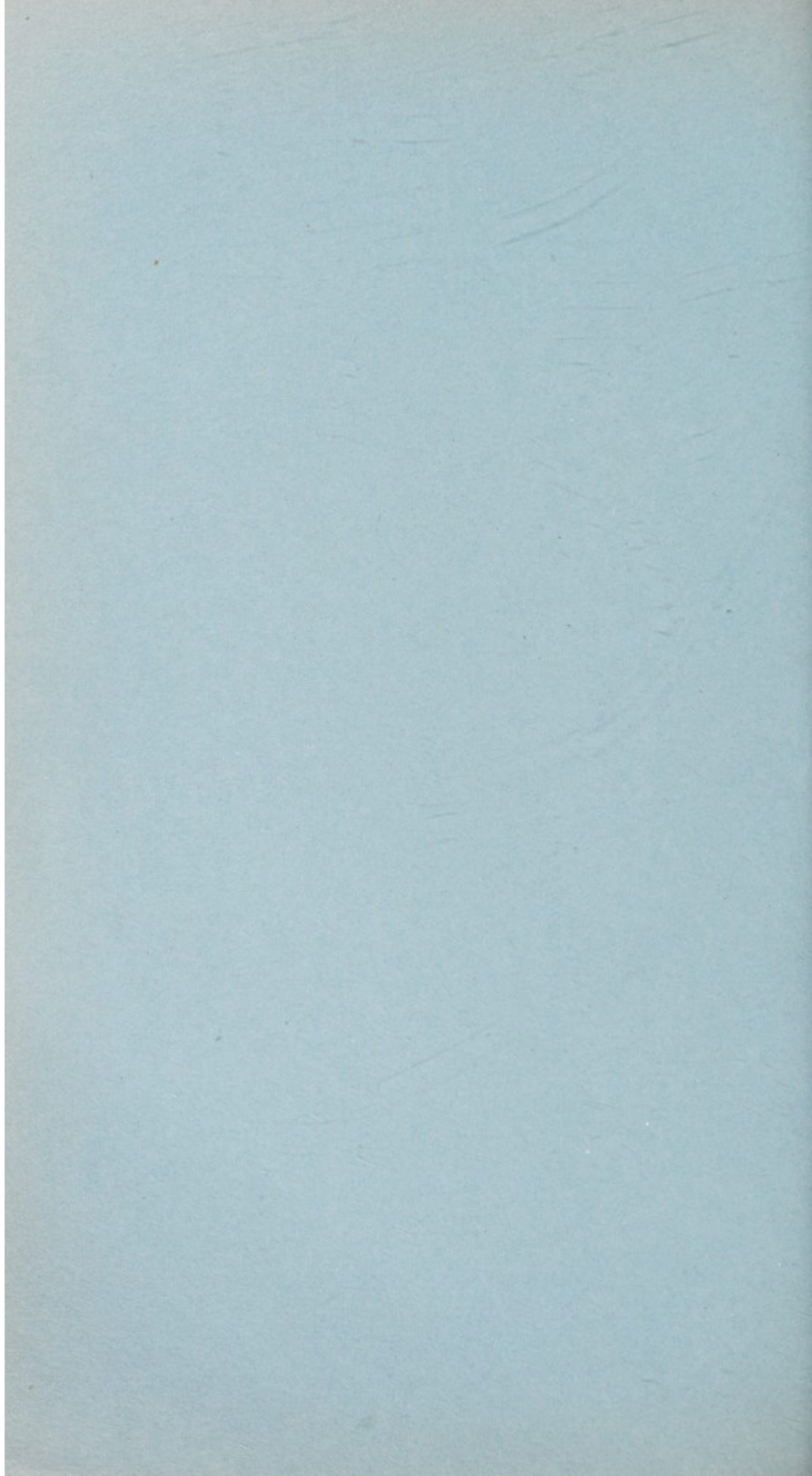
## REPORT

OF THE

**Senior Sanitary Inspector**

FOR THE YEAR

# 1953





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



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**1953**

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**BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE****PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, JUNE, 1953**

---

*Chairman:*

Councillor W. H. Greenstreet

*Vice-Chairman:*

Alderman L. F. Davey

His Worship The Mayor

(COUNCILLOR E. G. BUTCHER, J.P.)

Alderman Mrs. E. M. Billingham

.. D. M. Hughes

Councillor W. L. Austin

.. J. W. Duddington

.. F. L. Ellaby

.. W. F. Howard

.. G. Jefford

.. Mrs. L. M. Maile

.. Mrs. Robson

.. F. R. Smith



**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 (Resigned 31.5.53)

Succeeded by

C. H. Weller, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Commenced 1.6.53)

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

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

L. Whiteley, A.R.S.I. (Commenced 1.6.53)

*Clerical Staff:*

J. S. Robertson

J. Newing

*Disinfectors and Drain Testers:*

H. J. Farley

G. C. Riordan

*Rodent Destruction Operator:*

V. C. Barker

*Public Analysts:*

Messrs. Hawkins and Hawkins, Canterbury



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

---

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Again I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough.

The population estimated by the Registrar General at mid-year was 35,990, a decrease of 70 compared with 1952.

The death rate also shows a decline, 8.8 as against 11.8 per 1,000, while the birth rate is up, 18.7 per 1,000 compared with 16.9 per 1,000.

Two very mild outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred in the early part of the year, with no deaths.

I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and my colleagues in other branches of the Council, for their help at all times.

To the staff of this Department my sincere thanks are also due.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. CARGIN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1954.

## 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres ... ..	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of the population, mid-1953	35,990
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books ...	11,840
Rateable value ... ..	£302,551
General Rate ... ..	27/-
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£1,170

### Vital Statistics

	Male	1953 Female	Total	1952 Total
Number of live births:				
Legitimate ...	289	291	580	537
Illegitimate ...	25	26	51	49
Total ...	314	317	631	586

The illegitimate births formed 8% of the total and were equal to 1.4 per 1,000 of the population.

Number of stillbirths:				
Legitimate ...	8	1	9	9
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	4
Total ...	8	1	9	13

Total number of deaths ...	188	204	392	496
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths (under 1 year):				
Legitimate infants	8	5	13	11
Illegitimate infants	—	2	2	3
Total infants	8	7	15	14

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks:				
Legitimate ...	4	3	7	6
Illegitimate ...	—	2	2	1
Total ...	4	5	9	7

### TOTAL BIRTH RATE

(Uncorrected) 17.5 per 1,000 of population	}	See page 13
(Corrected) 18.7 per 1,000 of population		

(England and Wales 15.5)

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 births was 14.2 as compared with 21.7 for the previous year.

## TOTAL DEATH RATE

(Uncorrected) 10.8 per 1,000 of population	} See page 11
(Corrected) 8.8 per 1,000 of population	
(England and Wales 11.4)	

## INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Death rate of infants (under one year of age) per 1,000 live births:

Total	... 23.7	(Compared with 23.9 for 1952)
Legitimate	... 22.4	
Illegitimate	... 39.2	

(England and Wales 26.8)

## 2.—Causes of Death.

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

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis—respiratory .. .. .	6	1
2. Tuberculosis—other .. .. .	1	3
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	—
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—
8. Measles .. .. .	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	5	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms .. .. .	22	28
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia .. .. .	—	1
16. Diabetes .. .. .	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	17	33
18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	35	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	3	1
20. Other heart disease .. .. .	25	39
21. Other circulatory disease .. .. .	3	7
22. Influenza .. .. .	2	4
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	3	2
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	15	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	7	1
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhœa .. ..	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .. .. .	—	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	1
34. All other accidents .. .. .	3	3
35. Suicide .. .. .	5	3
36. Homicide and operations of war .. ..	—	—
	188	204



Deaths resulting from diseases of the Heart and Circulatory system again were more than double those due to Cancer. Many of these deaths are associated with the degenerative conditions of old age, but strain and stress of modern life seem to play a part.

The deaths from Cancer were lower by 17 than in the previous year. The earlier the treatment of this disease is begun, the more likely is a cure to occur.

Deaths from Tuberculosis were lower than for any year prior to 1952.

Trend of mortality from the principal causes of death:—

Year	Cancer (all forms)	Vascular lesions	Heart Diseases	Tuberculosis	Bronchitis and Pneumonia
1942 ..	33	28	74	17	20
1943 ..	43	29	54	13	22
1944 ..	50	44	75	16	25
1945 ..	61	38	78	17	30
1946 ..	59	66	122	21	42
1947 ..	65	56	142	21	46
1948 ..	78	54	145	16	41
1949 ..	84	51	148	23	47
1950 ..	71	52	143	16	44
1951 ..	88	92	157	17	54
1952 ..	93	77	152	10	39
1953 ..	76	50	123	11	30

Approximately 72.2% of the deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65 years.

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 ...	8	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	9	16	27	63	60	188	
FEMALES ...	7	1	—	1	2	1	2	—	1	2	8	22	59	99	204	

**3.—Population.**

The population as given by the Registrar General was 35,990, which shows a decrease of 70 compared with 1952.

**4.—Births.**

The number of live births registered was 631, an increase of 45 over the previous year. The number of stillbirths registered was 9. The illegitimate live births formed 8.0% of the total live births, and were less than the previous year by 0.3%.

**5.—Death Rate.**

This shows a decrease of 3.0 per 1,000 of the population. 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 0.82, and this multiplied by the uncorrected death rate give a corrected rate of 8.8 as compared with 10.8.

**6.—Maternal Mortality.**

There were no deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during the year.

**7.—Infant Mortality.**

The following table shows the infant deaths (15) from various causes stated in accordance with the age at death. Of this total, 8 were males and 7 females. The headings of the table are those from the latest annual report of the Ministry of Health.



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	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital malformations	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Premature Birth ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Injury at Birth ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia, Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital Debility ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hæmolytic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	15

The following table shows the number of deaths of children under one year of age. From 1891 to 1950 the deaths are given in five-year periods, and from 1951 onwards the annual deaths are shown. This marked improvement which has taken place over the years and which is not confined to Ramsgate, is an indication of the great advance in our knowledge of general hygiene, and particularly in that branch of the work dealing with cleanliness in the handling and preparation of food. For the spreading of this knowledge and the knowledge of child welfare, and the consequent diminution of infantile mortality, the Health Visitors and Clinic Workers are mainly to be thanked.

The Infantile Death Rate for this area, 23.7, is again lower than for the country as a whole, 26.8.

PERIOD	BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE		ENG. & WALES
	Average Annual No. of Deaths under 1 year of age.	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 regis. live births.	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 regis. live births.
1891 - 1895	79	126	151
1896 - 1900	95	137	156
1901 - 1905	82	125	138
1906 - 1910	67	111	117
1911 - 1915	54	95	110
1916 - 1920	44	89	90
1921 - 1925	34	60	76
1926 - 1930	29	60	68
1931 - 1935	23	51	62
1936 - 1940	23	50	55
1941 - 1945	8	32	50
1946 - 1950	21	30	36
1951	17	32	30
1952	14	24	28
1953	15	23	26

#### 8.—Birth Rate.

The uncorrected birth rate is 17.5, i.e. total live 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 1.07 and this multiplied by the above, results in a birth rate of 18.7. The comparable rate for England and Wales was 15.5.



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

	Ramsgate	England and Wales	160 Smaller Towns. Population 25,000-50,000
Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
<i>Births</i> —			
Live Births ... ..	18.7	15.5	15.7
Still Births ... ..	0.25	0.35	0.43
<i>Deaths</i> —			
All causes ... ..	8.8 (corrected)	11.4	11.3
<i>Deaths due to</i> —			
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.00	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.30	0.20	0.19
Influenza ... ..	0.15	0.16	0.17
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0.00	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia ... ..	0.22	0.55	0.52
<i>Notification of Infectious Diseases</i> —			
Typhoid Fever... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.00	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.08	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.25	1.39	1.44
Whooping Cough ... ..	8.63	3.58	3.38
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.01	0.01
Erysipelas ... ..	0.02	0.14	0.13
Small-pox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ..	13.58	12.36	12.32
Pneumonia ... ..	0.55	0.84	0.76
Acute Poliomyelitis —			
Paralytic ... ..	0.08	0.07	0.06
Non-Paralytic ... ..	0.08	0.04	0.04
Food Poisoning ... ..	0.00	0.24	0.24
Rates per 1,000 live births			
<i>Deaths</i> —			
All causes under 1 year of age ... ..	23.7	26.8	24.3
Enteritis and Diarrhœa under 2 years of age	4.75	1.1	0.9

There were no deaths due to any of the notifiable infectious diseases.

In the mild epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough in the early part of the year, there were no deaths, but 7 of the Measles and 9 of the Whooping Cough patients were removed to hospital because of the danger of spreading the infection.



Six cases of Poliomyelitis occurred, 3 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic. All were removed to hospital and there were no deaths.

Three cases of Meningococcal infection were admitted to hospital. Again all recovered.

It is worthy of note that no notifications of Food Poisoning were received during the year.

## II.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The greater part of Ramsgate is situated on high ground, with a chalky subsoil, 17 miles from Canterbury and 72 miles from London.

There is favourable sunshine rate with low rainfall, and frequently, while other parts of the country are experiencing rainy weather, this area enjoys sunshine and dryness.

The prevailing winds are westerly and when northerly or easterly winds prevail, the situation of the Borough affords considerable protection from them. The wide expanse of sands which extend on either side of the harbour provide walks and enjoyment for the many visitors.

The town is essentially non-industrial, though on its outskirts, tool making, brewing, flour milling, plastics and stocking manufacture are being carried on.

The main industry, however, is to provide enjoyment and accommodation for visitors at all seasons of the year.

## III.—METEOROLOGY

Meteorological observations were carried on throughout the year by the staff of the Borough Engineer's Department, to whom I am indebted for this information. Twice daily telegraphic reports were transmitted to the Meteorological Office and the Air Ministry. Monthly returns were also sent to these authorities. Daily information was also supplied to the Press.

The sunshine and rainfall figures are given below.

### Sunshine.

January	...	19.9 hours.	Daily Average	.64 hours
February	...	64.5 "	" "	2.5 "
March	...	103.4 "	" "	3.3 "
April	...	148.6 "	" "	4.9 "
May	...	250.7 "	" "	8.08 "
June	...	190.6 "	" "	6.3 "
July	...	207.3 "	" "	6.7 "
August	...	240.3 "	" "	7.75 "
September	...	208.2 "	" "	6.9 "
October	...	98.0 "	" "	3.1 "
November	...	59.6 "	" "	2.0 "
December	...	39.1 "	" "	1.26 "
Total	...	1630.2	Total for 1952	... 1751.2

	Highest hours of Sun- shine recorded in any one day	Date	Sunless Days
January	4.2 hours	20th	22
February	7.4 "	21st	7
March	9.2 "	8th	8
April	12.7 "	21st	—
May	14.4 "	25th	2
June	15.2 "	26th	2
July	13.6 "	24th	3
August	13.3 "	2nd	1
September	11.6 "	5th & 6th	1
October	9.7 "	2nd	9
November	8.2 "	6th	15
December	6.4 "	27th	16

**Rainfall.**

January	...	...	.9 inches
February	...	...	1.99 "
March	...	...	.35 "
April	...	...	.81 "
May	...	...	2.12 "
June	...	...	1.81 "
July	...	...	2.81 "
August	...	...	1.97 "
September	...	...	3.12 "
October	...	...	2.36 "
November	...	...	1.62 "
December	...	...	1.28 "
		Total	21.14 "

Total for 1952 ... 24.08 inches

## 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.

From the 5th of 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 are controlled from the Divisional Headquarters at Broadstairs (Telephone: Thanet 61461).

### 3.—Mortuary.

The Municipal Mortuary, in the grounds of the Police Station, has continued to function. The number of bodies admitted was 58, and a total of 52 post mortems was carried out there during the year.

### 4.—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>At The Health Centre</i>	<i>At 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 Tuesday 2-4 p.m.	Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 noon

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Minor Ailment Clinics	Mon., Wed., Sat. 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinics	By appointment
Orthopaedic Clinics	By appointment
Ophthalmic Clinics	Monday 9-11 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination	1st and 3rd Friday each month, 2-3 p.m.



**5.—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 1953:—

**IN-PATIENTS**

Maternity	...	...	...	...	388
Others	...	...	...	...	2,031

**OUT-PATIENTS**

Casualty Department	...	...	...	5,333
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

**SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS**

Medical	...	...	...	...	351
Surgical	...	...	...	...	962
Gynaecological	...	...	...	...	198
Ophthalmic	...	...	...	...	519
Paediatric	...	...	...	...	83
Aural	...	...	...	...	845
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	91
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	189
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	72
Dermatological	...	...	...	...	417
Urological	...	...	...	...	191
Mental Illness	...	...	...	...	165
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	1,364
Dental	...	...	...	...	98
Physical Medicine	...	...	...	...	452

The number of units of work (Examinations and/or Treatment) performed in other departments was as follows:—

Radiological	...	...	...	15,662 units
Pathological	...	...	...	18,038 ..
Physiotherapy	...	...	...	27,634 ..

In almost every department the figures show an increase over those in the preceding year.

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

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board, cases of Smallpox may be admitted to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford. There have been no cases of this disease in Ramsgate for many years.

**(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 in Ramsgate 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, though it is anticipated that one nursing home will again begin to admit private maternity patients. Three hundred and eighty-eight maternity patients were admitted to the hospital, an increase of 15 over the previous year. Some expectant mothers were also admitted to the Quetta annex of the Margate General Hospital.

**6.—Public Health Act, 1936—Part IV. Nursing Homes.**

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

At the end of the year there were 6 on the register, 5 providing accommodation for medical patients and 1 for maternity patients. Particulars of these homes are as follows:—

	No. of Beds
Ferriby Lodge, Hollicondane Road ... ..	17
21, Vale Square and (annex) 11, Crescent Road ... ..	56
Arundel, Westcliff Road ... ..	10
4, Clifton Lawn ... ..	9
36, Albert Road ... ..	1
6, Crescent Road (Maternity patients) ... ..	2

**7.—National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.****National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**

These two Acts give authority to secure necessary care and attention for persons who:—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physical 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 one person, an order was made by the Justices, and the case was admitted to hospital.

A further case was dealt with voluntarily without recourse to a Court order.

**8.—National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50.**

Under the provisions of this section, one person was buried at the expense of the Local Authority, at a total cost of £12 10s.



**9.—Superannuation Examinations.**

Twenty-eight medical examinations of Corporation employees were carried out.

**10.—Domestic Help Service.**

A total of 360 patients were provided with help during 1953. The average number of cases attended to per week has increased from 98 to 130, and of these approximately 75% are elderly. The helpers employed, during the year, averaged 30 per week.

**11.—Home Nursing.**

There are three District Nurses in the area, all of whom are provided by the Kent County Council. These are as follows:—

Miss E. Mean, S.R.N., S.C.M., 61, Melbourne Avenue.  
Telephone: Thanet 52601.

Miss Haynes, S.R.N., 31, Napleton Road.

Mrs. A. S. Talbot, S.R.N., 22, Poplar Road.  
Telephone: Thanet 51655.

**12.—Midwifery Service.**

Again this service is provided by the Kent County Council, and the midwives employed in the Borough are as follows:—

Miss J. Martin, S.R.N., S.C.M., 84, Stirling Way.  
Telephone: Thanet 51056.

Mrs. D. K. Harvey, S.R.N., S.C.M., 1, Princess Margaret Avenue.  
Telephone: Thanet 51781.

Mrs. J. J. Green, S.C.M., 51, Queen Bertha Road.  
Telephone: Thanet 52974.

Miss M. Paterson, S.C.M., 4a, Paragon Place.  
Telephone: Thanet 51628.

Miss Singleton, S.C.M., 72, Newington Road.  
Telephone: Thanet 51853.



## V.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### 1.—Water Supply.

The following results of analyses were obtained from the Public Analyst by this Department:—

	Parts per 100,000 Public Supply
Appearance ... ..	Clear
Smell ... ..	None
Chlorine in Chlorides ... ..	12.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates ... ..	1.12
Ammonia ... ..	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes ... ..	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours ... ..	0.006
Hardness (before boiling) ... ..	30.9
Hardness (after boiling) (permanent) ... ..	7.9
Total solid matter ... ..	58.0
Microscopical examination of solid matter ... ..	Unimportant

Remarks: "This is a hard water of great organic purity and is free from sewage percolation."

The hardness of the water referred to above compares unfavourably with other seaside towns in this region.

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

Although the examinations have always given results of absolute purity, chlorine is added by the Water Department as an additional precaution against contamination.

I am indebted to the Deputy Manager of the Water Department for the following figures:—

Total gallons pumped ... ..	645,132,000
Average daily gallons pumped ... ..	1,767,000
Maximum day consumption (July 29th) ... ..	2,539,000

Approximately 251,775,000 gallons of the total amount consumed were used for industrial purposes, and the remainder for domestic use, viz. about 28 gallons per head of the population per day.

### 2.—Drainage and Sewerage.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the following information.

A sewerage scheme for Cliffsend and Manston areas is being submitted, for informal observations, to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

An application has also been submitted to the Ministry, for approval in principle, for making up the Nethercourt Farm Road under the provisions of the Private Street Works Act, 1892. The proposed works include the provision of a sewer.

### 3.—Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

### 4.—Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal still continues on the lines begun in 1951, that is by partial destruction by incineration and by controlled tipping on the 14 acres of land in the Pegwell Bay area, taken over for that purpose and estimated to provide facilities for tipping for a period of ten years.

At the present time about half of the refuse (7,000 tons annually) is disposed of by tipping. It is hoped, in time, to discontinue the use of the destructor for this purpose and to acquire additional land which will provide tipping facilities for many years. This method of refuse disposal is proving economical and results in the reclamation of land which would otherwise be derelict.

### 5.—Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of the Manston, Cliffsend and Nethercourt areas all of the houses are connected to the sewerage system.

### 6.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspectors paid 5,150 visits. Information about their work, together with lists of the notices served, and the results 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 1st October, 1950, replaced the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934. Section 38 provides for the welfare and comfort of the staff. It deals with ventilation, temperature, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities and arrangement for taking meals on the premises.

Forty-eight visits were made to shops to ensure that the requirements were being carried out.

### 8.—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Number of Premises	Number of Written Inspections Notices	
Factories with mechanical power ...	39	24	2
Factories without mechanical power	171	67	7
Other premises ... ..	25	—	—

#### DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred:	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ...	5	6	—	2
Overcrowding ...	2	2	1	—
Sanitary conveniences:				
Insufficient ... ..	1	1	—	1
Unsuitable ... ..	6	4	—	6

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.

There are now four caravan sites in the Borough. The fourth, a recent addition, is established at Manston. Here, brick-built conveniences drained to a cesspool are provided for both sexes.

Tents are discouraged on these sites, but there would appear to be a need for a site for tents, particularly during the month of August. This method of camping enjoys a good deal of popularity, particularly among the younger members of the community, and it would be preferable to have a properly maintained site for tents, rather than have them pitched indiscriminately on some odd corner of vacant land.

Consideration is being given to the establishment of a Municipally controlled camping site, but it is not likely that this will be ready for the 1954 season.

The following is a list of the camping sites licensed by the Local Authority:—

Nethercourt	...	...	61	Caravans
Pegwell	...	...	70	..
Cliffsend	...	...	50	..
Manston	...	...	25	..

### 10.—Smoke Abatement.

It has not been found necessary to take any action with regard to smoke nuisance during the year.

### 11.—Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Marina Pool is the only swimming pool open to the public. This was badly damaged during the February gales, but was made ready for use again in the summer.

The pool has a capacity of 860,000 gallons, and is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season. From then on, cleanliness and purity are maintained by continuous circulation with filtration and chlorination, chlorine being added to the water at the rate of 1 part per million. It is, however, necessary to draw compensatory water from the sea from time to time to make up the loss from filter washing, etc. The pumping plant was overhauled and the filters re-graded in the early part of the year, giving a noticeable improvement in circulation. During the season 12 samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological examination and frequent colorimetric tests were made to ascertain the amount of residual chlorine. The results of these examinations were uniformly good and even in the peak periods there were no complaints or cause for anxiety.

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

**14.—Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Five licences were granted to keep pet shops under the provisions of this Act.

## VI.—HOUSING

Building of houses to meet the needs of the population still continues, though the numbers are unavoidably 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 a difficult task both for the Committee and the Housing Manager.

### 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) ... ..	220
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,241
(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 ... ..	220

### 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 ... ..	204
--	-----

### 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 ... ..	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...				Nil
(c) Proceedings 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) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e) Proceedings 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.

Overcrowding, as a problem, is accentuated by the continuing housing shortage. The overall number of occupants in a particular dwelling is kept within the permitted number, but many houses are being sub-let, and overcrowding does exist in the sub-let rooms. Invariably we find that the sub-tenant has made application for a Council house and in these circumstances the execution of this part of the Housing Act becomes 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 1953 was divided as follows:—				
Traditional four-bedroomed non-parlour type	...	...	...	—
Traditional three-bedroomed non-parlour type	...	...	...	61
Traditional two-bedroomed non-parlour type flats (two storeys)	...	...	...	44
Old Age Persons bungalows	...	...	...	12
			Total	117



### 6.—Future Building Programme.

Further schemes are still in preparation for the approval of the Ministry of Housing.

### 7.—Housing Applications.

The number of housing applications registered with the Council at 31st December, 1953, was 1,441, and of these 403 were received during the year.

### 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. Twelve cases were referred for consideration—4 were re-housed, 6 were refused priority, and 2 were deferred for further enquiry.

### 9.—Allocation of Accommodation.

The 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 ...	147	150	529
Pre-fab bungalows ...	20	20	62
Flats ...	18	18	48
Requisitioned properties	3	3	10
Old Persons bungalows	12	12	22
Total ...	<u>200</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>671</u>

The number of properties controlled by the Council at the end of 1953 was:—

Pre-war schemes ...	...	583
Post-war schemes:		
Traditional houses ...	...	772
Traditional flats ...	...	144
Pre-fabricated bungalows	...	199
Requisitioned properties	...	30
Houses purchased by the Council	...	50
Total ...		<u>1,778</u>

**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 ...	45	37	—	—	5	—	8	8	20	3	1	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles ...	489	7	—	13	92	62	71	245	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	311	9	—	32	70	42	46	66	53	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ...	20	—	*5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	7
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
.. (Non Paralytic)	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	

\* All forms of pneumonia

**2.—Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation.**

No case of this disease has occurred in the Borough since 1947. This freedom from a deadly complaint is due largely to the protection afforded the children by immunisation against it. Every child should have this protection carried out before its first birthday.

It is estimated that the number of babies immunised in Ramsgate is too low to guard against an outbreak of the disease. Of the children born in 1952 some 49 per cent were immunised, instead of the 75 per cent aimed at by the Ministry. Protection is maintained by re-inforcing injections at 5 yearly intervals during school age. Information supplied by the County Authority show that 558 children received their first inocula-



tion and 849 received re-inforcing doses during 1953. The latter figure, compared with 1,000 in 1952 shows a slight decrease in protective measures.

### 3.—Smallpox and Vaccination.

Many years have elapsed since a case of this disease occurred in Ramsgate. It is prevented by vaccination and when a case does occur its spread is prevented or localised by vaccination and supervision of all contacts.

The County Medical Officer supplied the information that 353 persons were vaccinated in Ramsgate against smallpox. Some of these persons were going abroad and had to be vaccinated to conform with the regulations.

#### ASSISTANCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX

A panel of doctors is now available to visit suspected cases of the disease and to assist in the diagnosis.

Further help by bacteriological methods is also available. Pus, blood serum, or the scabs or crusts taken from the pustules or spots and sent to Colindale Laboratories will be diagnosed within 2 to 72 hours depending on the quantity and quality of the specimens sent.

### 4.—Individual Diseases.

#### (a) PARA-TYPHOID FEVER.

No case occurred during the year.

#### (b) MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.

The three cases which occurred were removed to hospital where the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological methods. Two of the cases were discharged to their own homes, but the third was transferred to the Ramsgate General Hospital for further treatment.

#### (c) POLIOMYELITIS.

There were six cases, three with paralysis and three non-paralytic. All were treated in hospital where the diagnosis was confirmed. Of the three paralytic cases, two were discharged without any signs of paralysis, but the third was transferred to the Orthopaedic Section of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, for further treatment.

#### (d) MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Of the mild epidemic of these diseases (489 Measles and 311 Whooping Cough) which occurred early in the year, 7 cases of Measles and 9 of Whooping Cough were removed to hospital to prevent the spread of infection in the home. There were no deaths from these diseases.

#### (e) SCARLET FEVER.

Forty-five cases were notified and 37 were removed to hospital. All were mild cases,



**5.—Tuberculosis.**

Formal notification in respect of 32 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory cases were received. In addition, 23 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources:—

	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
Transferred from other areas ...	21	1
Restored to register ...	1	—

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 ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
5 - 15 ...	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
15 - 25 ...	—	7	1	1	—	—	—	—
25 - 35 ...	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 45 ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 55 ...	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1
55 - 65 ...	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
Over 65 ...	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Total ...	12	18	3	4	6	1	1	3

The number of cases remaining on the register on 31st December, 1953 was:—

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory ...	147	137	284
Non-respiratory ...	19	22	41
Total ...	166	159	325

**6.—Venereal Diseases.**

A Special Clinic for the treatment of these diseases is held at the Margate General Hospital. The days and times of the clinics are:—

Tuesday: Females 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Males 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Friday: Females: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Males: 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Medical Officer in charge has kindly supplied information about the new cases and the total attendances as follows:—

	Male	Female
New patients: Syphilis ...	4	1
Gonorrhoea ...	6	11
Non-venereal (requiring treatment) ...	11	—
Non-venereal (not requiring treatment)	12	9

A total of 817 attendances was made by patients from Ramsgate.

### VIII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors for the following particulars:—

#### 1.—Milk.

The processing of milk is now concentrated in three dairies and the whole of the milk retailed in this area is sold under one or other of the Special Designations, but all of it is pasteurised. One large distributor has his dairy premises in the adjoining rural district, he too, retails designated milks only. Two of the dairies are using the "H.T.S.T." method of pasteurisation, whilst one continues to use the "Holder" method. Both methods give equally good results, the H.T.S.T. process has the advantage of speed with a corresponding increase in "through put." The emergence of the large dairy dealing with large quantities of milk each day has given us almost universal pasteurisation, and all milk is delivered to the consumer in bottles which are filled and sealed in the dairy. This concentration of milk processing plants, at a few points, has simplified supervision and made it possible to check plant efficiency at more frequent intervals. We can be satisfied that the milk is as safe as human aids can make it. Distribution of the milk in sealed bottles safeguards the consumer against chance contamination, and reduces the risk of adulteration. It is noted that the dairies use a feeder system to supply their roundsmen, thus reducing the time elapsing between the milk leaving the dairy and its delivery to the consumer. This is a matter of great importance during the warmer weather when it is difficult to maintain the keeping quality of milk. Otherwise the last few bottles of milk might remain on the roundsman's trolley in the hot sun for some hours.

#### (a) LICENCES.

Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, there were:—

Dairies	...	...	4
Dairymen	...	...	4
Distributors	...	...	90

Of the 90 distributors, 62 hold dealers' licences to use the designation "Pasteurised," 26 hold dealers' licences to use the designation "Tuberculin tested" and 50 hold dealers' licences to use the designation "Sterilised."

No raw milk is sold in this area.



## (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	60	9	—	12
Satisfactory by:				
Methylene blue test	58	9	—	—
Phosphatase test ...	60	9	—	—
Turbidity test ...	—	—	—	12

Eighty-one samples of designated milks were submitted for biochemical examination, two samples failed the methylene blue test, though subsequent samples taken were satisfactory. This test is used to determine the cleanliness and keeping quality of the milk. All samples of pasteurised milk satisfied the phosphatase test, which shows the efficiency of the pasteurising plant. Twelve samples of sterilised milk were taken and these satisfied the prescribed turbidity test. This is a chemical test and absence of turbidity is an indication of satisfactory sterilisation.

Samples are taken indiscriminately from roundsmen, distributors and dairies in order to keep a close check on the milk at all stages in the chain of distribution. In all 153 visits have been made to dairies and distributors' premises, and every effort is made to secure a high standard of hygiene in the processing and handling of milk.

## (c) ADULTERATION.

Sixty-seven samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These included 4 samples taken by the County Sampling Officer as "appeal to the cow samples," on the request of this Department. One sample of milk, taken on the point of delivery, was found to contain added water to the extent of 5% as calculated on the presumptive standard laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939. The freezing point depression at — 0.470 C indicated a much greater amount, and when compared with the appeal to the cow samples referred to above, the added water was calculated at approximately 10%. The producer was prosecuted on two counts, one charge being made under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and a second charge under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. The case was heard on February 4th, 1954, the offence was proved and the producer found guilty, but conditionally discharged for twelve months.

## (d) COMPOSITIONAL QUALITY OF MILK.

Some of the milk samples were somewhat below the standard for non-fatty solids, and in one case the fats were below the standard. In all, six samples were concerned. The analyst reported the milk to be "genuine but abnormal," and did not consider the fat deficiency to be due to skimming. The position has been kept under observation and the dairymen informed, but the conclusion was that the poor quality of the milk was due to poor feeding in the early part of the year. Towards



the end of the year the position improved considerably, a fact which rather supports this theory. In spite of this, the average for the year has been maintained at its usual high standard, i.e.:—

Fats	...	...	3.636%
Non-Fatty Solids	...	...	8.707%
Total			12.343%

Sample	Analyst's Remarks	Action Taken
Milk. 67	Sample No. 67 is slightly below the official limit of 8.5 for non-fatty solids. The freezing point depression is 0.532 C, which is within the normal range, but is definitely low for bulked milk. This sample must pass as genuine, but abnormal, but may in fact contain added water.	Vendor informed
Milk 96	Sample No. 96 is found to be deficient in both fat and non-fatty solids on the presumptive standards. The freezing point depression of 0.540 C suggests that the deficiency in non-fatty solids is not due to added water, but to natural causes, and this is confirmed by the high mineral content. It is not possible to state if the fat deficiency of 5% is also due to natural causes, but it is unlikely that the milk has been skimmed.	Vendor informed
Milk 103 — 104	These samples were taken on the hottest day of the year and all were going sour at time of reception. Two of the samples have low non-fatty solids, but these samples could not be tested by the Hortvet test due to excessive acidity. Investigation of the nature and ratio of the non-fatty solids indicates almost certainly that Nos. 103 and 104 are genuine, but abnormal milks.	Follow up samples taken See 114, 117.
Milk 114 —117	Nos. 114 and 117 have freezing point depressions —0.555 C and 0.550 C respectively. These samples must be classed as genuine, but abnormal.	

## 2.—Ice Cream.

### (a) CLEANLINESS.

In the monthly bulletin of the Ministry of Health, Vol. 9, October 1950, a standard of cleanliness as tested by the Methylene Blue test is set out. In this test the blue colour is changed at a rate depending upon the amount of uncleanness present:—

Grade 1	...	Colour unchanged in 4 hours
Grade 2	...	Colour unchanged in 2½ to 4 hours
Grade 3	...	Colour changed in ½ to 2 hours
Grade 4	...	Colour changed in less than ½ hour

Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

Thirty-nine samples of ice cream were taken for examination and subjected to the Methylene Blue test.

Grade 1	...	27
Grade 2	...	7
Grade 3	...	3
Grade 4	...	2

Five samples were found to be unsatisfactory, four of these were manufactured outside the area, and the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned was informed. The one remaining unsatisfactory sample was manufactured within the Borough. In this case the premises were visited, the plant was examined and process of manufacture was followed through. Subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory.

(b) STANDARD.

Four samples were taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst, and all were found to comply with the standard laid down in the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. The prescribed standard is as follows:—

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

Dealers in ice cream were registered as follows:—

For manufacture and sale, all forms of ice cream	4
For storage and distribution, for retail only	1
For sale only, all forms	129
For sale of pre-packed only	113
Total	247

Eighty-eight visits were made to ice cream premises. The majority of vendors sell pre-packed ice cream, but some loose ice cream is still being sold in cornets and wafers, particularly on the sea front. The trade in "soft" ice cream, which is dispensed directly from the freezer, appears to be expanding, but it is likely to be confined only to those places where a "fast" trade is expected. This particular form of ice cream has been sampled frequently and the results compare favourably with other forms.

There is a considerable and growing trade in ice lollies, under a variety of names. These lollies appear to consist mainly of a frozen fruit cordial. It is unfortunate that this type of sweetmeat is not subject to the same rigid control as ice cream, as the chances of contamination are not to be ignored.

### 3.—Food Preparing Premises.

(a) RESTAURANTS.

The number of restaurants decreased from 111 to 110, snack bars and tea rooms increased from 57 to 62, while hotel restaurants remained at 11.

Two hundred and twenty-three visits were made and the campaign to improve the structural and hygienic standard of these premises was continued.



## (b) BAKEHOUSES.

At the end of the year there were 33 bakehouses on the register. None of these are underground bakehouses and 50 visits were made.

## (c) PRESERVED FOODS.

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

Preparation of sausages, cooked and pickled meats	33
Preparation of cooked meats only	5
Bacon smoking, ham curing	1
Fish curing and smoking	2
Cooking and preparation of shellfish	2
Manufacture of pickles	2
Manufacture of sugar confectionery	7
Fruit canning	1

These were all periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

## (d) FISH FRYING.

Twenty-one premises are registered.

**4.—Slaughterhouses.**

The whole of the slaughtering in the town is now carried on in the Alexandra Road Slaughterhouse, the Ministry having finally relinquished the Broad Street premises. During the peak period the slaughterhouse is used to its absolute capacity, and killing frequently extends to Sundays and Bank Holidays in order to keep up the supply of meat to the butchers, and of course to the consumer. An Inspector is in attendance at all times while killing takes place. This entails long hours of duty both in the evenings and week-ends, and means that he is unable to give full attention to other routine duties. I am able to report, however, that in spite of difficulties, all carcasses are being inspected before reaching the consumer.

The beginning of the year saw the introduction of Memo. 3/Meat, which supersedes Memo. 62/Foods. All meat inspection is being carried out in accordance with the recommendations in this memorandum, that is to say, examinations are carried out at the time of slaughter. It is not possible, in present circumstances, to carry out a thorough ante-mortem inspection as recommended in Part II of the Memo. Animals sent in for emergency slaughter are kept separate so far as is practicable, the inspector is informed of the reason for slaughter, and the carcass and offals are subjected to a more careful scrutiny.

**5.—Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

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

All small animals, pigs, sheep and calves are now stunned by the electrothaler, a most humane method, which ensures complete insensibility, without pain, before actual killing. Cattle are stunned by the captive bolt instrument, as in their case the electrothaler is likely to prove ineffective.



**6.—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
Total number killed .. ..	1871	575	1068	5468	1808
Total number inspected ..	1871	575	1068	5468	1808
For all Diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	10	3	28	32
Part carcasses condemned	701	280	3	690	230
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- culosis .. .. .	37.5	50.4	0.56	13.1	14.4
For Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	20	—	—	1
Part carcasses condemned	143	148	—	—	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. .. .	8.2	29.2	—	—	1.4

Examinations for the parasitic condition, *cysticercus bovis*, continue to be made as a routine measure, and 19 carcasses were found to be affected. No cases of generalised *cysticercus bovis* were found. When a carcass was found to be affected, the offals were rejected and the carcass was subjected to refrigeration for 21 days. This is known to kill the parasite and the meat may then be consumed without harm.

The disposal of condemned meat has caused some concern during the year. The long term contracts entered into by the Ministry of Food had expired and a system of auctioning month by month was instituted. This opened the way to the undesirable practice of diseased meat, in its raw state, being used for animal food, and to other possible abuses, especially as there appeared to be no particular safeguard apart from the rather ineffective splashing of the meat with a green dye. It is unfortunate that a responsible Ministry should make such changes without consultation with other Authorities and with so little regard to the effect on public health. At the time of writing, the Ministry have made conditions on the sale of condemned meat which provide certain safeguards. These leave something to the discretion of Medical Officers of Health and the Meat Inspectors, but there is still no control over the sale of diseased meat in Pet Shops.

### 7.—Offals.

The practice of reserving certain organs and glands for pharmaceutical purposes continues. These consist of livers in certain cases, pancreas, pituitary and adrenal glands. These are usually stored in a deep freeze cabinet and the manufacturer collects them at regular intervals.

### 8.—Other Foods Condemned.

A total of 6 tons 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 18½ lbs. of various tinned goods, eggs, butter, cheese, fish, etc., was surrendered during the year by shop keepers. These articles were certified as unsound and were destroyed.

### 9.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Adulteration.

One hundred and eight samples (78 formal and 30 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample	Formal	Informal
Bubble Gum ... ..	—	1
° Candied Peel ... ..	—	1
Chewing Gum ... ..	—	1
° Coffee and Chicory Essence ... ..	—	1
Flour self-raising ... ..	—	1
° Horse Radish Sauce ... ..	—	1
Ice Cream ... ..	1	3
° Jam, Strawberry & Gooseberry ... ..	—	1
° Jam, Plum ... ..	—	1
Jelly, Table ... ..	—	1
Lemonade Crystals ... ..	—	1
° Milk ... ..	67	—
° Mincemeat ... ..	—	1
° Peas, tinned ... ..	—	1
Pepper, compound ... ..	—	1
° Pickles ... ..	—	1
° Pickles, Mustard ... ..	—	1
Raspberry Powder ... ..	1	—
° Sausage Meat, Beef ... ..	7	—
° Sausage Meat, Pork ... ..	1	—
° Sausages, Pork ... ..	1	—
Tea ... ..	—	3
° Tomato Ketchup ... ..	—	1
° Sweets, Snowballs ... ..	—	1
° Sugared Coconut ... ..	—	1
° Raspberry Cream Wafers ... ..	—	1
Novelty Sweets ... ..	—	1
Coronation Lollies ... ..	—	1
Dorothy Bags ... ..	—	1
Fruit Flavoured Lollies ... ..	—	1

(° See paragraph 10 page 38)

One sample of milk was found to contain added water. This is reported in paragraph 1(c).



The following informal samples were found to be not genuine:—

Sample	Analyst's Remarks	Action Taken
Table Jelly	While this sample contained 76.5% of soluble solids which is well above the permitted minimum of 72% the sugars amount to a total of only 60%. The official minimum is 63%. The sugars consist of sucrose (cane sugar) 39% with reducing sugars calculated as dextrose 21%. It is possible that if commercial glucose has been used, allowance has not been made for the presence of non-sugars of the dextrose type.	Manufacturer informed
Novelty Sweets	This material contains chocolate in a very rancid condition and is also mouldy. Rancid cocoa fat is notorious for producing digestive upsets in children and I have no hesitation in finding that this material is unfit for human consumption. I do not like the way the material is packed and feel the manufacturers should be traced and the whole process of manufacture inspected by the Health Authority of the district.	Found to be imported material and old ex-bankrupt stock. All stock surrendered and destroyed.

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

The 89 samples marked ° in the above table were also examined under these Regulations and were found to conform with the requirements.

#### 11.—Shellfish.

Frequent visits have been made to the premises used for the preparation of shellfish and to the stalls where these are sold. Stalls in the pier yard are covered barrows which are taken away at the close of each day. Stall holders have the use of washing facilities in the kiosk, mentioned in previous reports. These facilities consist of a sink and wash basin with gas water heater.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles gathered in that area unless and until they have been sterilized by steam under pressure for six minutes. Cockles are not being collected there for sale, and no contraventions have been observed. All cockles sold in the district are brought in from other areas, and are delivered under a guarantee of sterilization. Mussels and whelks are usually collected locally, and are cooked in the vendor's own premises. During the holiday season, however, it is often necessary to augment local supplies by importation from other areas.

Four samples of shellfish, one of whelks, one of cockles and two of mussels were taken from the vendors' stalls. In no case were any pathogenic organisms found.



## ANNUAL REPORT, 1953—PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

## Amount of Shipping Entering District During the Year

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	No. Inspected by M.O.H.	No. Inspected by S.I.	No. reported as having, or having had during voyage, infectious disease on board
Foreign Ports ...	624	11558	—	12	—
Coastwise ...	758	17836	—	14	—
Total ...	1382	29394	—	26	—

**Character of Shipping and Trade.**

## PASSENGER TRAFFIC:

Number of passengers inwards ... 717 (in yachts)  
 Number of passengers outwards ... 660 (in yachts)

## CARGO TRAFFIC:

Principal Imports ... Foreign Timber, Coastwise Wheat  
 Principal Exports ... Coke to Denmark

## PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE:

Timber from Finnish and Swedish Ports  
 Yachts from Boulogne, Calais, Ostend, Dunkirk and Dieppe

**Water Supply.**

All water for shipping is obtained from the town mains. The results of samples taken during 1953 are reported on page 21.

Precautions against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes are taken. Hoses used for supplying shipping are stored in a closed barrow and are flushed before use.

**Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.****(i) List of Infected Areas.**

Close liaison is maintained between H.M. Customs and the Public Health Department, and information would be given should the Customs Officer have reason to believe that a ship was arriving from a foreign port named in the weekly list of infected areas.

**Mooring Stations.**

Proposals submitted to H.M. Customs and Harbour Authorities in 1935 are still in force, and are as follows:—

- (a) Mooring Station within docks—the place of mooring, discharge or loading, the ship being shored off from the quay and so moored as to prevent contact with any other ship.
- (b) Mooring Station outside docks—the outer middle ground buoy in the outer basin of the harbour in bad weather. In good weather, the Ramsgate Roads.

**Arrangements for—****(a) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**

Cases of infectious disease, other than smallpox, would be accommodated at Isolation Hospital, Haine, Ramsgate, under control of Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee, S.E. Regional Hospital Board.

**(b) SURVEILLANCE AND FOLLOW UP OF CONTACTS**

Contacts proceeding out of the area: Would be advised to report to the Medical Officer of Health of the district of their destination, and confirmation would be sent by this Department.

Local contacts would be dealt with by this Department.

**(c) CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION, ETC.**

The services of the Disinfection Staff of this Department would be available, and all clothing, etc., would be dealt with at the Disinfecting Station.

**Smallpox.****(1) NAME OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL:**

The Rivers Hospital (Long Reach), Dartford.

**(2) TRANSPORT:**

By Kent County Council Ambulance Service.

**(3) CONSULTANT:**

Dr. R. Fletcher, 30, Cheriton Gardens, Folkestone.

**(4) LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS:**

Central Public Health Laboratories, Colindale, N.W.9.

**Venereal Disease.**

No international arrangements are in operation.

The days and times of clinics at Margate General Hospital are:—

Tuesday	...	Females 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
		Males 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
Friday	...	Females 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
		Males 11 a.m. to 12 noon.



**Measures Against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports.**

All ships from foreign ports are normally inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. The services of the Rodent Operator are available if required.

**Inspection of Ships for Nuisances.**

Twenty-six routine inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year. No notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances.

**Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.**

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations have been in operation since December, 1925. These Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles taken from a prescribed area in Pegwell Bay until they have been subjected to sterilisation by steam under pressure for at least six minutes. The sterilisation must be carried out by the Local Authority or in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

**Miscellaneous.**

There are no arrangements in operation for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease. Should such an eventuality arise, all arrangements would be carried out by the Local Authority under the personal supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (AIRCRAFT) REGULATIONS, 1950**

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Owing to the fact that the Ramsgate Aerodrome is not officially 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 1954 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 1953**

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my first annual report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and I must preface my remarks by reference to my predecessor, Mr. E. Young, who retired on 31st May after 38 years' service with the Local Authority. I had the privilege of working with Mr. Young for some years prior to his retirement, and know that few men could have executed his duties with so little friction. His tactful manner has so often eased the many difficulties encountered in the day to day working of the Department, and earned him the respect of his staff and fellow officers.

The following pages give a factual report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1953, and it will be seen that a great deal of attention has been given to the inspection and supervision of food. This is of particular importance in a holiday resort where catering becomes a major industry during the holiday season, and of course catering is but the the end result of the food industry. The inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is one of the more onerous duties carried out in the Department. During the year 10,790 animals have passed through the slaughterhouse, all these have been examined in detail by the meat inspectors, Messrs. Brown and Whiteley, who have not hesitated to give up their evenings and week-ends to ensure that the meat sent out from the slaughterhouse is free from disease and is fit for human consumption.

The problem of housing repairs and slum clearance remains a difficult one. For various reasons it has not been possible to proceed with this work in the manner envisaged by the Housing Act, 1936, and where defects have been found these have been dealt with under the nuisance provisions of the Public Health Act. The time is now drawing near when we should take more vigorous action to deal with the sub-standard houses in the central parts of the town by way of clearance or re-conditioning. In some of these areas many houses will be found to be beyond reclamation, others will need considerable expenditure to bring them to a standard compatible with modern ideas, and it may be that some properties will bar the way to a coherent plan of re-development which should proceed concurrently with slum clearance. At the time of writing the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill is passing through the House, and, while the ultimate details of the Act are not known, it is to be expected that urgent action will be called for on the part of Local Authorities, and this may provide a new edge to our blunted tools.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help and co-operation I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, also my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, whose guiding hand has been of so much value, and to the Sanitary Inspectors and the clerical staff.

C. H. WELLER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



### 1.—Camping Sites.

There are four licensed camping sites in the Borough, these are subject to frequent inspection, and in all a total of 77 visits were made. On three of these sites many of the caravans are stationed permanently throughout the year, and a system of letting week by week during the holiday season is operated. This system restricts the amount of space available for itinerant campers who prefer mobility and who thus have difficulty in finding a site during the holiday seasons. There appears to be a prejudice against tents on the part of site owners, and it is felt that in view of the popularity of tenting, particularly among the younger people, some facilities should be made available for their use.

### 2.—Housing.

Four houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Demolition Orders were made in respect of three of these houses, but demolition being inexpedient, an undertaking not to re-let the fourth for human habitation was accepted. The houses had not been vacated at the end of the year, and therefore they had not been demolished.

It is now known that a new Housing Act is to be proceeded with during the present Parliamentary session, and it is anticipated that work on slum clearance and the repair of sub-standard houses will proceed more vigorously in the near future as a result of this new Act.

### 3.—Cinemas, Theatres, Dance Halls, etc.

The places of amusement licensed for public music and/or dancing in the Borough number 91 and may be classified as follows:—

Cinemas	...	...	4
Theatres	...	...	3
Halls	...	...	11
Hotels, Public Houses	...	...	60
Restaurants	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	6

Thirty-one visits of inspection were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

### 4.—Licensed Premises.

Improvements to licensed premises proceed very slowly. In two cases hot water has been provided over the bar by means of small sink water heaters. In another the conveniences have been remodelled, and provides at the same time accommodation for ladies. These premises are subject to frequent visit of inspection, and there is no lack of co-operation on the part of either the brewers or licensees.

### 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 31.

### 6.—Prosecutions.

One case was taken under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, on a sample of milk found to contain added water to the extent of about 10 per cent. This sample was taken at the point of delivery at a local dairy before the dairyman took possession and the producer was prosecuted. The offence was committed in December and the case was not heard until February, 1954, when the producer was found guilty and conditionally discharged for twelve months.

### 7.—Shellfish.

The sale of shellfish from barrows in the Pier Yard continued during the summer season. These barrows, which are set up as stalls, are well maintained by the owners, but are not compatible with modern ideas of food hygiene. Water for "washing-up" is available in the nearby kiosk, and there is no reason to suppose that the facilities are not being used. The site is hosed down daily to remove fragments and debris left behind by the consumer. It would be more desirable if permanent booths were substituted for these barrows, each booth being provided with facilities for washing-up and other incidental matters.

Vendors usually prepare mussels and whelks on their own premises—cockles are not being gathered locally. This is mainly due to the fact that cockles are not present in the Pegwell Bay area in sufficient numbers to warrant collection on a commercial scale, and to the fact that their sale is prohibited under the Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations (Part VIII, Section 11).

### 8.—Total Complaints.

The number of complaints from all sources was 514. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona fide complainant can be sure of receiving prompt and sympathetic consideration.

### 9.—Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	...	216
Nuisances abated on verbal instruction	...	29
Work carried out voluntarily	... ..	19
Statutory notices served	... ..	7
Statutory notices complied with	... ..	8

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.

It has been necessary to serve some statutory notices, but no prosecution for non-compliance has been taken. In most cases owners have carried out necessary works soon after the receipt of an informal notice, and therefore statutory proceedings have been unnecessary.

All action relating to repair of dwellings has been investigated under the nuisance clauses of the Public Health Act, and no action has been taken under Section 9 of the Housing Act.



**10.—Inspections and Visits.**

A tabulated list of inspections and visits is given hereunder:—

**GENERAL NUISANCES:**

Inspection of verminous premises	...	...	109
Accumulations	...	...	81
Animals, keeping of	...	...	38
Absence of refuse receptacles	...	...	173
Smoke nuisances investigated	...	...	6

**FOOD PREMISES:**

Bakehouses	...	...	50
Fish Fryers	...	...	23
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	88
Milkshops	...	...	153
Restaurants	...	...	223
Shellfish vendors	...	...	18
General food shops, grocers, etc.	...	...	646

**FACTORIES:**

Mechanical	...	...	69
Non-mechanical	...	...	24
Outworkers premises	...	...	2
Work places	...	...	4

**HOUSING:**

Inspection under Housing Acts	...	...	29
Inspections of Council property	...	...	45
Inspection re overcrowding	...	...	1

**LICENSED PREMISES:**

Inspections for Music and Dancing	...	...	31
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**DRAINAGE:**

Inspections of work in progress	...	...	422
Drains tested	...	...	107

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES:**

Visits of investigation or follow-up of contacts	...	...	179
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**MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:**

Camping sites or caravans inspected	...	...	77
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**RODENT CONTROL:**

Visits to premises to ascertain degree of infestation	...	...	108
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## REPAIRS:

Inspections after service of notice or on request ... ..	1,241
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## SHOPS ACT, 1950:

Inspections under Section 38 ... ..	48
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## SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

Visits re inspection of meat ... ..	433
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## MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS:

Marine stores ... ..	2
Schools ... ..	6
Shipping ... ..	26
Stables ... ..	1
Swimming Pool ... ..	28
Water sampling ... ..	48
Miscellaneous visits not classified ... ..	613
Total ... ..	<u>5,150</u>

## 11.—Results of Inspections and Visits.

## IMPROVEMENTS

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

Drains cleared ... ..	37
Drains amended ... ..	30
Sink gully traps provided ... ..	10
Inspection chambers built ... ..	12
Manhole covers provided ... ..	2
Soil and vent pipes fitted ... ..	7
Soil and vent pipes repaired ... ..	4
Soakaways provided ... ..	1

## INTERNAL REPAIRS:

Floors relaid or repaired ... ..	19
Flushing cisterns provided ... ..	14
Flushing cisterns repaired ... ..	15
Sash cords renewed ... ..	26
Sills repaired ... ..	1
Sinks trapped ... ..	6
Sink provided ... ..	14
Lavatory basins provided ... ..	2
Stoves, fireplaces, etc., renewed ... ..	13
Stoves, fireplaces, etc., repaired ... ..	9
New W.C. pans fixed ... ..	67
Defective plaster repaired ... ..	33
New water service provided ... ..	5
Water service improved ... ..	9



Windows repaired or renewed ... ..	34
Walls and ceilings redecorated ... ..	4
Doors repaired ... ..	18
W.C. seats provided ... ..	3
Baths provided ... ..	3
<b>FOOD PREMISES:</b>	
Premises re-built ... ..	1
Walls limewashed ... ..	1
W.C.'s provided ... ..	3
<b>EXTERNAL REPAIRS:</b>	
Chimney stacks, flues repaired ... ..	5
Eaves gutters renewed ... ..	24
Walls cement rendered ... ..	1
Walls re-pointed ... ..	7
Roofs repaired ... ..	57
Yards paved ... ..	8
Walls treated with damp proofing material	1
<b>FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:</b>	
Cleansed or limewashed ... ..	6
Sanitary accommodation improved ... ..	3
Ventilation improved ... ..	1
<b>SHOPS:</b>	
Sinks provided ... ..	1
Floors relaid ... ..	1
Rooms decorated ... ..	1
<b>BAKEHOUSES:</b>	
Partially reconstructed ... ..	1
Limewashed ... ..	4
Paving repaired ... ..	1
New sink provided ... ..	1
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
Accumulations removed ... ..	10
Verminous houses cleansed and disinfected	13
Houses renovated throughout ... ..	4
Refuse receptacles provided ... ..	62
Minor items of repair ... ..	4
Total ... ..	620

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE, DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

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### 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 179 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

### 13.—Disinfection.

One hundred and forty-six rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases and cancer, and 154 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfector. In addition, 85 sets of bedding were disinfected on behalf of the General Hospital after infectious disease or for other causes.

### 14.—Pest Control.

The work of eradicating insect pests of all types is carried out by the staff of the Department. Various methods are used according to the nature of the infestation and the property involved. Liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. is used as a spray, insect powders containing a proportion of D.D.T. and Gamma B.H.C., are distributed by means of a powder blower, and in cases where it is possible to seal the rooms completely for a few hours, smoke generators giving off fine particles of Gamma B.H.C. are used. Both D.D.T. and Gamma B.H.C. are chemicals with a residual toxic effect, so that insects hatching out after treatment have a very small chance of survival.

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	1	12	22
Fleas and Flies ...	5	16	29	85
Beetles, insects, etc	20	32	23	39

In addition 14 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Seventy-seven sets of bedding were removed for treatment, and 12 were destroyed at the request of the owners.

### 15.—Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

One full-time Rodent Operator is employed. He carries out treatment of dwellinghouses and business premises, usually on complaint, but frequently his investigations point to infestation where no complaint has been made. Dwellinghouses are treated free of charge, but in order to qualify for Ministry grant, charges must be levied on business premises. Sewers are treated at six-monthly intervals, the usual method of pre-bait and poison being followed: the poisons used alternating between Arsenic and Zinc Phosphide. Warfarin appears likely to oust other poisons so far as dwellinghouses and business premises are concerned, and I know of no other substance which can be used with so little risk



to children and domestic animals and still give good results. There can be no doubt that the rodent population is being kept under control, due to constant vigilance on the part of the Rodent Operator and the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Workable Area Committee for rodent control meets at quarterly intervals, and provides for a close liaison between representatives of Local Authorities and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Discussion takes place on procedure and methods, and attendance at these meetings has proved to be of considerable value.

Certain statistics are required by the Ministry each year and a summary of the return is given below.

	Number of:—			
	Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural Property
<b>Infestations:</b>				
Notified by occupier ...	—	153	19	—
Otherwise discovered ...	14	—	—	—
<b>Infested by:</b>				
Rats—Major ...	7	—	6	—
Minor ...	7	105	13	—
Mice only ...	—	36	—	—

In addition to the above treatment, a further 11 blocks of property were treated by the Operator. Sewer maintenance treatments were carried out on two occasions (April and November) with satisfactory results.

