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A.C. 4412(1) RAMSGATE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

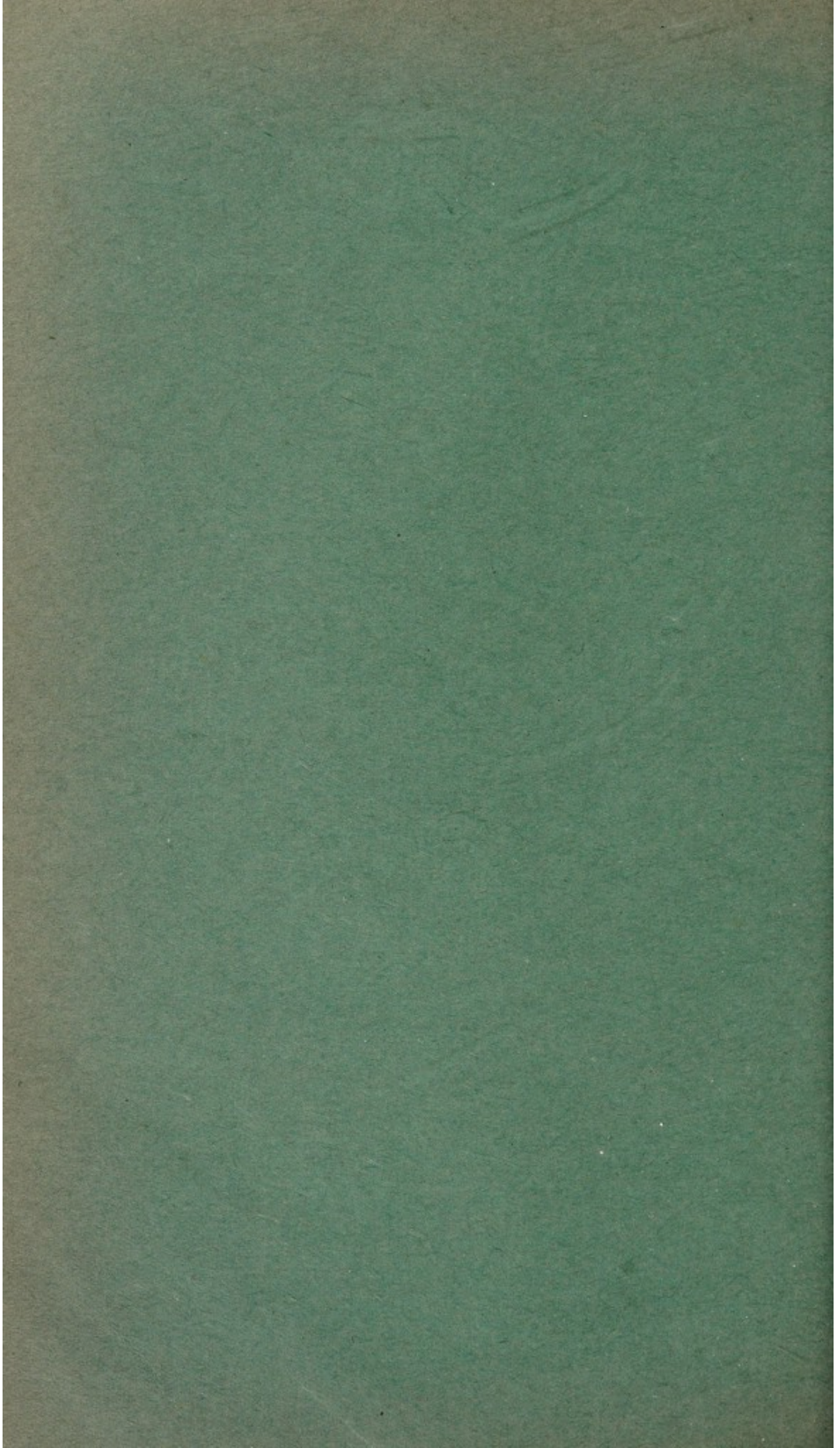
REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1954



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, JUNE, 1954**

Chairman:

Councillor W. H. Greenstreet

Vice-Chairman:

Alderman L. F. Davey

His Worship The Mayor

(ALDERMAN 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:

C. H. Weller, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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. (Cert. Meat Inspector)

Clerical staff:

J. S. Robertson

J. Newing

Disinfectors and Drain Testers:

G. C. Riordan

S. J. McWilliam

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.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1954.

The birth rate is down, 16.4 per 1,000 compared with 18.7 per 1,000, and the death rate shows an increase of 0.5—9.3 as against 8.8 per 1,000.

Again we were free from anything in the nature of an epidemic of infectious disease and the health of the Borough maintained its usual high standard.

I have again to thank the Chairman and the members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement.

I have also to record my appreciation of the help obtained from my colleagues in other departments of the Council.

My thanks are also due to the staff of this department for the work achieved during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. CARGIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of population	36,150
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books ...	11,984
Rateable Value	£305,334
General Rate	27/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,190

BIRTHS

	1954		Total	1953
	Male	Female		Total
Number of live births:				
Legitimate ...	269	225	494	580
Illegitimate ...	34	27	61	51
	303	252	555	631

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	15.3
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	16.4
(England and Wales: 15.2)	

The illegitimate births formed 10.9% of the total and were equal to 1.6 per 1,000 of the population.

In order to meet the unequal distribution of the population according to age and sex, the Registrar General has supplied a correction figure of 1.07, and this multiplied by the uncorrected Birth Rate results in a Birth Rate of 16.4.

STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	1953
Legitimate ...	4	8	12	9
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	—

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 births was 21.6 as compared with 14.2 for the previous year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS (NEO-NATAL MORTALITY)

	Male	Female	Total	1953
Legitimate ...	4	6	10	7
Illegitimate ...	2	—	2	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR (INFANTILE MORTALITY)

	Male	Female	Total	1953
Legitimate ...	7	9	16	13
Illegitimate ...	2	—	2	2
	9	9	18	15

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births:

Total	...	...	32.4 (Compared with 32.7 for 1953)
Legitimate	...	...	32.4
Illegitimate	...	...	32.7
England and Wales	...	...	25.5

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 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, 32.4, is higher than for the country as a whole, which was 25.5.

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
1954	18	32	25

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		7-8		8-9		9-10			10-11		11-12	
Whooping Cough ...																									
Tuberculous diseases ...																									
Measles ...																									
Convulsions ...																									
Bronchitis and Pneumonia																1								1	
Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...																								1	
Congenital malformations	1																							3	
Premature Birth ...	4								1															5	
Injury at Birth ...																									
Asphyxia, Atelectasis ...	3	1	1																					7	
Congenital Debility ...																									
Hæmolytic disease ...																									
Other causes ...																						1		1	
Totals	8	1	1		1											2								18	

TOTAL DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total	1953
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages	211	201	412	392

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population ...	11.4
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population ...	9.3
England and Wales: 11.3	

The Death Rate shows an increase of 0.5 per 1,000 of the population compared with 1953. 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 age and sex groups are more evenly distributed. The factor for this Authority is 0.82, and this, multiplied by the uncorrected death rate, gives a corrected rate of 9.3 as compared with 11.4.

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

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis—respiratory	2	1
2. Tuberculosis—other	2	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	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 ..	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	17
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	27	38
18. Coronary disease, angina	34	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	5
20. Other heart disease	30	48
21. Other circulatory disease	10	10
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	6	2
24. Bronchitis	22	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	3	—
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea ..	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	4	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	9	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	35
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34. All other accidents	3	2
35. Suicide	2	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	1	—
	211	201
	412	

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 ...	9	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	23	39	69	64	211	
FEMALES ...	9	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	5	3	9	19	54	109	201	

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
1954 ..	60	65	135	5	35
Percentage of total deaths 1954	14.5	15.7	32.7	1.2	8.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one death due to childbirth during the year.

POPULATION

The population as given by the Registrar General was 36,150, which shows an increase of 160 compared with 1953.

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 a 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, but 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 harbour with its three-quarter mile of piers, is open to the public and enclosing an area in the outer basin of 35 acres and 12 acres in the inner basin, it provides a health giving walk with ever changing interests.

The town is essentially non-industrial, though on its outskirts, tool-making, brewing, flour milling, plastic and stocking manufacture are being carried on, and as a consequence atmospheric pollution and fog are almost unknown.

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.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS, 1954

Sunshine

January	...	83.3 hours.	Daily Average	2.7 hours
February	...	58.6 ..	.. ..	2.1 ..
March	...	94.7 ..	.. ..	3.1 ..
April	...	218.0 ..	.. ..	7.2 ..
May	...	196.3 ..	.. ..	6.3 ..
June	...	188.0 ..	.. ..	6.3 ..
July	...	144.0 ..	.. ..	4.6 ..
August	...	172.2 ..	.. ..	5.5 ..
September	...	159.8 ..	.. ..	5.3 ..
October	...	105.7 ..	.. ..	3.4 ..
November	...	68.6 ..	.. ..	2.3 ..
December	...	54.8 ..	.. ..	1.8 ..
Total	...	<u>1544.0</u> ..	Total for 1953	1630.2 hours

	Highest amount of Sun- shine recorded in any one day	Date	Sunless Days
January	... 6.9 hours	... 24th	... 7
February	... 8.1 ..	... 24th	... 13
March	... 10.1 ..	... 30th	... 11
April	... 12.3 ..	... 28th	... 2
May	... 13.6 ..	... 8th & 27th	... 2
June	... 13.9 ..	... 30th	... 3
July	... 14.2 ..	... 19th	... 2
August	... 11.5 ..	... 27th	... 1
September	... 11.6 ..	... 1st	... 3
October	... 8.4 ..	... 7th	... 5
November	... 7.9 ..	... 9th & 13th	... 9
December	... 6.9 ..	... 1st	... 12

Rainfall.

January	...	...	1.68	inches
February	...	...	1.97	"
March	...	...	2.34	"
April	...	...	.19	"
May	...	...	1.98	"
June	...	...	1.59	"
July	...	...	2.13	"
August	...	...	3.08	"
September	...	...	.91	"
October	...	...	1.79	"
November	...	...	3.92	"
December	...	...	1.36	"
			<hr/>		
		Total	...	22.94	"
				<hr/>	
		Total for 1953	...	21.14	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 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 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 59 and a total of 54 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 Broad Street</i>
Infant Clinics	Mon. and Wed. 2-4 p.m.	Tues. and Thurs. 2-4 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinics		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	Tuesday 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 1954:—

IN PATIENTS

Maternity	...	...	...	...	346
Others	...	...	...	...	1,982

OUT PATIENTS

Casualty Department	5,701
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS

Medical	...	...	...	...	322
Surgical	...	...	...	...	1,048
Gynaecological	...	...	...	...	172
Ophthalmic	...	...	...	...	495
Paediatric	...	...	...	...	74
Aural	...	...	...	...	813
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	81
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	285
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	216
Dermatological	...	...	...	...	417
Mental Illness	...	...	...	...	147
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	1,543
Dental	...	...	...	...	114
Physical Medicine	...	...	...	...	286
Diseases of Chest	...	...	...	...	249
Radiotherapy	...	...	...	...	224

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

Radiological	...	...	...	15,285 units
Pathological	...	...	...	17,932 ..
Physiotherapy	...	...	...	30,490 ..

In many of the departments these 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. Three hundred and forty-six maternity patients were admitted to the hospital. Some expectant mothers were also admitted to the Quetta annex of the Margate General Hospital. A Nursing Home, registered in previous years for maternity cases opened up part of the accommodation for these cases in October, 1954, and provided three beds.

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 five on the register, four providing accommodation for medical patients and one for maternity patients. Particulars of these homes are as follows:—

	No. of Beds
21, Vale Square and (annexe) 11, Crescent Road ...	56
4, Clifton Lawn	9
36, Albert Road	1
6 Crescent Road (Maternity patients)	3
96 Thanet Road	8

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 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 one person, an order was made by the Justices, and the case was admitted to hospital.

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

Under the provisions of this Section, two persons were buried at the expense of the Local Authority, at a total cost of £25.

9.—Superannuation Examinations.

Nine medical examinations of Corporation employees were carried out.

10.—Domestic Help Service.

A total of 408 patients in Ramsgate were provided with help by the Kent County Council. The average number of cases attended to each week increased from 130 to 170, and approximately 75% of those attended were elderly people.

The helpers employed during the year averaged 40 per week and the number of hours of service provided each week averaged 900 hours.

The Organiser made approximately 1,560 visits during the year.

11.—Home Nursing.

There are four 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 52691.

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

Mrs. A. S. Talbot, S.R.N., 22, Poplar Road.

Telephone: Thanet 51655.

Mr. A. F. Ottaway, S.R.N., Q.N., 22 Princess Avenue.

Telephone: Thanet 53286.

12.—Midwifery Services.

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 AREA

1.—Water Supply.

The following is an average table of the results received from the Public Analyst. All of the samples submitted were reported as of high organic purity.

	Parts per 100,000
Appearance	Clear
Smell	None
Chlorine in Chlorides	10.8
Chlorine calculated as Sodium Chloride	17.8
Nitrogen in Nitrates	1.00
Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.009
Hardness before boiling (total)	31.2
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	9.1
Total solid matter	56.0
Microscopical examination of deposit	Unimportant

“This water is of great organic purity and free from sewage infiltration.”

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

Total gallons pumped	574,697,000
Average daily gallons pumped	1,820,000
Maximum day consumption (Aug. 4th)	2,545,000

Approximately 230,922,000 gallons of the total amount consumed were used for industrial purposes and the remainder for domestic use, viz. about 31 gallons per head of the population per day.

2.—Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage scheme for Cliffsend and Manston, estimated to cost £112,000, has now been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. An officer of the Ministry has visited Ramsgate to go into the question of the drainage of these outlying areas, and there is every indication that work on this major scheme will be started before the end of the financial year 1955/56.

3.—Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

4.—Public Cleansing.

At the present time about a quarter of the town's refuse (15,000 tons) is disposed of by controlled tipping. Because of legal and town planning difficulties, progress has not been so advanced as was anticipated in regard to the acquisition of the full area of 67 acres for controlled tipping. It is, however, hoped that by the end of the year, the necessary land will have been acquired, and a 100% controlled tipping programme brought into operation at Cliffsend. Until the position regarding the land is clarified, it would be unwise to send too much refuse to the tip, as its capability for dealing with a large amount of refuse is strictly limited.

5.—Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of the Manston, Cliffsend and Nethercourt areas, all of the houses are connected to the sewerage system. When the new sewerage scheme, which now awaits Ministerial approval, comes into force every house in the Borough will be connected to the water carriage system.

6.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspectors paid 6,916 visits. Information about their work, together with lists of notices served and the results of such notices, are included in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

7.—Shops Act, 1950.

The administration of the whole of the Shops Acts was taken over by the Inspectors of the Health Department as from February, 1954, so that in addition to the duty of attending to Section 38 of the Act, which deals with the health and comfort of the shopworkers, the Inspectors now enforce the provisions of the Act dealing with hours of closing, Sunday trading, employment of young persons and local regulations.

8.—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power ...	41	2	—
Factories without mechanical power	170	67	3
Other premises	40	—	3

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED IN FACTORIES, ETC

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred:	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable	3	3	—	3

OUTWORKERS

There are thirty-one outworkers registered, of whom five are engaged in the making of wearing apparel and 26 in the manufacture of fireworks.

9.—Moveable Dwellings.

There are now six caravan sites in the Borough, two more than for the previous year.

Tents are discouraged on these sites, but there appears to be a need for an area set aside for these tents, particularly during the month of August. Camping by means of tents or caravans enjoys an increasing 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 municipally controlled camping site.

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

Nethercourt	61 Caravans
Pegwell	70 ..
Cliffsend	50 ..
Manston	25 ..
Sportsman Inn	5 ..
College Road	5 ..

10.—Smoke Abatement.

It has not been found necessary to take any statutory action with regard to smoke nuisance during the year. We are singularly fortunate in having little or no atmospheric pollution.

11.—Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Marina Swimming Pool is the only one open to the public. This is an open air pool 250ft. by 90ft., holding 860,000 gallons, and is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season, to which fresh sea water is added from time to time. Cleanliness and purity is maintained by continuous filtration and chlorination. Chlorine is added at the rate of 1 part per million, break point chlorination has not yet been adopted. Frequent colorimetric tests are made to ascertain the amount of residual chlorine, the distribution of chlorine and PH value. Chlorine residuals should be maintained at from 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million in every part of the bath, and every effort is made to keep to this standard. As an addition to colorimetric tests, 16 samples of the water have been submitted for bacteriological examination. The first of these samples, taken immediately after the bath was filled and before circulation had commenced, was not satisfactory, but samples taken after circulation and chlorination were proceeding normally, were satisfactory and showed the plant to be working properly.

12.—Offensive Trades.

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

13.—Fish Fryers.

Twenty-one fish fryers are registered under 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 difficulty of obtaining suitable sites.

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)	132
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	1,193
(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	132

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	82
--	----

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	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
(a) By owners	1
(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	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(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	1
(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.

The problem of overcrowding remains with us. This is usually found to be due to sub-letting where, although the total number of occupants in a dwelling does not exceed the permitted number, there may be some overcrowding in the sub-let portion of the house, and the sub-tenant is awaiting his turn on the housing list.

Sub-letting is an evil that is difficult to overcome, the accommodation so provided will consist of one or more rooms with the "privilege" of sharing the common amenities of life. The system provides grounds for bitterness and mutual recriminations, often with outright quarrels. The only redeeming feature is that sub-letting does provide shelter for a family.

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 1954 was:—			
Traditional type	four-bedroomed	non-parlour	—
Traditional type	three-bedroomed	non-parlour	14
Traditional type	two-bedroomed	non-parlour	10
Traditional type flats (two storeys)	three-bedroomed	non-parlour	8
Traditional type flats (two storeys)	two-bedroomed	non-parlour	30
Old Age Persons bungalows			—
	Total		62

6.—Future Buildings 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, 1954, was 1,313 and of those 361 were received during the year.

8.—Tuberculosis.

Nine cases were referred by the Chest Physician to the Housing Department for consideration of the Housing Committee.

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 ...	97	97	398
Pre-fab Bungalows ...	20	20	65
Flats ...	55	55	138
Requisitioned properties	—	—	—
Old Persons bungalows	—	—	—
Total ...	172	172	601

The number of properties controlled by the Council at the end of 1954 was:—

Pre-war schemes ...	...	583
Post-war schemes:		
Traditional houses ...	...	799
Traditional flats ...	...	182
Pre-fabricated bungalows ...	...	199
Requisitioned properties ...	...	24
Houses purchased by the Council ...	...	55
Total ...		1,842

10.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

This Act came into force on 1st October, 1954, and up to 31st December, 1954, six applications had been received for certificates of disrepair where the landlord had exercised his right to increase the rents. All applications have been granted and no applications for revocation have been received.

11.—Slum Clearance Proposals.

A preliminary survey of an area has been made and a programme for slum clearance formulated and approved in principle by the Council. It is estimated that 724 houses will be involved and in view of the magnitude of the task, the proposals have been set out in stages covering a period of ten years.

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 ...	48	38	—	—	2	5	6	15	15	2	1	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	33	—	—	6	6	9	4	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	47	—	—	3	13	5	6	13	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	16	—	*13	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	2	1	7
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. (Non Paralytic)	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* All forms of pneumonia

2.—Diphtheria.

There has not been a case of this disease notified in the Borough since 1947, whereas not many years before this it was a common and deadly disease. Thanks largely to immunisation against this complaint, which was begun in Ramsgate in 1940, we have remained free from it. Every child should have this protection carried out before its first birthday and further protective doses should be given every five years up to the age of 15 or 16. Neglect of these precautions even on a moderate

scale might readily re-awaken the disease amongst the unprotected children. The Ministry estimate that at least 75% of all children born each year should be immunised if this infection is to remain dormant. Of the total children in the Borough aged 15 years or under, 5,587 have been immunised since the beginning of the scheme, but the percentage of children born in 1953 and immunised remains too low, as only 45.3% have been protected.

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 387 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 crust taken from the pustules or spots and sent to Colindale Laboratories will be diagnosed within 2 to 72 hours depending on the quality and quantity of the specimens sent.

4.—Individual Diseases.

(a) PARA-TYPHOID FEVER.

No case occurred during the year.

(b) MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.

The case which occurred was removed to Hospital and the diagnosis confirmed by bacteriological methods. There was one death from this disease which occurred outside the Borough.

(c) POLIOMYELITIS.

The two cases which occurred were both non-paralytic. Both were treated in hospital and recovered.

(d) MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Of the mild epidemic of these diseases (33 measles and 47 whooping cough) which occurred during the year, none were removed to hospital and there were no deaths from either disease.

(e) SCARLET FEVER.

Forty-eight cases were notified and 38 were removed to Hospital. All were mild cases.

(f) FOOD POISONING.

It is worthy of note that no notification of food poisoning was received during the year, nor were any cases brought to the notice of this Department. No doubt this excellent result is in part due to the cleanliness campaign carried out by the staff of this Department.

5.—Tuberculosis.

Formal notification in respect of 24 respiratory and 4 non-respiratory cases were received. In addition, 25 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 ...	...	3	—

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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 ...	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ...	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
Over 65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	14	10	3	1	2	1	2	—

The number of cases remaining on the register on 31st December, 1954, was:—

		Male	Female	Total
Respiratory ...	...	148	133	281
Non-respiratory ...	...	15	17	32
Total ...	...	163	150	313

6.—Mass Radiography.

Below are given details of X-Ray examinations carried out by the Mid-Kent Radiography Unit whilst sited at The Drill Hall, Ramsgate, during the period 19th February to 17th March, 1954.

GENERAL PUBLIC.

Male Volunteers	...	...	2,617
Female Volunteers	...	...	3,875
Active Tuberculosis Discovered:			
Males	...	...	5
Female	...	...	4
Inactive Tuberculosis:			
Males	...	...	71
Females	...	...	72
Carcinoma of Lung:			
Males	...	...	3
Hodgkin's Disease:			
Females	...	...	1

7.—Venereal Disease.

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

Tuesdays:	Females	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
	Males	11 a.m. to 12 noon
Fridays:	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	3	1
Gonorrhoea	16	15
Non-venereal (requiring treatment)	11	12
Non-venereal (not requiring treatment)	19	14

A total of 765 attendances was made by patients from Ramsgate.

VIII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

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

1.—Milk.

The whole of the milk retailed within the Borough is sold under one or other of the Special Designations, and all is pasteurised, so that no raw milk is sold within the area. One feature in the distribution of milk is the large number of small shop keepers who hold distributors licences and sell bottled milk from their shops, a large proportion of this being Sterilised. There is no sterilizing plant within the Borough and the whole of this sterilized milk is imported from outside the area. It can be stated with assurance that the milk is as safe as human ingenuity can make it.

(a) LICENCES.

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

Dairies	...	...	3
Dairymen	...	...	3
Distributors	...	...	105

Of the 105 distributors, 65 hold dealers' licences to use the designation "Pasteurised," 23 hold dealers' licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested," and 53 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	11	—	12
Satisfactory by:				
Methylene Blue test	49	11	—	—
Phosphatase test ...	50	11	—	—
Turbidity test ...	—	—	—	12

Seventy-five samples of designated milk were taken during the year, three samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test during August and September, but subsequent samples were quite satisfactory. One sample showed 2.5 blue units on the phosphatase test, this was due to a slight fault in the plant which was immediately corrected. The methylene blue test is used to indicate cleanliness of the milk and its keeping quality and the phosphatase test is used to indicate the efficiency of the pasteurisation plant. The 12 samples of sterilised milk satisfied the turbidity test, thus indicating satisfactory sterilization.

Samples were taken indiscriminately from roundsmen, distributors and dairies in order to keep a close check on milk at all stages of distribution. In all 148 visits have been made to dairies and distributors' premises and every effort is made to ensure a high standard of hygiene in the processing of milk.

(c) ADULTERATION.

Fifty-three samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. All samples proved to be genuine.

(d) COMPOSITION AND QUALITY OF MILK.

The high quality of the milk has been maintained throughout the year, not one of the samples has fallen below the prescribed standards either for fats or non-fatty solids, and there has been no case of adulteration. The average for the year which is slightly less than the average for 1953, was as follows:—

Fats	...	...	3.56%
Non-fatty solids	...	...	8.71%
Total	...	...	12.27%

2.—Ice Cream.

(a) CLEANLINESS.

Forty-four samples of ice cream were taken for bio-chemical examination and subjected to the methylene blue test with results as follows:—

Grade I	...	...	36
Grade II	...	...	2
Grade III	...	...	6

No samples were in Grade IV, but six in Grade III were not fully satisfactory. One of these was manufactured within the Borough, the plant in this case was checked, and subsequent samples proved satisfactory. The other four samples were from ice cream manufactured outside the area and the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned was notified in each case.

(b) STANDARD.

Nine 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 Standard (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. Forty-six visits were paid to ice cream premises. Pre-packed ice cream maintains its popularity with the vendors, perhaps because it is easier to serve than loose ice cream, but some loose ice cream continues to be sold in cornets and wafers. The trade in "soft" ice cream, which is dispensed directly from the freezer, continues to expand, though the trade is still confined to the sea front.

Four samples of ice lollies were taken for analysis, these were found to consist in the main of a frozen fruit cordial with sugar, though in one case milk had been added, the resultant product being sold as a "milk lollie." In no case was the presence of metallic or other contamination found, and preservatives had not been used.

3.—Food Preparing Premises.

(a) RESTAURANTS.

The number of restaurants decreased from 110 to 108, snack bars and tea rooms decreased from 62 to 55. Hotel restaurants remained at 11.

One hundred and sixty 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 were underground bakehouses. Thirty-six visits were made.

(c) PRESERVED FOODS.

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

Preparation of sausages, cooked and pickled meats	33
Preparation of cooked meats only	6
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 Ministry of Food relinquished the control of slaughtering as from the end of June, 1954, and from that date the Council took over the operation of the Alexandra Road slaughterhouse, the only one in the Borough, on an experimental basis. The supervision of the slaughterhouse and the inspection of meat are carried out by the staff of inspectors, each of whom is a fully qualified Meat Inspector. There is also a manager appointed by the Local Authority. The arrangement is that the Council provide facilities for slaughter and the local Butchers' Association provide slaughtermen. The slaughterhouse is an old building, rather inconvenient in its arrangement and not well sited in a congested area. This is a temporary expedient until such time as the Government publish their decision as to "moderate concentration."

Although the slaughterhouse continues to serve the same area as hitherto, there has been a decline in the number of animals slaughtered, particularly so in the case of cattle, calves and sheep, but there was a considerable increase in the number of pigs brought in. Meat inspection is being carried out in accordance with the recommendations in Memo 5/Meat, and an inspector is in attendance at all times whilst killing takes place, thus we are assured that all carcasses are properly examined before going into distribution.

Three applications for slaughterhouse licences in respect of private slaughterhouses in the Borough were received. These were refused on the grounds of unsuitability of buildings and siting. One applicant appealed against the Council's decision, but lost his appeal.

5.—Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

This Act has been amended by the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, which came into operation on 1st October, 1954, the result is that slaughtermen's licences, previously granted for three years, now have to be renewed annually and are valid only within the area of the Local Authority by whom the licence is granted. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was five.

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:—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Total number killed	1274	182	787	3892	3367
Total number inspected	1274	182	787	3892	3367
For all Diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	7	3	9	12
Part carcasses condemned	499	32	3	350	347
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- culosis	39.3	21.4	0.7	9.2	10.6
For Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	5	—	—	9
Part carcasses condemned	125	28	—	—	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.5	18.1	—	—	1.6

Examinations for the parasitic condition, *cystercercus bovis*, continue to be made as a routine measure and six carcasses were found to be affected. No cases of generalised *cystercercus bovis* were found. When a carcass was found to be affected, the offals were rejected and

the carcase was subjected to refrigeration for 21 days. This is known to kill the parasite and the meat may then be consumed without harm.

Condemned meat and offal is stained with a green dye and is then disposed of to a manufacturer for processing into fertilizer and similar by-products. Where the meat inspector is of the opinion that the meat concerned would be better disposed of by incineration, this is insisted upon. In no circumstances is condemned meat permitted to be used as animal food. When condemned, the meat is surrendered voluntarily, and in no case has it been necessary to exercise the powers of seizure.

7.—Offals.

The concentration of slaughtering in one building has enabled the practice of reserving certain organs and glands for pharmaceutical purposes to continue. These consist of livers in certain cases, pancreas, pituitary and adrenal glands which are stored in a deep freeze cabinet for the manufacturer to collect at his convenience.

8.—Other Foods Condemned.

A total of 8 tons 8 cwts. 0 qrs. 14½ 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 seven samples (57 formal and 50 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample	Formal	Informal
Cake	—	1
Coffee	—	1
*Cream	—	1
Curry Powder	—	2
*Custard Powder	—	1
Chocolates	—	1
Dried Fruit	—	2
Glucose	—	1
Herbs (dried)	—	3
Ice Cream	—	9
Ice Lollies	—	4
*Jam	—	1
*Marmalade	—	1
Margarine and Butter Mixture	—	1
Margarine	—	3
Medicines	—	3
Cod Liver Oil	—	1
Halibut Liver Oil	—	1
*Milk	53	—
Orangeade	1	—
Potatoes, tinned	—	1
Pudding Mixture	—	1
*Sausage Meat, Beef	2	—
*Sausage Meat, Pork	1	—
Sponge Mixture	—	1
*Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	—	9
Vinegar	—	1

None of the samples were found to be adulterated, but samples of dried herbs, curry powder and pudding mixture, known to be old stock were found to have deteriorated and in some instances were affected with weevil. The vendor in this case surrendered his stock of the food so affected and this was destroyed.

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

The sixty-nine 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 they are sold. Stalls in the pier yard consist of covered barrows, which are taken away at the close of each day. Stall holders have the use of washing facilities in the kiosk set aside for their use. These facilities consist of a sink and washbasin with gas heater.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles gathered in that area unless and until they have been sterilised 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.

ANNUAL REPORT — 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 ...	736	15,847	—	21	—
Coastwise ...	718	17,912	—	4	—
Total ...	1,454	33,759	—	25	—

Character of Shipping and Trade.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC:

Number of passengers inwards	...	780
Number of passengers outwards	...	764

CARGO TRAFFIC:

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

Owing to the London Dock strike, 8 vessels from foreign ports were diverted to Ramsgate and unloaded general cargoes totalling 2,172 tons.

PRINCIPAL FOREIGN PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE:

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

Water Supply.

All water supply is obtained from the town mains. The results of samples taken during 1954 are reported on page ?

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 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 the control of the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee, S.E. Regional Hospital Board. No infectious case has occurred on a ship entering the port.

(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-five 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, 1935 and 1948.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations have been in operation since December, 1925, and are referred to on page 35.

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

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.

The aerodrome was opened in 1954 for the convenience of passengers, arriving from France via Lympne, but no direct foreign service is at present contemplated.

**REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1954**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to submit this annual report for your perusal, and you will note that once again the inspection and supervision of food has taken up a considerable proportion of the Inspectors' time. On the subject of food, it must be recorded that the year 1954 has seen the end of the control of food supplies and distribution by the Ministry of Food, the most notable effect of which was the return of the marketing of livestock and the slaughter of animals by private enterprise.

During the period of control the whole of the slaughtering for the Isle of Thanet was carried out in Ramsgate, and throughout the last few years the slaughtering has been concentrated on the slaughterhouse in Alexandra Road. This slaughterhouse was modernised during the Ministry's occupation, but for all that, it is badly situated in a residential area, and for this reason the Committee concluded that it would be better for it to be taken over by the Council so that a stricter control could be exercised and any nuisances mitigated. Thus, the slaughterhouse is under the direct control of the Health Department, and a manager has been appointed who is responsible for day to day administration. There has been some falling off in the number of animals slaughtered since the end of control, particularly in the case of cattle and sheep, but there has been a remarkable increase in pig slaughter. One point worthy of mention is the improvement in the quality of animals brought in for slaughter under private enterprise, and one wonders what happens to the aged cows and ewes which no longer reach Ramsgate.

This year has seen the introduction of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, which has enabled owners to raise the rents of their houses where they are maintained in a state of good repair. It was thought likely that the immediate result of the new Act would be a general increase in the rents of tenanted property with innumerable enquiries and applications for Certificates of Disrepair from dissatisfied tenants. In actual fact the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair has been very small, so that it would appear either that tenants are satisfied to pay the increased rents demanded or that owners are not levying the increases to which they are entitled.

A preliminary survey has been carried out in order to determine the extent of the slum clearance problem, and a provisional programme set out which will cover a period of approximately 10 years. This pro-

gramme deals with clearance only, and it is realised that there are a number of houses which are unfit, but are not so unfit that they should be demolished now. These houses will have to be examined in detail and brought up to the present standard of fitness, otherwise they are likely to form the nucleus of our future slum problem. For this reason I welcome the wider application of the Housing Improvement Grants, as by this means owners will be enabled to modernise and re-vitalise houses that might otherwise fall into decay. So far it is only the owner occupier who has taken advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme, but there is no reason why the owners of tenanted houses should not make similar use of this facility.

I have to express my appreciation of the help and co-operation I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and to express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Cargin. Also I wish to acknowledge the helpful and loyal service given by Messrs. Brown and Whiteley, the Sanitary Inspectors, and all the remaining members of the Health Department staff.

C. H. WELLER,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1955.

1.—Camping Sites.

There are six licensed sites in the Borough, these are subject to frequent inspection, and in all a total of 62 visits were made. On five 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 season. 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.

Two of the houses dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during 1953 were demolished.

One Closing Order under Section 12 of the Act was made in respect of an unfit basement.

The report of the preliminary survey on the slum clearance programme was submitted to the Public Health Committee in November, and the following is an extract from the report:—

“There are within the Borough some 12,000 houses and 10,000 of these are in private ownership. Some are owner-occupied, but the greater proportion are tenanted. It is not known how many comply with the standard set out in Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, but it is probable that 20% or more will fall short of this standard in one way or another, this can be ascertained only by a systematic survey. It is, however, known that a number of houses, probably 8% of the total, are unfit not only because they fall short of the standard, but also by reason of their bad arrangement and the narrowness and bad arrangement of the streets, and therefore, should be included in the Clearance Areas. These areas are mainly in the centre of the town, and when cleared will provide suitable sites for redevelopment.

“The rate of clearance will be dependent upon the supply of new houses for re-housing displaced families. The preliminary work, that is the initial survey, the delineation of the area, and the individual inspection of houses, is likely to take some time, and with the present staff it is not likely that clearance of the worse areas could be accomplished within five years.

“The first essential is to settle a programme, and in preparing these proposals I have tried to avoid delineating small areas of bad property which would leave awkward scattered sites that would be difficult to develop, but there are cases where this cannot be avoided. I have, therefore, indicated areas that are likely to provide sites that have possibilities for future development, thus it will be seen that in the areas as set out, while there is a predominance of bad property, there is some that is rather better.

“It must be remembered that the clearance of slum property in itself is not sufficient. There will be a large number of dwellings that fall short of the standard set out in Section 9 of the 1954 Act, and concurrent action is needed to prevent these properties falling into decay and becoming the future slum problem.

CLEARANCE AREA PROPOSALS

"The proposals are set out in stages rather than by years, as it may not be possible to keep to a strict timetable, but none the less the order of priority should be fixed and maintained. I do not claim these proposals to be fully comprehensive, as it may be that survey will reveal the necessity for amendment or extension of the suggested programme.

"The approximate number of houses involved amounts to 724."

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

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

4.—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 30.

5.—Prosecutions.

No prosecutions were taken during the year, but an applicant appealed against the decision of the Council in refusing his application for a Slaughterhouse Licence. The applicant lost his appeal.

6.—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 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 Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations (Part VIII, Section II).

7.—Total Complaints.

The number of complaints from all sources was 463. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona fide complainant can be sure of receiving prompt and sympathetic consideration.

8.—Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	...	168
Nuisances abated on verbal instruction	...	30
Work carried out voluntarily	... ..	87
Statutory notices served	... ..	11
Statutory notices complied with	... ..	6

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 on receipt of a preliminary notice in order to prevent further deterioration of their property.

9.—Inspections and Visits.

A tabulated list of inspections and visits is given here under:—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:

Inspections	... ..	341
Re-inspections	... ..	882

HOUSING ACT:

Inspections	... ..	50
Re-inspections	... ..	41
Work in progress	... ..	46
Overcrowding	... ..	9
Houses measured	... ..	14
Council houses	... ..	62

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Bakehouses	... ..	36
Ice cream premises	... ..	112
Fish fryers	... ..	10
Restaurants, etc	... ..	160
Shellfish	... ..	26
Slaughterhouses	... ..	538
Other food premises	... ..	620
Shops, re unsound food	... ..	272

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS:

Dairies	... ..	23
Distributors	... ..	53

SAMPLING:

Food and Drugs	... ..	85
Designated milks	... ..	72
Ice cream	... ..	46
Shellfish	... ..	1
Water	... ..	37
Swimming Pool	... ..	11

FACTORIES ACT:

Factories—mechanical	...	...	31
Factories—non-mechanical	2
Outworkers	5
Workplaces	17

SHOPS ACT:

Total visits	605
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PET ANIMALS ACT:

Total visits	8
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RODENT CONTROL:

Business premises	11
Dwelling houses	38
Local authority property	68

SHIPPING:

Total visits	25
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OTHER INSPECTIONS:

Drainage	530
Drains tested	181
Accumulations	37
Keeping of animals	42
Refuse receptacles	...	...	139
Public conveniences	...	...	22
Smoke abatement	...	...	7
Caravans and camps	...	...	62
Infectious diseases	...	...	153
Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	2
Music and dancing	...	...	9
Licensed premises	...	...	13
Verminous premises	...	...	114
Schools	6
School kitchens	1
Miscellaneous visits	785
Interviews	556

Total	6,916
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10.—Results of Inspections and Visits.

IMPROVEMENTS

DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

Drains cleared	51
Drains amended	...	...	29
Sink gully traps provided	...	...	10
Inspection chambers built	...	...	14
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	1
Soil and vent pipes fitted	...	...	10
Soil and vent pipes repaired	...	...	6
Houses re-drained	...	...	9

INTERNAL REPAIRS:

Floors re-laid or repaired	...	...	25
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	7
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	16
Sash cords renewed	...	...	27
Sinks trapped	...	...	6
Sinks provided	...	...	10
Stoves, fireplaces renewed	...	...	12
Stoves, fireplaces repaired	...	...	11
New W.C. pans fixed	...	...	61
Defective plaster repaired	...	...	47
New water service provided	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	4
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	31
Walls and ceiling re-decorated	...	...	2
Staircases repaired	...	...	1
Doors repaired	...	...	8
Baths provided	...	...	1
W.C. seats provided	...	...	1

EXTERNAL REPAIRS:

Chimney stacks, flues, etc., repaired	...	...	3
Eaves gutters	...	...	16
Walls cement rendered	...	...	2
Walls re-pointed	...	...	7
Roofs repaired	...	...	25
Yards paved	...	...	8
Walls treated with damp-proofing material	...	...	3
Doors provided or repaired	...	...	2
Steps re-built	...	...	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

Premises cleansed and limewashed	...	...	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	1
Intervening ventilated space provided	...	...	1

SHOPS:

New W.C. pans installed	...	...	1
New W.C. compartments provided	...	...	1
Premises enlarged	...	...	1
Rooms re-decorated	...	...	1
Ascot water heaters provided	...	...	2

RESTAURANTS:

New W.C. pans installed	...	...	1
Water heaters provided	1

BAKEHOUSES:

Premises extended and new buildings added	1
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MISCELLANEOUS:

Accumulations removed	11
Verminous houses cleansed and disinfected			37
Houses renovated throughout	...	...	1
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	47
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	1
Chicken runs demolished	...	...	1
			<hr/>
		Total	...
			<hr/>
			581
			<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

11.—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 153 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

12.—Disinfection.

One hundred and thirty rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases and cancer, and 107 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfecter.

13.—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 Premises	Property Rooms	Other Premises	Property Rooms
Bugs	—	—	11	40
Fleas and Flies ...	13	88	41	137
Beetles, insects etc.	16	36	26	57

In addition 21 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Twenty-five sets of bedding were removed for treatment, and 25 were also destroyed at the request of the owners.

14.—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, a charge 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.