

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Ramsgate Borough.

Contributors

Ramsgate (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nbrd7q4x>

License and attribution

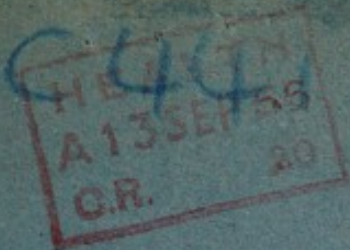
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



1 in O'Hara's 53
2 Library
RAMSGATE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

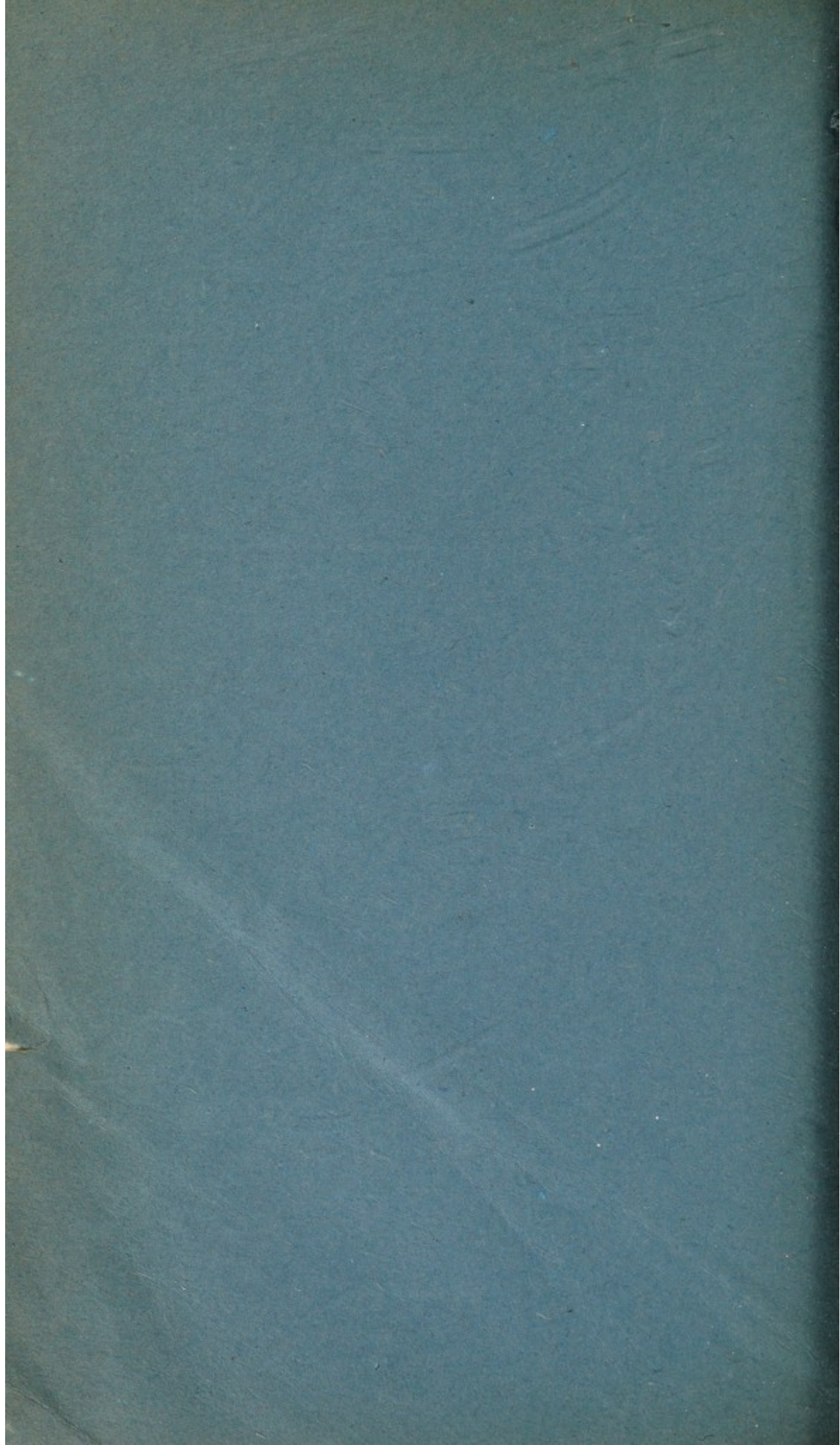
REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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

1955

CONTENTS

	Page
Public Health Committee	4
Public Health Staff	5
I. Summary of Statistics	7
II. Natural and Social Conditions	14
III. Meteorology	15
IV. General Provision of Health Services	16
1. Laboratory Facilities.	
2. Ambulance Facilities.	
3. Mortuary.	
4. Treatment Centres and Clinics.	
5. Family Planning Clinic.	
6. Hospitals.	
7. Public Health Act, 1936, Nursing Homes.	
8. National Assistance Act, 1948, Sect. 47.	
9. National Assistance Act, 1948, Sect. 50.	
10. Superannuation Examinations.	
11. Domestic Help Services.	
12. Home Nursing.	
13. Midwifery Services.	
V. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	20
1. Water Supply.	
2. Water Softening.	
3. Drainage and Sewerage.	
4. Rivers and Streams.	
5. Public Cleansing.	
6. Closet Accommodation.	
7. Sanitary Inspection.	
8. Shops Act, 1950.	
9. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.	
10. Moveable Dwellings.	
11. Smoke Abatement.	
12. Swimming Baths.	
13. Offensive Trades.	
14. Fish Fryers.	
15. Pet Animals Act.	
VI. Housing	23
1. Statistics.	
2. Overcrowding.	
3. Council Houses.	
4. Future Building Programme.	
5. Housing Applications.	
6. Tuberculosis.	
7. Allocation of Accommodation.	
8. Housing Repairs and Rents Act.	
9. Slum Clearance Proposals.	

VII. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	26
1. Statistics.					
2. Diphtheria and Immunisation.					
3. Smallpox and Vaccination.					
4. Individual Diseases.					
5. Tuberculosis.					
6. Mass Radiography.					
7. Venereal Disease.					
VIII. Inspection and Supervision of Food	...	...	...	...	30
1. Milk.					
2. Ice Cream.					
3. Food Preparing Premises.					
4. Slaughterhouses.					
5. Slaughter of Animals Act.					
6. Meat.					
7. Offals.					
8. Other Foods Condemned.					
9. Foods and Drugs Act, 1938—Adulteration.					
10. Public Health (Preservatives) Regulations.					
11. Shellfish.					
Port Health Report	...	...	...	...	36
Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1950	...	...	...	...	38
Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	39
1. Camping Sites.					
2. Housing.					
3. Cinemas, Theatres, etc.					
4. Supervision of Food.					
5. Prosecutions.					
6. Shellfish.					
7. Complaints.					
8. Notices Served.					
9. Inspections and Visits.					
10. Results of Inspections and Visits.					
11. Infectious Disease.					
12. Disinfection.					
13. Pest Control.					
14. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.					

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, JUNE, 1955**

Chairman:

Councillor W. H. Greenstreet

Vice-Chairman:

Alderman L. F. Davey

His Worship The Mayor

(ALDERMAN THE REV. HARCOURT SAMUEL, 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.H., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

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

L. Whiteley, A.R.S.H. (Cert. Meat Inspector)

Clerical staff:

J. S. Robertson

R. W. Whitmore

Disinfectors and Drain Testers:

G. C. Riordan

R. Pritchard.

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 of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The Report follows the usual form of tables and commentaries. The Registrar General's estimate of the population shows a slight decrease at 36,080.

We had a mild epidemic of Whooping Cough in the early part of the year and an outbreak of Measles during the summer months, fortunately without fatality.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement and to my colleagues in other Departments of the Corporation for their help in compiling this Report. I acknowledge with gratitude the work of the staff of this Department without whose loyal support the work indicated could not have been achieved.

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	36,080
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book ...	12,050
Rateable Value	£306,925
General Rate	27/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,220

BIRTHS

	1955			1954
	Male	Female	Total	Total
Number of live births:				
Legitimate ...	247	246	493	494
Illegitimate ...	23	27	50	61
	<u>270</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>555</u>

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	15.0
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...	15.1

(England and Wales: 15.0)

The illegitimate births formed 10.8% of the total and were equal to 1.3 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 16.1.

STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	1954
Legitimate ...	3	5	8	12
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2	—

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 births was 18.0 as compared with 21.6 for the previous year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS

(NEO-NATAL MORTALITY)

	Male	Female	Total	1954
Legitimate ...	5	3	8	10
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

(INFANTILE MORTALITY)

	Male	Female	Total	1954
Legitimate ...	8	6	14	16
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	2
	8	6	14	18

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

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

Total ...	25.7 (Compared with 32.4 for 1954)
Legitimate ...	28.4
Illegitimate ...	Nil
England and Wales ...	24.9

The following table shows the number of deaths of children under one year of age. From 1891 to 1955 the deaths are given in five year periods. 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 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, 25.7, is higher than for the country as a whole, which was 24.9.

The following figures are of great interest, showing as they do the fall in the death rate of these infants since the year 1891.

PERIOD	BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE		ENG. & WALES
	Average Annual No. of Deaths un- der 1 year of age.	Average Annual Infantile Mortal- ity Rate per 1,000 regis. live births.	Average Annual Infantile Mortal- ity 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 - 1955	15	27	26
1955	14	25.7	24.9

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 Diarrhœa ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Premature Birth ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Injury at Birth ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia, Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Congenital Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hæmolytic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	14

TOTAL DEATHS

Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages ...	Male	Female	Total	1954
...	205	215	420	412

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population ...	11.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population ...	9.5
England and Wales ...	11.7

The Death Rate shows an increase of 0.2 per 1,000 of the population compared with 1954. 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 9.5 as compared with 9.3 for the previous year.

The births in the Borough exceeded the total deaths by 143.

The following table shows 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	2
2. Tuberculosis—other	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	17
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	—
16. Diabetes	—	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	31
18. Coronary disease, angina	29	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	4
20. Other heart disease	25	37
21. Other circulatory disease	5	10
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	3	4
24. Bronchitis	16	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	7	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhœa	1	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
31. Congenital malformations	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	30	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34. All other accidents	3	5
35. Suicide	—	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	205	215
	420	

Deaths from Cancer:

The deaths from all forms of Cancer, in this area, has shown no real increase since 1948. The figures are as follows:—

Year	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Deaths ..	78	60	76	93	88	71	84	78

Deaths from Cancer of the Lungs and Bronchi are available for the past six years, that is the period during which these organs have been specifically identified in the deaths: —

Year	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Deaths	13	11	13	16	16	11

Again, the deaths show no marked trend up or down. In the search for the cause of this disease affecting the lungs it has been pointed out that—

- (a) Only a small proportion of smokers contract this disease which also occurs among non-smokers.
- (b) The incidence of the disease appears to be much greater in towns than in rural areas, though there is little relative difference in the amount smoked by town and country dwellers.
- (c) The variation in the numbers suffering from the disease in different countries appears to bear little relation to the amount of tobacco consumed.

As stated by the Minister of Health in the House, “heavy cigarette smokers are more prone to the disease than light smokers and deaths from Cancer of the Lung have risen from 2,286 in 1931 to 17,271 in 1954.”

The evidence available at the present time seems to point to other factors than tobacco smoke as a cause of the disease—pollution of the atmosphere by fumes from industrial undertakings, and from heavy motor traffic, must be taken into consideration.

In this area we enjoy an atmosphere almost free from these impurities, and at the same time we have a low incidence of lung cancer, with no evidence of increase in recent 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	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	2	5	19	39	66	61	205
FEMALES ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	4	15	26	56	102	215

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
1955 ..	78	50	121	5	29
Percentage of total deaths 1955	18.5	11.9	28.8	1.1	6.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were two deaths due to childbirth during the year.

POPULATION

The population as given by the Registrar General was 36,080 which show a decrease of 70 compared with 1954 (36,150).

II.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

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 encloses 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 out 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	...	36.9 hours.	Daily Average	1.2 hours
February	...	81.4 "	" "	2.9 "
March	...	160.2 "	" "	5.2 "
April	...	180.5 "	" "	6.0 "
May	...	212.7 "	" "	6.8 "
June	...	204.2 "	" "	6.8 "
July	...	217.4 "	" "	7.0 "
August	...	234.7 "	" "	7.6 "
September	...	175.6 "	" "	5.8 "
October	...	144.8 "	" "	4.6 "
November	...	59.0 "	" "	2.0 "
December	...	57.7 "	" "	1.8 "
Total	...	1765.1 "	Total for 1954	1544.0 hours

Highest amount of Sun-
shine recorded in any
one day

		Date	Sunless Days
January	... 7.1 hours	... 19th	... 20
February	... 8.7 "	... 17th	... 8
March	... 10.4 "	... 29th	... 3
April	... 11.7 "	... 14th	... 1
May	... 11.8 "	... 23rd	... 1
June	... 14.1 "	... 5th	... 1
July	... 13.5 "	... 10th & 27th	... 0
August	... 13.1 "	... 16th	... 2
September	... 11.7 "	... 6th	... 0
October	... 9.7 "	... 10th	... 5
November	... 8.3 "	... 1st	... 7
December	... 6.1 "	... 2nd	... 14

Most recorded in any
one day

Rainfall

January	...	3.61 inches	...	.79 on 16th
February	...	2.41 "	...	.72 " 19th
March	...	1.62 "	...	.81 " 7th
April	...	0.22 "	...	.12 " 7th
May	...	3.49 "	...	.91 " 26th
June	...	1.67 "	...	.56 " 6th
July	...	3.44 "	...	3.30 " 17th
August	...	1.14 "	...	.44 " 13th
September	...	0.92 "	...	.30 " 22nd
October	...	7.30 "	...	4.30 " 21st
November	...	0.92 "	...	.33 " 17th
December	...	1.98 "	...	.36 " 29th

Total ... 28.72 " Total for 1954 22.94 inches.

Snow, hail or sleet fell on 21 days during the year.

IV.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1.—Laboratory Facilities.

These facilities continued unchanged at County Hall, Maidstone, until the latter part of the year when the Regional Hospital Board transferred the major part of these services to the Hospitals in Mid Kent. The Medical Research Council decided to maintain for a temporary period, in County Hall, the Public Health Laboratory services, and for this purpose appointed Dr. J. H. C. Walker as Director.

Besides these laboratory facilities, there exists the laboratory at the Ramsgate General Hospital, under the direction of Dr. I. B. Morris, where pathological specimens can be examined and reported upon.

2.—Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of an ambulance service is the responsibility of the Kent County Council. Four 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 46 and a total of 46 post-mortems was carried out.

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 Ailments 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.—Family Planning Clinic.

The Isle of Thanet Branch of the Family Planning Association was opened in February, 1955, in Hut C. of the Margate General Hospital by kind permission of the Regional Hospital Board. Sessions are held twice each month, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 6-30 to 7-30 p.m. and are open to any woman seeking advice.

165 attendances were made by 163 patients (65 from Ramsgate). Of these, 27 attended because of medical or surgical reasons (10 with active Tuberculosis and 17 because of gynaecological disorders). 113 patients were referred to the Clinic by doctors, health visitors or midwives. The Medical Officer in charge is Dr. Mary Cagney and the Hon. Consultant is Miss J. Burton-Brown, M.D., F.R.C.S.

6.—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:—

IN PATIENTS

	1955	1954
Maternity	352	346
Others	1903	1982

OUT PATIENTS

Casualty Department ...	6082	5701
-------------------------	------	------

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS

Medical	261	322
Surgical	1111	1048
Gynaecological	183	172
Ophthalmic	522	495
Paediatric	109	74
Aural	730	813
Rheumatism	74	81
Ante-Natal	331	417
Post-natal	204	216
Dermatological	406	417
Mental Illness	127	147
Orthopaedic	1615	1543
Dental	109	114
Physical Medicine	244	286
Diseases of Chest	357	249
Radiotherapy	112	224

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

	1955	1954
Radiological	16,870 units	15,285 units
Pathological	18,309 „	17,932 „
Physiotherapy	28,042 „	30,490 „

In some departments, the figures show an increase over those in the preceding year.

Haine Hospital.

In view of the transfer on the 1st October, 1955, of the Dermatological Unit from Hill House Hospital, Minster, which made the word "Isolation" inappropriate, the name "Isolation Hospital, Haine" was changed to Haine Hospital.

(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 Haine Hospital, Ramsgate now under the administration of the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee.

(c) Maternity.

The only beds now in Ramsgate provided for these patients requiring institutional treatment are the 13 beds in the Maternity Department of the Ramsgate General Hospital. Three hundred and fifty-two patients were admitted to the Hospital, slightly more than one patient per bed each 14 days. Some expectant mothers were also admitted to the Quetta annexe of the Margate General Hospital.

7.—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 four on the register, providing for medical patients.

	No. of beds
21 Vale Square and (annexe) 11 Crescent Road ...	56
4 Clifton Lawn	9
36 Albert Road	1
96 Thanet Road	8

8.—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.

It was not found necessary to make application to the Court for the removal of persons under either of these Acts.

9.—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 cost of £11.

10.—Superannuation Examinations.

Seventy-four medical examinations of Corporation employees were carried out.

11.—Domestic Help Service.

The following information was provided by the District Organiser, Mrs. Bartlett.

A total of 535 patients in Ramsgate area were provided with help during 1955.

The average number of cases attended to per week increased from 170 to 200 and 75% of these were elderly people. The number of hours of service provided each week averaged 900 hours.

Family help service.

Family Help service commenced in the Ramsgate District on April 1st, 1955. This covers the care of children during the temporary absence of the mothers, by resident and non-resident helpers. Nine families have taken advantage of this service.

Evening and night attendant service.

This commenced on 1st December, 1955.

Evening service may be provided for bedridden and house bound people who are living alone or who are living with someone who is incapable of giving them the care and attention necessary to make them comfortable and safe for the night. This service may be provided every evening including Sunday and two cases were dealt with under it.

Night service may be provided for aged people who are seriously ill and need unremitting attention.

12.—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: 52691.

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

Telephone: 51982.

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

Telephone: 51655.

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

Telephone: 53286.

13.—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: 51056.

Mrs. D. K. Harvey, S.R.N., S.C.M., 1 Princess Margaret Avenue.

Telephone: 51781.

Mrs. J. J. Green, S.C.M., 51 Queen Bertha Road.

Telephone: 52974.

Miss M. Paterson, S.C.M., 4a Paragon Place.

Telephone: 51628.

Miss Singleton, S.C.M., 72 Newington Road.

Telephone: 51853.

V.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—Water Supply.

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

	Parts per million
Appearance	Clear
Smell	None
Chlorine in Chlorides	70
Chlorine calculated as Sodium Chloride	116
Nitrogen in Nitrates	11.3
Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.16
Hardness before boiling (total)	315
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	70
Total solid matter	490
Microscopical examination of deposit	Unimportant
"This water is of high organic purity and free from sewage percolation."	

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

Total gallons pumped	635,583,000
Average daily gallons pumped	1,741,000
Maximum daily consumption (26th July)	2,487,000

Approximately 210,228,000 gallons of the total amount consumed were used for industrial purposes and the remainder for domestic use, viz about 42 gallons per head of population per day.

2.—Water Softening.

The total hardness of the water supplied to Ramsgate is shown to be 315 parts per million, and it can be classified as very hard.

In the report of the Water Softening Committee of the Central Advisory Water Committee supplied by the Ministry of Health, it is estimated that the waste of soap alone for water of this hardness is equivalent to 13½ lbs. per person per annum. This waste, estimated at an average figure of 11d. per lb. equals 12/3d. approx. per head of the population per annum. Add to this the estimated damage to materials due to soap curd as 10/-d. per head and one becomes a strong partisan for water softening at the source of distribution.

These figures do not take into account damage to pipes and boilers caused by the deposition of scale due to heating, nor does it include the loss of heat in water heating appliances due to the same cause.

3.—Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage scheme for Cliffsend and Manston, estimated to cost £112,000 has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. An officer of the Ministry visited Ramsgate to go into the question of the drainage of these outlying areas. It is also proposed to use more effective means for the disposal of sewage as soon as the necessary apparatus can be obtained.

4.—Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

5.—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.

6.—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.

7.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspectors paid 7,031 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.

8.—Shops Act, 1950.

The administration of the Shops Act falls largely outside normal office hours, particularly so in regard to Hours of Closing and Sunday Trading. Contraventions are not uncommon, the usual plea is ignorance, and in all cases care is taken to explain the complexities of the Acts which are rendered more complex by the relaxations permitted during the holiday season. In order to overcome this difficulty, a summary of the principal parts of the Acts and the seasonal regulations is being distributed to shop keepers.

9.—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Number of premises	Number of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power ...	39	6	—
Factories with non-mechanical power ...	168	74	1
Other premises ...	42	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED IN FACTORIES, ETC.

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

OUTWORKERS.

There are fifty-six outworkers registered, of whom 16 are engaged in the making of wearing apparel and 40 in the manufacture of firework cases.

10.—Moveable Dwellings.

There has been no extension of the number of Camping Sites in the Borough, which still remains at six.

Camping on these sites is confined entirely to caravans, tents are discouraged, as tents and caravans do not mix very well on the same site. In all cases, the use of the sites is restricted to the holiday season only, there are no residential sites within the Borough.

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

Nethercourt	...	...	61	Caravans
Pegwell	...	...	70	"
Cliffsend	...	...	50	"
Manston	...	...	25	"
Sportsman Inn	...	...	8	"
College Road	...	...	5	"

11.—Smoke Abatement.

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

12.—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. The pool is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season, cleanliness and purity is maintained by continuous filtration and chlorination, and fresh sea water is added from time to time to compensate for loss by evaporation and otherwise. Chlorine is added to the water during circulation at the rate of 1 part per million, break point chlorination is not being used. Chlorine residuals should be maintained at from 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million in every part of the bath, colorimetric tests taken at frequent intervals gave results varying from 0.1 to 0.3 parts per million, slightly below the standard given. Checks were made at the inlets and the tests showed chlorine at 1 part per million—probably there was an excessive loss due to strong sunlight. Samples taken for bacteriological examination indicated that the plant was working properly.

13.—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.

14.—Fish Fryers.

Twenty-one fish fryers are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Periodic inspection was carried out and a high standard has been maintained.

15.—Pet Animals Act, 1951.

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

VI.—HOUSING

Building of dwelling 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 available houses is a difficult task.

The number of houses applied for was less by 50 than in the previous year, though the total applicants on the list remains only slightly below the previous year (1,278 against 1,313).

Houses not included in the clearance areas

1.—Statistics.

Houses demolished or closed in the period.

	Houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Housing Act 1936:		
(a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section II)	—	—
(b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section II and still in force ...	1	6
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...	1	—
(2) Housing Act 1949:		
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Section 3 (1) and 3 (2) ...	—	—
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	1	3

Repairs in the period.

	No. of houses
(4) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ...	107
(5) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice:	
Houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By owners ...	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(6) Housing Act 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16):	
Houses made fit—	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
(7) Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.	
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	—
Unfit houses in temporary use. (Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954)	
Position at end of period.	
(8) (a) Houses retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 ...	—
(b) Separate dwellings contained in (a) above ...	—
(c) Houses licensed for temporary occupation. (Section 6) ...	—

Purchase of houses by agreement.

- (9) Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period ... —

2.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

Owing to the very low standard set by the Act, complaint of overcrowding cannot be substantiated in every case; a family of say 7 living in a four roomed house may justly be considered to be overcrowded, but the permitted number is likely to be $7\frac{1}{2}$, so that statutory overcrowding would not exist. None the less, there is some overcrowding, some by the natural increases in the family and some by reason of sub-letting where the sub-let part of the house has become overcrowded, while the sub-tenant is awaiting his turn on the Housing list.

Sub-letting is an evil that only becomes tolerable where the rooms so let are self contained. Usually the accommodation consists of one or more rooms with the privilege of sharing the kitchen, the bathroom or the W.C. This may lead to bitterness, mutual recrimination and often outright quarrels.

3.—Council Houses.

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

* The newly constructed properties passed to the Housing Department for letting during 1955 were of the following types:—

Traditional four-bedroomed non-parlour type	...	...	—
Traditional three-bedroomed non-parlour type	...	...	24
Traditional two-bedroomed non-parlour type	...	...	20
Traditional three-bedroomed non-parlour type flats (two storeys)	...	...	—
Traditional two-bedroomed non-parlour type flats (two storeys)	...	...	—
Old Age Persons bungalows	...	...	19

4.—Future Building Programme.

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

5.—Housing Applications.

The housing applications registered with the Council at 31st December, 1955, were 1,278 and of these 309 were received during the year.

6.—Tuberculosis.

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

7.—Allocation of Accommodation.

The number of families and persons accommodated by the Housing Committee during the year, including transfer of tenancies was as follows:—

	Houses	Families	Persons
Council Houses ...	141	141	582
Pre-fab bungalows ...	26	26	84
Flats ...	25	25	68
Requisitioned properties	—	—	—
Old Persons' bungalows	22	22	33
Total ...	214	214	767

The number of properties controlled by the Council at the end of 1955 was:—

Pre-war schemes ...	...	583
Post-war schemes:		
Traditional houses ...	...	857
Traditional flats ...	...	188
Prefabricated bungalows ...	...	199
Requisitioned properties ...	...	12
Houses purchased by the Council ...	...	50
Old persons' bungalows ...	...	31
		1,920

8.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Twelve applications have been received for Certificates of Disrepair. An inspection has been made in each case and all applications were granted. Nine applications have been made by owners for revocation of Certificate of Disrepair and as the required works had been carried out, these applications also were granted.

9.—Slum Clearance.

Inspections have been completed in the Newcastle Hill/Plains of Waterloo Area which forms the major part of Stage I of the proposals made last year. The area includes 95 houses in all, and it is intended that this shall be dealt with as one complete Clearance Area which will be followed by re-development. Part of the Stage I proposals remain to be inspected but this is likely to mean "weeding out" rather than wholesale clearance.

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 ...	26	23	—	—	7	—	5	—	10	4	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	132	2	—	8	19	13	29	17	42	4	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	666	3	—	15	61	57	74	78	375	5	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... (Non-paralytic)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	4
Erysipelas ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	2	—	2
Puerpural Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* 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 and under, 6,279 have been immunised since the beginning of the scheme, but the percentage of children born in 1954 and immunised remains too low, as only 39.6% 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 the supervision of all contacts.

The County Medical Officer supplied the information that 331 persons were vaccinated in Ramsgate against Smallpox. Some of these were persons going abroad who 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.

No case occurred during the year.

(c) POLIOMYELITIS.

Of the four cases which occurred, three were paralytic and one was non-paralytic. All were treated in Hospital, three recovered and one died.

(d) MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Of the epidemic of these diseases (666 measles and 132 whooping cough) which occurred during the year, two cases of whooping cough and three cases of measles were removed to hospital. There were no deaths from either disease.

(e) SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty-six cases were notified and 23 were removed to Hospital. All were mild cases.

(f) FOOD POISONING.

Nine individual cases were notified. Enquiries were made as to the cause, but nothing definite could be found. One case of suspected food poisoning was ascribed to ham and a sample was submitted with negative results.

5.—Tuberculosis.

Formal notifications in respect of 26 respiratory and two non-respiratory cases were received. In addition 19 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources:—

	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
Transferred from other areas ...	18	—
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 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 ...	6	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	—	6	1	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
55-65 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total ...	12	14	1	1	2	2	1	—

The number of cases remaining on the register on 31st December, 1955 was:—

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory ...	146	142	288
Non-respiratory ...	16	17	33
Total ...	162	159	321

6.—Mass Radiography.

The Unit did not visit Ramsgate during 1955.

7.—Venereal Disease.

A Special Clinic for the treatment of these diseases is held at Margate General Hospital. The days and times of the clinic 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 new cases, and the total attendances as follows:—

	Male	Female
New patients: Syphilis	2	1
Gonorrhoea	4	23
Non-venereal (requiring treatment) ...	6	7
Non-venereal (not requiring treatment)	10	19

A total of 609 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 Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order 1955, by which Ramsgate is included in a Specified Area, came into force on the 6th December, 1955. This has the effect of making the use of a Special Designation compulsory for all sales of milk by retail for human consumption. For some time past, the whole of the milk retailed within the Borough has been sold under one or other of the Special Designations, so that the inclusion of Ramsgate in a Specified Area has not given rise to any administrative difficulties. The designations used are Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, T.T. Pasteurised and Sterilised. A limited quantity of raw T.T. milk is being sold, but the greater proportion is subject to pasteurisation.

Pasteurisation is usually carried out by the H.T.S.T. method, but one dairy still continues to use the "Holder" method. There is no sterilizing plant within the Borough, this type of milk commands a ready sale and the whole supply is imported from elsewhere.

(a) LICENCES.

Registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations are as set out below:—

Dairies	...	...	3
Dairymen	...	...	3
Distributors	...	...	102

The dairies all hold pasteurisers licences, and the distributors have dealers licences as under:—

Tuberculin tested	...	22
Pasteurised	...	74
Sterilized	...	62

(b) EXAMINATION AND TESTING.

A total of seventy-five samples of designated milks as shown, were taken for examination and testing:—

		Designation		
		Pasteurised	T.T. Pasteurised	Sterilized
No. of samples tested	...	46	17	12
Satisfactory by:				
Methylene Blue Test	...	42	16	—
Phosphatase Test	...	45	17	—
Turbidity	...	—	—	12

Five samples failed the Methylene Blue test during the summer months, follow up samples were taken and these proved satisfactory. One sample failed the phosphatase test. This milk was pasteurised within the area of another authority and the M.O.H. for that area was informed. The methylene blue test is used to indicate the cleanliness and keeping qualities of the milk, and the phosphatase test to indicate the efficiency of the pasteurising plant. All the samples of sterilized milk satisfied the turbidity test which is used as a check on the efficiency of sterilization.

Samples of milk are taken indiscriminately from roundsmen, distributors and dairies, in order to keep a close check on milk at all stages in the chain of distribution. Nine of the samples were taken from schools and in these cases the Education Authority is informed of the results. In all, 63 visits have been made to dairies and distributors' premises, excluding visits made for the purpose of sampling. Every effort is made to maintain a high standard of hygiene in the processing of milk.

(c) ADULTERATION.

Sixty-two samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Four of these were "Channel Islands" milk and all proved to be genuine.

(d) QUALITY OF MILK.

The usual high quality of the milk has been maintained throughout the year, and not one of the samples has fallen below the prescribed standard either for fats or non-fatty solids. There has been no case of adulteration. The average for the year is slightly higher than for 1954 and is as follows:—

Fats	...	...	3.65	(3.65)
Non-fatty solids	...	...	8.77	(8.71)
Total	...	...	12.42	(12.27)

The samples of Channel Islands Milk gave the following average:—

Fats	...	...	...	4.44
Non-Fatty solids	...	...	...	9.14
Total	...	...	...	13.58

It is interesting to note that two other samples attained "Channel Islands" standards, but were not sold as such.

2.—Ice Cream.

(a) CLEANLINESS.

Thirty-six samples of Ice Cream were taken for bio-chemical examination and subjected to the methylene blue test with results as follows:—

Grade I	...	...	25
Grade II	...	...	7
Grade III	...	...	3
Grade IV	...	...	1

The four samples falling into Grades III and IV were from ice cream manufacturers outside the area and the M.O.H. of the district concerned was notified in each case.

(b) STANDARD.

Nine samples taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst were found to comply with the standards laid down in the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. Ninety-six visits were paid to nine ice cream premises.

The greater part of the ice cream sold is pre-packed. The sale of loose ice cream from shops where a mixed trade is carried on is not encouraged, nor is it encouraged in the case of the itinerant vendor. Some ice cream is being sold from bulk, usually as wafers or cornets, and there is a considerable trade in "soft" ice cream which is dispensed directly from the freezer.

Three samples of ice lollies were taken and were found to be free from metallic contamination and preservatives.

3.—Food Premises.

(a) RESTAURANTS.

The number of restaurants and cafes in the Borough is 99 and there are also 53 snack bars. Hotels providing meals for residents and non-residents number 18.

One hundred and nineteen 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-seven visits were made to them.

(c) PRESERVED FOODS.

Fifty-five 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	34
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 were found to be satisfactory.

(d) FISH FRYING.

Twenty-one premises are registered.

4.—Slaughterhouses.

The Slaughterhouse in Alexandra Road is still being operated under Local Authority control, and the staffing position remains the same as reported last year.

The slaughterhouse is badly sited in a congested area, and is not very conveniently arranged, thus its operation can be considered only as a temporary expedient until such time as the Government policy on Slaughterhouses is implemented.

The total throughput during the year was 5,759 animals, i.e. 295 cattle, 37 cows, 448 calves, 406 sheep and 4,573 pigs representing about 60% of the 1954 throughput, when the Ministry of Food was in control for the first half of the year. There has been a steady fall off in the number of animals slaughtered. This decline is not confined to Ramsgate, and a similar state of affairs exists elsewhere. It is thought this is largely due to the increase in the importation of meat from abroad.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of cattle found to be affected with tuberculosis has shown a considerable fall. This fall, in the case of cattle was from 10.5 % to 5.4 % and in the case of cows was from 18.1 % to 9.1 %. These figures are encouraging and although the numbers concerned are much too small to permit a definite conclusion, it would appear that some headway is being made in the efforts to eradicate bovine tuberculosis.

5.—Slaughter of Animals.

All animals are being slaughtered by humane methods and three slaughtermen hold licences to slaughter. No horses are slaughtered in this district.

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	295	37	448	406	4573
Total number inspected ..	295	37	448	406	4573
For all Diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	15
Part carcasses condemned	100	13	4	28	946
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	33.9	35.1	1.1	6.9	21.0
For Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	1	—	9
Part carcasses condemned	16	6	—	—	51
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.4	1.9	0.2	—	1.3

Meat inspection is being carried out in accordance with the recommendations made in Memo. 5/Meat and an inspector is in attendance at the slaughterhouse at all times whilst killing takes place. Examination for the parasitic condition *Cysticercus Bovis* continues to be made as a routine measure, but no cases were found during the year.

Condemned meat and offal is stained with a green dye and is then disposed of to a manufacturer for conversion 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 allowed to be used for animal food. When condemned, meat is surrendered voluntarily and it has not been found necessary to exercise power of seizure.

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 which are stored in a deep freeze cabinet until collected by the manufacturer.

8.—Other foods condemned.

A total of 24 tons 9 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lbs. of various tinned goods, eggs, cheese, fish and fruit 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 nineteen samples (73 formal and 46 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst.

Description of Sample	Formal	Informal
Biscuits, cream filled ...	—	1
Butter ...	—	1
Ground Almonds ...	1	1
Ice Cream ...	—	9
*Ice Lollies ...	—	3
Lard ...	—	1
Medicines ...	—	3
Mineral Waters ...	—	2
*Milk ...	62	—
Milk, flavoured ...	—	1
Marzipan ...	—	1
Olive Oil ...	—	1
*Orange Juice ...	—	3
*Pudding Mixture ...	—	1
Raisins ...	—	1
*Salad Cream ...	—	1
*Sausages, Beef ...	9	—
*Sausages, Pork ...	1	—
*Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	—	16
	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 46

An informal sample of ground almonds was found to be adulterated by the admixture of brown sugar and a formal sample was taken. Although this also contained brown sugar, the percentage was much lower and the Analyst expressed the opinion that the adulteration could have been accidental. In these circumstances, it was decided that a warning would be sufficient. The informal sample of raisins was found to be so badly infested with mites as to be unfit and the wholesaler, on being informed of this, surrendered the whole of the affected stock which was then destroyed.

One informal sample of flavoured milk was taken and the fat content was found to be 2.5; 5% below the statutory standard for milk. This product is not sold as "Milk" and there is no standard for it, so that no offence was committed. The addition of colouring and flavouring matter to milk is bound to lead to a reduction in the amount of fats and non-fatty solids, and opens the door to further adulteration which would be difficult to control owing to the absence of a standard.

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

The ninety-six samples marked * in the above table were examined for the presence of preservatives and no contraventions of the Regulations were found.

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 the Port

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	...	554	14,737	—	12	—
Coastwise	...	799	25,667	—	2	—
Total	...	1,353	40,404	—	14	—

Character of Shipping and Trade.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC :

Number of passengers inwards	...	...	5
Number of passengers outwards	...	...	Nil

CARGO TRAFFIC :

Principal Imports	...	General Cargoes, Timber and Wheat
Principal Exports	...	Scrap Metal

PRINCIPAL FOREIGN PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE :

Maasluis, Cruvon, Rotterdam and Dunkirk.

Water Supply.

All water supply is obtained from the town mains. The results of samples taken during 1955 are reported in Part V.

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 L.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 Haine Hospital, 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 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.

Fourteen 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 Lympe, but no direct foreign service is at present contemplated.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors for 1955, and although this is but a summary, it does give some indication of the wide field covered and the volume of work accomplished.

In a town such as this, first place must always be given to the maintenance of a safe food supply. To this end, frequent inspections are made of the various food preparing premises, restaurants, etc., and endeavours are made to attain a high standard of hygiene wherever food is being handled and sold. The standard aimed for can be attained only by the wholehearted co-operation of all personnel engaged in the food trades, and of members of the general public themselves, who can always withdraw their custom from those traders who are guilty of persistent unhygienic practices.

A definite start has been made on the Slum Clearance programme, although up to the end of the year this had proceeded no further than the inspection and delineation of the Newcastle Hill area, comprising 95 houses. The eradication of old and unfit houses and the re-housing of displaced families, forms a vital part of the work of the Public Health Department, and this should be concurrent with the inspection and repair of those sub-standard houses that can be made fit. This is not being done; complaints are dealt with as and when they arise, supervision of works is proceeding, but with the present small staff, it is impossible to carry out the routine house to house inspection that is required to implement the Housing programme effectively.

There has been a decline in the number of animals passing through the slaughterhouse. None the less, killing still goes on into the evening, and it is necessary to work overtime to maintain a 100 % inspection. It is interesting to note that no cases of the parasitic infection, *cysticercus bovis*, were found, and there is an apparent decline in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis, though this may be more apparent than real.

I have to record my appreciation of the help received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspectors and office staff for their valuable assistance and support.

C. H. WELLER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1956.

1.—Camping Sites.

There are six licensed sites within the Borough, these are subject to frequent inspections, and in all 60 visits were made. Sites are licensed for the holiday season only, and, on the whole, are being well maintained. On five of the sites caravans are stationed throughout the year, but remain unoccupied during the winter, and are let week by week during the summer months. A limited number of spaces are available for the itinerant campers who prefer mobility. Tented camps are something of a problem, and there is difficulty in finding suitable sites. Camps set up by organised bodies, are catered for in Jackey Baker's Recreation Ground, the real difficulty arises in finding suitable sites for individual tenters, particularly during the busiest weeks when so many of the younger people flock to the coast bringing their tents with them. A part of the grounds at Nethercourt House has been set aside for the purpose, but this is not the most satisfactory solution.

2.—Housing.

Work on the slum clearance programme has not proceeded beyond the preliminary stages. Inspection of 95 houses in the first stage was completed during the year; this includes the whole of the houses in the Newcastle Hill area as follows:—

Alma Place	...	...	6 houses
Erdley Square	...	...	13 "
Newcastle Hill	...	...	11 "
Vincent Place	...	...	10 "
Garden Row	...	...	7 "
Daisy Villas	...	...	5 "
Bellevue Cottages	...	...	8 "
Plains of Waterloo	...	...	32 "
King Street	...	...	3 "

It is intended that this area shall be dealt with as a whole, leaving a site suitable for re-development.

Further inspection has shown that it will be necessary to deal with some houses as "individual unfit houses," which are not included in the original proposals.

One Closing Order was made under Section 12 of the Housing Act. This was part of a building forming the living accommodation over a shop. Two houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Act, and as the situation of this property was such that demolition was inexpedient, Closing Orders were made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 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-eight visits of inspection were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

4.—Supervision of Food.

Details concerning the supervision of food, milk supplies, meat inspection and Food and Drugs sampling will be found in Section VIII.

5.—Prosecutions.

It has not been found necessary to take any prosecutions during the year.

6.—Shellfish.

The position regarding the sale of shellfish remains unchanged. The sale of a food of this nature from open stalls can never be considered as satisfactory, there is no real protection against contamination by flies or dust and dirt that may be blown on to the food. The differing varieties of shellfish are exposed on small plates to await the consumer, who eats them then and there, spitting unwanted fragments on to the ground in the vicinity, a practice which does nothing to improve the situation. Stall holders however, do continue to use the washing facilities provided in the kiosk adjoining the site, and the site is hosed down daily. These stalls are no more than a nostalgic reminder of days that have passed, nothing can make them really hygienic, and they should be done away with. Permanent booths could well be constructed to deal with the demand for prepared shellfish; these could be so constructed as to provide protection against contamination and be both clean and attractive.

7.—Total Complaints.

The number of complaints from all sources was 500. 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 ...	178
Nuisances abated on verbal instruction ...	53
Work carried out voluntarily ...	73
Statutory notices served ...	22
Statutory notices complied with ...	10

9.—Inspections and Visits.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:

Inspections ...	524
Re-inspections ...	871

HOUSING ACT:

Inspections	162
Re-inspection	118
Work in progress	28
Overcrowding	15
Houses measured	17
Council houses	3
Improvement Grants	69

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Bakehouses	37
Ice cream premises	94
Fish fryers	17
Restaurants, etc.	119
Shellfish	7
Slaughterhouses	412
Other food premises	623
Shops, re unsound food	328

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS:

Dairies	25
Distributors	38

SAMPLING:

Food and Drugs	115
Designated Milks	76
Ice Cream	36
Water	96
Swimming Pool	35
Sea Water	12

FACTORIES ACT:

Factories—mechanical	37
Factories—non-mechanical	6
Outworkers	2
Workplaces	1

SHOPS ACT:

Visits	478
---------------	-----

PET ANIMALS ACT:

Visits	1
---------------	---

RODENT CONTROL:

Business premises	20
Dwelling houses	34
Local authority property	44

SHIPPING:

Visits	14
---------------	----

OTHER INSPECTIONS:

Drainage	370
Drains tested	77
Accumulations	48
Keeping of animals	37
Refuse receptacles	119
Public conveniences	50
Smoke abatement	18
Caravans and camps	60
Infectious diseases	127
Music and dancing	38
Licensed premises	8
Verminous premises	70
Schools	15
School kitchens	2
Flooded premises	50
Merchandise Marks Act	2
Miscellaneous visits	788
Interviews	638
Total	7,031

10.—Results of Inspections and Visits.

IMPROVEMENTS

DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

Drains cleared	42
Drains amended	20
Sink and gully traps provided	6
Inspection chambers built	9
Soil and vent pipes fitted	7
Soil and vent pipes repaired	3
Houses re-drained	7

INTERNAL REPAIRS:

Floors repaired or re-laid	16
W.C. cisterns provided	11
W.C. cisterns repaired	7
Sash cords renewed	14
Windows repaired or renewed	31
Sills repaired	2
Sinks trapped	10
Sinks provided	15
Lavatory basins provided	2
Fireplaces, stoves, etc. renewed	12
Fireplaces, stoves, etc. repaired	12
W.C. pans fixed	39
W.C. seats renewed	3
Plaster repaired	39
Water service provided	6
Water service improved	5
Walls and Ceilings re-decorated	11
Staircases repaired	1
Doors repaired	16
Baths provided	1
Ceilings repaired	2

EXTERNAL REPAIRS:

Chimney stacks, flues, etc. repaired	...	9
Eaves gutters renewed	... ..	17
Eaves gutters repaired	... ..	9
Walls cement rendered	... ..	1
Walls re-pointed	... ..	7
Roofs repaired	... ..	49
Yards paved	... ..	6
Walls treated with damp proofing material	...	5
Walls re-built	... ..	1
Houses re-painted externally	... ..	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

Lavatory basins provided	1
--------------------------	--------	---

SHOPS:

W.C. pans provided	... ..	2
Flushings cisterns provided	... ..	1
New store rooms provided	... ..	1
Walls re-tiled	... ..	1

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS:

Water heaters provided	... ..	1
New W.C.s provided	... ..	2
Lavatory basins provided	... ..	2
New refrigerators installed	... ..	1
Hot water service provided	... ..	1
Premises renovated throughout	...	1

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 127 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

12.—Disinfection.

One hundred and four rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and cancer, and 81 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfectant.

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	1	6	8	29
Fleas	6	23	44	172
Flies, beetles, insects, etc. ...	10	20	23	40

In addition nine premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Ninety-one sets of bedding believed to be infested with vermin or soiled after death, were removed for treatment. In addition, 21 lots were also destroyed at the request of owners.

14.—Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

One full time Rodent Operator is employed to deal with complaints of rodent infestations, and treatments are carried out in all classes of property. Investigation into complaints is thorough and embraces the surrounding properties, this policy has paid dividends in that the rodent population is definitely kept under control. Dwellinghouses are being treated without charge, but a charge is levied on business premises, a condition precedent to Ministry grant. There are a few agricultural holdings in the area, most occupiers are fully alive to the necessity of controlling rodent infestations and carry out their own treatments, usually with Warfarin. These properties are surveyed from time to time to ensure that treatments are being carried out properly.

Sewers are treated at six monthly intervals and here, too, there appears to be a considerable decline in the rodent population. Sewers are a notable reservoir of infestation and must be kept under surveillance and even with constant attention, it is possible that a hard core of infestation remains untouched, as the construction of the sewers and the materials passing through make it unnecessary for the rats to travel as far as the baiting points in search of food.

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