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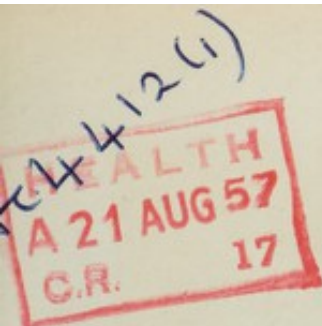
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

Kent



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

REPORT

OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1956

Ass.

68024



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - JUNE, 1956.

CHAIRMAN :

Councillor W.H.Greenstreet

Vice-Chairman:

Alderman L.F.Davey

His Worship the Mayor

(Alderman The Rev. Harcourt Samuel, J.P.)

Alderman D.M.Hughes

Councillor W.C.Banning

" C.T.Curzon

" R.V.Hollington

" G. Jefford


" Mrs L.M.Maile

" Sinclair St.Clair

" F.R.Smith

" G.R.Smith

" Mrs G.F.Wheeler



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

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

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

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

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

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

L. Whiteley, A.R.S.H., Cert. Meat Inspector.
(Resigned 31st December 1956)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S. Robertson

R. Whitmore

DISINFECTORS:

G.C. Riordan

R. Pritchard

RODENT 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 pleasure in presenting the Annual
Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

The usual form of tables and commentaries has
been followed.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population,
again shows a slight decrease.

Again we had a mild epidemic of Whooping Cough and
Measles in the latter end of the year, fortunately without
fatality.

I have to thank the Chairman and members of the
Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement.
My thanks are also due to my colleagues in other Departments
of the Corporation for their information embodied in this
report. I have also to acknowledge with thanks the
loyalty and keenness of the staff of this Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. CARGIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

I - SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of population	36,030
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	11,825
Rateable Value	£538,856
General Rate	19/11d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,100

BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total 1955.</u>
Number of live births :				
Legitimate	281	226	507	493
Illegitimate	33	29	62	50
TOTAL	314	255	569	543

BIRTH RATE.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.7
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	<u>16.7</u>
(England and Wales - 15.7)	

The illegitimate births formed 10.8% of the total and were equal to 1.7 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 factor of 1.07 and this multiplied by the uncorrected Birth Rate results in a Birth Rate of 16.7.

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Legitimate	4	9	13	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births was 22.3 as compared with 18.0 for the previous year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS.
(Neo-Natal Mortality)

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.
(Infantile Mortality)

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Legitimate	9	4	13	14
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

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

TOTAL	24.6	(Compared with 25.7 for 1955)
Legitimate	25.6	(Per 1,000 legitimate live births)
Illegitimate	16.1	(Per 1,000 illegitimate live births)
England and Wales	23.8	

The following table shows the number of deaths of children under one year of age. From 1891 to 1956 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 in infantile mortality, the Health Visitors and Clinic Workers are mainly to be thanked.

The Infantile Death Rate for this area, 24.6, is higher than for the country as a whole, which was 23.8.

The figures referred to above are as follows:-

	<u>Borough of Ramsgate.</u>		<u>England and Wales.</u>
	Average annual no. of deaths under 1 yr.	Average annual Infantile Mortality Rate.	Average annual infantile mortality rate.
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
1956	14	24.6	23.8

INFANTILE DEATHS.
TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH.

CAUSE.	WEEKS.				MONTHS.								TOTAL.	
	Under 1.	1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	1-2.	3-4.	4-5.	5-6.	6-7.	7-8.	8-9.	10-11.		11-12.
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculous diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Premature Birth	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Injury at Birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asphyxia, Atelectasis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital debility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	3	-	-	2	-	4	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	14

TOTAL DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages	237	219	456	420

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	12.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	10.9
England and Wales	11.7

The Death Rate shows an increase of 1.4 per 1,000 of the population compared with 1955. 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 10.9, as compared with 9.5 for the previous year.

The births in the Borough exceeded the total deaths by 113.

The following Table shows the causes of the total deaths in the Borough as given in the Registrar General's statistics :-

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis - respiratory	2	-
2. " - other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	4
11. " " lung, bronchus	10	2
12. " " breast	-	10
13. " " uterus	-	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2
16. Diabetes	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	38
18. Coronary disease, angina	43	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	7	5
20. Other heart disease	28	45
21. Other circulatory disease	5	13
22. Influenza	1	5
23. Pneumonia	14	5
24. Bronchitis	15	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	5	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth etc.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	3	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	32
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34. All other accidents	4	4
35. Suicide	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-
TOTAL	237	219

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

Age Group	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	10	4	14
1 - 2 years	1	-	1
2 - 3 years	-	1	1
3 - 4 years	1	-	1
4 - 5 years	1	-	1
5 - 10 years	1	1	2
10 - 15 years	1	1	2
15 - 20 years	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	2	1	3
35 - 45 years	6	4	10
45 - 55 years	20	11	31
55 - 65 years	34	24	58
65 - 75 years	75	60	135
Over 75 years	85	112	197
TOTAL	237	219	456

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 :-

1956	...	80	1951	...	88
1955	...	78	1950	...	71
1954	...	60	1949	...	84
1953	...	76	1948	...	78
1952	...	93			

Deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchi are available for the past seven years, that is the period during which these organs have been specifically indentified in the deaths :-

1956	...	12	1952	...	16
1955	...	13	1951	...	16
1954	...	11	1950	...	11
1953	...	13			

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 to a lesser extent;
- (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 in the House by the Minister of Health - "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 the 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.

An extract from a medical journal is as follows :-

"Research is still being pursued vigorously to determine the particular cancer producing agents in tobacco smoke. Likewise efforts are being made to reduce exposure to these agents by effective filtration or by modification of the tobacco in cigarettes, cigars and pipes, and laboratory results in these directions are said to be encouraging".

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
OF DEATH.

Year.	Cancer (all forms).	Vascular Lesions.	Heart Diseases.	Tuber- culosis.	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
1956	80	59	136	2	41

Percentage of total deaths in 1956.	17.5	12.9	29.8	0.4	9.0
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DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

It is most encouraging to note the rapidly diminishing deaths from Tuberculosis. Until some 10 years ago this disease was looked upon as one of the principal causes of death. Now, owing to modern treatment, surgical and medical, and the use of modern drugs, the deaths from this disease have been reduced to a fraction of the proportions which previously existed.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths due to childbirth during the year.

POPULATION.

The population as given by the Registrar General was 36,030, which shows a decrease of 50 as compared with 1955 (36,080).

SECTION II.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

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

There is a favourable sunshine rate with a low rainfall. While other parts of the country are experiencing rainy weather, this area frequently 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, provides a health giving walk with ever changing interests.

The town is essentially non-industrial and as a consequence fog and atmospheric pollution are almost unknown. On the outskirts of the Borough, the following manufactories are operating - Tool making, brewing, flour milling, fireworks, plastics and stocking making.

Providing accommodation and enjoyment for visitors at all seasons of the year is the main occupation of the residents of the Borough.

SECTION 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	64.3 hours.	Daily average	2.1 hours.
February	42.5 "	"	1.5 "
March	167.0 "	"	5.4 "
April	184.2 "	"	6.1 "
May	264.5 "	"	8.7 "
June	171.5 "	"	5.7 "
July	182.6 "	"	5.9 "
August	187.6 "	"	6.0 "
September	119.8 "	"	4.0 "
October	138.4 "	"	4.4 "
November	81.8 "	"	2.7 "
December	26.6 "	"	0.86 "

TOTAL 1630.8 hours. Total for 1955 = 1765.1 hours.

Highest amount of sunshine
recorded in any one day.

Number of
sunless days.

January	13th.	7.5 hours	12
February	25th.	8.9 "	7
March	9th.	10.0 "	3
April	20th.	12.5 "	3
May	15th.	13.3 "	2
June	22nd.	14.8 "	4
July	11th.	14.9 "	1
August	8th.	13.7 "	1
September	3rd.	10.3 "	2
October	10th.	8.8 "	5
November	8th.	8.5 "	10
December	29th.	4.8 "	16

RAINFALL.

Most recorded
in any one day.

January	4.85 inches	.80 inches
February	2.43 "	.48 "
March	0.57 "	.34 "
April	0.70 "	.34 "
May	0.63 "	.44 "
June	1.90 "	.40 "
July	1.39 "	.46 "
August	2.66 "	.38 "
September	1.33 "	.46 "
October	1.32 "	.31 "
November	0.83 "	.38 "
December	1.60 "	.26 "
<hr/>		
TOTAL	20.21 inches	Total for 1955 = 28.72 inches.

Snow, hail or sleet fell on 26 days during
the year.

SECTION IV.
-----GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These have been altered since September 1956 when the laboratory was transferred to Preston Hall Hospital near Maidstone, under the direction of Dr. J.H.C. Walker.

Examinations of pathological specimens are also carried out at the laboratory in the Ramsgate General Hospital by Dr. H. Sterndale.

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.

MORTUARY.

The Municipal Mortuary, in the grounds of the Police Station, has continued to function. The number of bodies admitted was 67, and a total of 67 post mortems was carried out.

The services of the mortuary attendants of the Ramsgate General Hospital continue to be used on a part-time basis, and this arrangement appears to work satisfactorily.

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.

	<u>At the Health Centre.</u>	<u>At Broad Street.</u>
Infant Clinics	Mon. & Wed. 2 - 4 p.m.	Tues. & Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinics	-	Tues. 10 a.m.

School Health Service.

Minor Ailments Clinics	-	Mon. Wed. Sat. 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinics	-	By appointment
Orthopaedic Clinics	-	By appointment
Ophthalmic Clinics	-	Tues. 9 - 11 a.m.
Diphtheria immunisation and vaccination	-	First Friday monthly 2 - 3 p.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

This clinic, opened in 1955 in Hut C of the Margate General Hospital, continues to progress.

Sanctioned by the Regional Hospital Board, treatment and advice are given in two sessions each month, on the second and fourth Mondays from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Clinics are open to any woman seeking advice.

The Medical Officer in Charge is Dr. Mary Cagney, and the Honorary Consultant is Miss J. Burton-Brown, M.D., F.R.C.O.G.

The total number of patients attending the clinic in 1956 was 168.

Some of the reasons for attendance were - active pulmonary tuberculosis and other diseases of the chest, gynaecological complaints and family spacing etc.

Sixty five of those attending came from Ramsgate.

HOSPITALS.

(a) General.

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

In-Patients.

	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Maternity	375	352
Others	1927	1903

Out-Patients.

Casualty Department	5825	6082
---------------------	------	------

Special Departments.

	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Medical	315	261
Surgical	1116	1111
Gynaecological	244	183
Ophthalmic	499	522
Paediatric	94	109
Aural	726	730
Rheumatism	99	74
Ante-natal	302	331
Post-natal	203	204
Dermatological	392	406
Mental illness	170	127
Orthopaedic	1604	1615
Dental	97	109
Physical Medicine	320	244
Diseases of Chest	409	357
Radiotherapy	98	112

The number of units of work (examination and/or treatment) performed in other Departments were as follows :-

Radiological	15,713	16,870
Pathological	21,507	18,309
Physiotherapy	28,916	28,042

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

(c) Maternity.

The only beds now in Ramsgate for those patients requiring institutional treatment are the 13 beds in the Maternity Department of the Ramsgate General Hospital. Three hundred and seventy five patients were admitted to the hospital, slightly more than one patient per bed each fourteen days. Some of the expectant mothers were also admitted to the Quetta Annexe of the Margate General Hospital.

NURSING HOMES. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, PART IV.

The registration and supervision of Nursing Homes still remains the responsibility of the Local Authority.

At the end of the year there were three homes on the register, providing beds for medical patients :-

	<u>No. of beds.</u>
21 Vale Square and annexe 11 Crescent Road	58
4 Clifton Lawn	9
36 Albert Road	1

The Bon Secours Nursing Home, a charitable institution with 30 beds, is exempt from registration.

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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50.

Under the provisions of this Section, four persons were buried at the expense of the Local Authority at an approximate cost of £30.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

Eighteen medical examinations of Corporation employees were carried out.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Mrs Bartlett, the Home Help Organiser, has kindly provided me with the following information on Domestic and Family Help :-

(i) Domestic Help Service.

A total of 547 patients in the Ramsgate district were provided with domestic help during the year. The number of cases averaged 200 per week, of which 80% were elderly people.

Fifty three home confinements received daily help for a period of fourteen days in each case.

(ii) Family Help Service.

This service commenced in 1955. Its purpose was to enable children to be cared for in their own homes when the mother was temporarily absent. Resident help was also provided when the father was on night work or living away from home.

Eleven families were allocated resident or non-resident help.

(iii) Evening Service.

Evening service is given for bed ridden and house bound people living alone, or with someone who is incapable of giving them care and attention to make them comfortable and safe for the night.

Eighteen aged persons have been granted this service every evening, including Sundays.

(iv) Night Service.

Night service is arranged for aged people who are seriously ill and need unremitting attention.

Three enquiries were dealt with and one patient received help.

The District Domestic Help Organiser made approximately 2,000 visits during the course of the year in respect of all the services under her jurisdiction.

HOME NURSING.

There are four District Nurses in the area, all of whom are provided by the Kent County Council.

They are as follows :-

	<u>Telephone.</u>
Miss E. Mean, S.R.N., S.C.M. 61 Melbourne Avenue.	Thanet 52601
Miss Haynes, S.R.N. 31 Napleton Road	" 51982
Mrs A.S. Talbot, S.R.N. 22 Poplar Road .	" 51655
Mr. A.F. Ottaway, S.R.N., Q.N. 22 Princes Avenue.	" 53286

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

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

Mrs J.J. Green, S.C.M. 51 Queen Bertha Road.	Thanet 52974
Miss A. Doyer, S.C.M. 84 Stirling Way.	" 51056
Mrs D.K. Harvey, S.R.N., S.C.M. 1 Princess Margaret Avenue.	" 51781
Miss Jones, S.C.M. The Wilderness, Canterbury Road West.	" 51532

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

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

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Public Health Inspectors paid 7,927 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 Public Health Inspector.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The administration of the Shops Act necessitates inspections 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 has been distributed to shop keepers.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The following table shows the number on the register at 31st December 1956 :-

	Number of premises.	Number of inspections.	Written notices served.
Factories with mechanical power	37	4	-
Factories with non-mechanical power	173	22	-
Other premises	42	-	-

Twenty two outworkers were also registered, all of them being engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SECTION V.
-----SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY.

The following information has been supplied by Mr. J.L. Unitt, the Water Engineer to the Thanet Water Board :-

"The Ramsgate Water Undertaking, on the 1st April 1956, became part of the Thanet Water Board set up under the Kent Water Act, 1955. Generally speaking, the Ramsgate area will continue to be supplied from the Whitehall Pumping Station although during the summer peak demand, water may well be transferred from the Board's other sources in its area.

"The whole of the Board's supply is drawn from the underground reservoir in the chalk, and, after sterilisation by chlorination plant, it is pumped into supply.

"The quality of the water is kept under constant observation and is subject to frequent bacteriological examination. All samples submitted were reported as of high organic purity."

The following gives details of an average analysis :-

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
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.

The hardness of the water still remains, but I am informed by the Engineer that water softening is expensive and would cost something like 5d. to 6d. per thousand gallons, and for those on rateable value at least a 5d. rate.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the first stage of the sewerage scheme for Cliffsend and Manston has been completed by the construction of a new trunk sewer from Rydal Avenue to Nethercourt Circus, and from there to the Lord of the Manor crossroads.

Although the remainder of the scheme, estimated to cost £98,000, has been approved in principle by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, further progress was deferred for twelve months in view of the Government's request to Local Authorities to limit capital expenditure for a temporary period. In November, the Council resolved to submit formal application for loan sanction as soon as possible.

The Council has also approved a scheme for the treatment of sewage prior to discharge into the outfall, and this work will proceed when loan approval has been received.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Refuse Destructor in Princes Road continued to function throughout the year, though the majority of the refuse was conveyed to the controlled tip on Sandwich Road.

It is anticipated that early in 1957 the whole of the town's refuse will be dealt with by tipping and that the Refuse Destructor will be closed down. Temporary buildings on the tip are in course of erection, and plant and equipment have been obtained. Tipping will take place on 61 acres of land leased for that purpose situated to the west of the existing tip. The total acreage of this tip is now 75 acres.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of sites for caravans and the accommodation available thereon is as follows :-

Nethercourt Farm Road	61
Pegwell Lodge	70
Cliffsend, Foads Lane	50
Manston Court Road	25
Sportsman, Cliffsend	8
College Road	5

Tents are discouraged on all of these sites which are reserved for bona fide trailer caravans. Tents can now be accommodated at the Nethercourt Park where sanitary conveniences have been provided. Accommodation for some 50 to 60 tents is now available in a space of just over two acres, including the area where the Nethercourt House stood, which is now demolished. If the accommodation is not used by the tenters, short stay caravans might be admitted.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Clean Air Act, dealing with smoke abatement, came into force on 31st December 1956. This Act makes it an offence to permit the emission of dark smoke from the chimney of any building. A Local Authority may, by Order confirmed by the Minister, declare the whole of the district of the Local Authority, or any part of it, to be a Smoke Controlled Area, and smoke emitted from any chimney within that area, the owner thereof shall be guilty of an offence.

It has not been found necessary to take statutory action to combat the emission of smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Marina Swimming Pool is the only one open to the public. This is an open-air pool 250 feet by 90 feet, 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 at a little over 1 part per million. Colorometric tests at the inlet showed a residual of rather more than this quantity. This was reduced by circulation in the pool and residuals were found to be from 0.1 to 0.4 parts per million. This is rather below the recommended standard of 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million, but samples taken for bacteriological examination were all satisfactory.

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.

FISH FRYERS.

Nineteen fish fryers are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Periodic inspection was carried out and a high standard maintained.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Four licences were granted to keep Pet Shops under the provisions of this Act.

SECTION VI.

HOUSING.

No new Council houses were completed during 1956, though the demand is still acute and the allocation of available houses is a difficult task.

The number of applications received was 23 less than in the previous year and the total number of applicants on the list remains at 1,350, as against 1,278 in 1955.

The following table conforms with information supplied in quarterly returns to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and shows the position at the end of the year :-

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED.

<u>In Clearance Areas.</u>	<u>Houses demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u> <u>Persons. Families.</u>	
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-	-	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Sect. 27 Housing Act, 1936.	-	-	-
<u>Not in Clearance Areas.</u>			
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 11 Housing Act, 1936.	-	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u>	
		<u>Persons.</u>	<u>Families.</u>
(v) Under Sect. 11 Housing Act 1936 and Sections 10, 11 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.	2	3	1
(vi) Under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) Housing Act, 1949.	-	-	-
(vii) Parts of buildings closed under Sect. 12, Housing Act, 1936.	10	13	3

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

	<u>By Owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	152	-
(ix) After formal notice under :		
(a) Public Health Acts	10	1
(b) Housing Act 1936	2	-

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

Further schemes are being prepared for the approval of the Ministry of Housing. Two blocks of flats are under construction which will provide 78 living units.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

The housing applications registered with the Council at 31st December 1956 were 1,350, and of these, 286 were received during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

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

ALLOCATION OF ACCOMMODATION.

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

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Families.</u>	<u>Persons.</u>
Council houses	105	105	426
Pre-fab bungalows	33	33	101
Flats	23	23	57
Old Persons Bungalows	12	12	15
	<hr/>		
	173	173	599
	<hr/>		

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

Pre-war schemes	583
Post war schemes :-	
Traditional houses	857
Pre-fab bungalows	199
Traditional flats	188
Requisitioned properties	4
Houses purchased by Council	39
Old Persons bungalows	31
	<hr/>
Total	1,901
	<hr/>

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Six applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair. An inspection was made in each case, and five applications were granted. Six applications were also made by owners for revocation of Certificates of Disrepair, and as the required works had been carried out, all were granted.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

As stated in the report for 1955, ninety five houses in the Newcastle Hill - Plains of Waterloo area were inspected and were represented for clearance in Stage I of the proposals. To carry out this scheme and redevelop the area was estimated to cost approximately £318,000.

A less ambitious scheme was then considered, but this represented a cost of £218,170. Further modifications reduced the area proposed to be dealt with to 28 houses in one area, with two other individual houses declared to be unfit.

Confirmation of these proposals now awaits Ministerial approval.

SECTION VII.

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

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.

Age group.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Dys- entery.	Pneum- onia.	Ery- sipelas.	Puerp- eral Pyrexia
0 - 1	-	18	3	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	2	20	32	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	2	31	58	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	1	32	53	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	2	30	62	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	8	95	233	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	2	2	-	1	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
25 - 45	-	3	-	2	3	1	-
45 - 65	-	-	-	-	4	1	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
TOTAL	15	231	444	3	10	3	3
No. admitted to hospital.	15	5	3	3	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA.

No case of this disease has been 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, 6,404 have been immunised since the beginning of the scheme, but the percentage of children born in 1955 and immunised remains too low, as only 44.7% have been protected.

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 332 persons were vaccinated in Ramsgate against Smallpox during 1956. Some of these were persons going abroad who had to be vaccinated to conform with the regulations. In addition, 39 were re-vaccinated.

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.

INDIVIDUAL DISEASES.

No case of Typhoid, Para-typhoid fever, Meningococcal infection or Poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Of the epidemic of these diseases (444 Measles and 231 Whooping Cough) which occurred during the latter part of the year, five cases of Whooping Cough and three cases of Measles were removed to hospital. There were no deaths from either disease.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifteen cases were notified and all were removed to hospital. All were mild cases.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Formal notifications in respect of 40 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory cases were received. In addition, 11 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources :-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-respiratory.</u>
Transferred from other areas	9	-
Restored to register	2	-

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

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	5	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	4	5	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20	20	-	2	2	-	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December, 1956, was :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory	152	145	297
Non-respiratory	14	17	31
TOTAL	166	162	328

The deaths of Ramsgate residents from Tuberculosis are shown in ten-year periods since 1900 :-

	Average number of <u>deaths per annum.</u>
1900 - 1910	47
1911 - 1920	39
1921 - 1930	34
1931 - 1940	24
1941 - 1950	17
Average for past six years	6

This improvement, gradual in the early years referred to above, but more rapidly latterly, appears to be due to three factors :-

- (a) Modern drugs
- (b) Advances in surgical methods
- (c) Protection conferred by B.C.G. vaccination, 12 sessions having been held in 1956 and a total of 124 vaccinated.

The provisional figures supplied by the Registrar General show that the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 109 per million of the population compared with 131 per million in 1955, and that the deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis was 12 per million compared with 15 per million in 1955.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Ramsgate from 14th February till 9th March 1956, and the following show the numbers attending :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
General public	1,897	1,585	4,482
School children	1,854	1,310	3,164
Number recalled for large films	90	89	179

Results.

Active Tuberculosis	3	9	12
Inactive Tuberculosis	32	26	58

VENEREAL DISEASE.

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

Tuesdays: Females 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Males 11 a.m. - 12 noon

Fridays: Females 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Males 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

A total of 64 patients from Ramsgate attended during the year.

SECTION VIII.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

I am indebted to the Public Health Inspectors for the following information :-

MILK.

The Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas) (No.2) Order 1955, by which Ramsgate is included in a Specified Area, came into force on 6th December, 1955. This had 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 had been sold under one or other of the Special Designations, so that the inclusion of Ramsgate in a Specified Area did not give 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 continues to use the Holder method. There is no sterilising 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	33
Pasteurised	81
Sterilised	62

(b) Examination and Testing.

A total of 69 samples of designated milk as shown, were taken for examination and testing :-

Designation :-

Pasteurised. T.T.Pasteurised. Sterilised.

No. of samples tested	39	15	12
-----------------------	----	----	----

Satisfactory by :-

(i) Methylene Blue test	36	13	-
(ii) Phosphatase test	36	15	-
(iii) Turbidity test	-	-	12

Three samples failed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests, follow-up samples were taken and these proved to be satisfactory.

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 Sterilised milk satisfied the Turbidity test which is used as a check on the efficiency of sterilisation.

Samples 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. Four of the samples were taken from schools and in these cases the Education Authority was informed of the result. In all, 86 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 three samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Nine 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 as follows :-

Fats	3.71	(3.65 in 1955)
Non-fatty solids	8.62	(8.77 ")
Total	12.33	(12.42 ")

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	25
Grade II	12
Grade III	2
Grade IV	5

Of the seven samples falling into Grades III and IV, four were from ice cream manufacturers outside the area and the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned was notified.

(b) Standard.

Six samples taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst were found to comply with the standards laid down in the Foods Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. One hundred and two visits were paid to ice cream premises during the year.

The greater part of 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 sold from bulk, usually as wafers or cornets, and there is a considerable trade in "soft" ice cream which is dispensed direct from the freezer.

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

FOOD PREMISES.(a) Restaurants.

The number of restaurants and cafes in the Borough is 97, and there are also 52 snack bars. Hotels providing meals for residents and non-residents number 21.

One hundred and ninety two 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 23 bakehouses on the register. None of these were underground bakehouses. Thirty seven visits were made to them.

(c) Preserved Foods.

Fifty four premises are registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 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

These were all periodically inspected and found to be satisfactory.

(d) Fish Frying.

Nineteen premises are registered.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

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 total throughput during the year was 4,409, i.e. 323 cattle, 8 cows, 399 calves, 467 sheep and lambs, and 3,212 pigs. These numbers were approximately 80% of the throughput in 1955, the decline being most marked in the case of pigs which show a reduction of over 1,000.

The decline in the use of the Slaughterhouse is so marked that it would appear to be doubtful if there is a real need for a slaughterhouse in Thanet. It is thought probable that the local butchers are making more use of the facilities offered in the modern abattoir at Canterbury.

A fall in the number of animals found to be affected with Tuberculosis was noted last year, but this has not been maintained. In the case of cattle, excluding cows, the fall amounted to 0.2%, but there was an increase in the case of cows amounting to 3.4%. Again, the number of animals slaughtered is too small on which to base any firm conclusions.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

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

MEAT.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned :-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Total number killed	323	8	399	467	3212
Total number inspected	323	8	399	467	3212
Condemned for all diseases except Tuberculosis :-					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	8
Part carcasses condemned	96	1	2	66	828
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	29.6	12.5	0.5	14.1	26.0
Condemned for Tuberculosis only :-					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	1
Part carcasses condemned	16	1	-	-	39
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.2	12.5	-	-	1.2

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* continued 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 fertiliser 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 the power of seizure.

OFFALS.

The practice of reserving certain organs and glands for pharmaceutical purposes continued. 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.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

A total of 23 tons 18 cwts. 0 qrs. 4 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.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - ADULTERATION.

One hundred and twelve samples (71 formal, 41 informal) were taken by the Public Health Inspectors and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst :-

<u>Description.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>
* Milk	62	1
+ Sausage meat	6	-
Butter	-	2
Bread	-	1
Milk drinks	-	1
Ice cream	1	5
Puff pastry	-	1
+ Lollies	-	2
+ Yoghourt	-	1
+ Potato powder	-	1
Lard	-	1
Blancmange powder	-	1
+ Sultanas	-	1
+ Confectionery	1	13
+ Marzipan	-	2
Glucose	-	1
+ Coffee & Chicory essence	-	1
+ Candied Peel	-	1
+ Sauce	1	-
+ Vinegar	-	2
+ Jam	-	1
+ Port Flavoured Beverage	-	1
Soup	-	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS.

The ninety-seven samples marked "+" in the preceding table were examined for the presence of preservatives and no contraventions of the Regulations were found.

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 wash basin with gas water heater.

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

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION 1956. -----

Amount of shipping entering the Port.

Ships from:	Number.	Tonnage.	No. inspected by:		No. reported as having had during voyage infectious disease on board.
			M. O. H.	P. H. I.	
Foreign ports	424	30812	-	15	-
Coastwise	694	23643	-	4	-
Total	1118	54455	-	19	-

Character of shipping and trade.

Passenger traffic :-

No. of passengers inwards 29,198

No. of passengers outwards 29,204

Cargo traffic :-

Principal imports - Tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, timber.

Principal exports - Coke.

Principal ports from which ships arrive.

Massluis, Hamina, Raumo, Skoghall, Kotka.

Water supply.

All water supply is obtained from the town mains.
The results of samples taken during 1956 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 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.

(ii) 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 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.

(iii) 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.

Cases would be sent to the Rivers Hospital (Long Reach), Dartford, by special ambulance provided by the Kent County Ambulance Service. The services of a consultant are available and laboratory diagnosis would be undertaken by the 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 :-

Tuesdays:	Females 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
	Males 11 a.m. - 12 noon.
Fridays:	Females 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
	Males 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

Measures against Rodents in ships from Foreign Ports.

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

Inspection of Ships for Nuisances.

Nineteen routine inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors 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 in Section VIII.

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.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1956. In this preface I will comment only on the change in designation. For many years the Inspectors have been known as "Sanitary Inspectors", an honoured name, but one that has been subject to misrepresentation, and at times, ribaldry. Now the name has been changed by Act of Parliament and we are known as Public Health Inspectors. Whether the change is a good one, only the future can tell.

The national shortage of qualified Inspectors has not affected Ramsgate so far, but Mr. L. Whiteley terminated his appointment on 31st December in order to take up a senior position elsewhere, and while I wish him well, I am sorry he has left, for I fear it will be long before we find his successor.

An establishment of three, that is, Senior and two Additional Inspectors, is barely sufficient to cope with the needs of a town such as this, with its population of 36,000 plus the holiday traffic, and the loss of one man is likely to have a very serious effect on the work of the Department.

I have to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support, to Dr. Cargin for his guidance, and to the Public Health Inspectors and staff for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

C. H. WELLER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

Progress on clearance areas has been disappointing. The area surveyed in 1955 has been subject to considerable discussion, and it is probable that the original proposal for dealing with this as a redevelopment area will have to be abandoned on the grounds of excessive cost. In this case only those houses which can be included in clearance area on the grounds of unfitness would be dealt with, properties included by reason of location alone would have to be excluded.

The number of new houses allocated to re-house displaced families from clearance schemes is far below the number required, and if the work of clearance of unfit houses is to proceed, it will be necessary to make more houses available to provide alternative accommodation.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of five houses, these had not become operative and demolition had not taken place by the end of the year. Action was taken against two other houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, but owing to the situation of the houses, demolition is impracticable, therefore Closing Orders were made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. Closing Orders were made in respect of eleven basements, an appeal had been lodged against one of these but the appeal had not been heard at the end of the year. The remaining ten Orders have become operative.

One Closing Order, made in 1955, has been determined, the house in question having been repaired and reconditioned by the owner for his own occupation.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

The Food Hygiene Regulations came into force at the beginning of the year. The Inspectors have always given a great deal of attention to the maintenance of a high standard of hygiene in food preparing premises, and the new Regulations have been welcomed as giving additional powers of enforcement.

A precis of the Regulations was circulated to traders who were also informed that members of the staff would be prepared to advise on any problems that may arise. The majority of the traders have accepted advice given and have been willing to comply with the Regulations, thus results have been achieved by persuasion rather than by prosecution.

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

PROSECUTIONS.

Proceedings were taken against a baker where mouse droppings were found in bread. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £5.

SHELLFISH.

The application of the Food Hygiene Regulations to stalls has resulted in some improvement, in that these stalls must now be covered 'top, back and sides'. The stall holders are not very co-operative in this, they claim that to cover their stalls in this manner means loss of business, and so it was necessary to threaten prosecution before compliance was secured. The wash-up kiosk referred to in previous reports has been demolished to make way for improvements in the Pier Yard, and similar facilities have been made available close to the original site. One of the shellfish vendors who has two kiosks on another site, has provided sink, hot water and a refrigerator to each of his kiosks, thus demonstrating that it is possible to comply with the Regulations even where conditions are unfavourable.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no residential sites within the Borough, the six licensed sites are restricted to the holiday season, and these cater only for caravans. On five of these sites some caravans remain throughout the year but are not occupied during the winter months. A limited number of spaces are kept available for itinerant caravaners who stay for short periods only. Tents are not encouraged on the same sites as caravans. Accommodation has had to be found for this tent camping which occurs mainly at the height of the season, and part of the grounds at Nethercourt House have been set aside for this purpose. Sanitary accommodation on the site is rather primitive, and as the practice of allowing camping on the site has become established, a new sanitary block is to be constructed and will be ready for use in time for next camping season.

SHOPS ACT.

Six hundred and eighty eight visits were paid to shops during the year. These visits were concerned with hours of closing, Sunday trading and the health and comfort of shop workers.

Of necessity a greater proportion of the visits are made outside normal office hours and it has been found that during the off season, shop keepers do tend to ignore the restrictions on closing and Sunday trading. It is probable that this form of contravention is accentuated because of the seasonal concessions, whereby all shops are allowed to keep open until 10 p.m. and Sunday trading is permitted to a greater extent. There has, however, been a marked decline in the number of contraventions found. Verbal warnings have been given and it would appear that as a result of these warnings, the offenders are making a better attempt to keep within the law.

CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS.

The places of amusement 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 visits of inspection were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 535. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona-fide complainant can be sure of receiving prompt and sympathetic consideration.

NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	343
Nuisances abated on verbal instruction	57
Work carried out voluntarily	96
Statutory notices served	57
Statutory notices complied with	32

Proceedings were taken under Section 94 of the Public Health Act in respect of a house where the owner failed to comply with an Abatement Notice. This notice required certain repairs to be carried out, the owner pleaded lack of funds, and the Council carried out the work in default. There was one appeal against a notice served under Section 45 of the Public Health Act requiring the replacement of W.C. pans. The appellant claimed that the notice should have been served on the tenant. The appeal was lost and the owner then carried out the work.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

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

Public Health Act:

Inspections	310
Re-inspections	1,000

Housing Act:

Improvement Grants	37
Inspections	58
Re-inspections	185
Work in progress	6
Houses measured	6
Overcrowding	4
Council houses	5

Food and Drugs Act:

Bakehouses	37
Ice cream premises	102
Fish fryers	39
Restaurants etc.	192
Shellfish	50
Slaughterhouse	384
Other food premises	761
Shops re unsound food	280

Milk and Dairies Regulations:

Dairies	22
Distributors	64

Sampling:

Food and Drugs	127
Designated milk	68
Ice cream	49
Water	42
Swimming pool	10

Factories Act :

Factories - mechanical	22
" - non-mechanical	4
Outworkers	1
Workplaces	27

Shops Act:

Visits	688
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Pet Animals Act:

Visits	15
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Rodent Control:

Business premises	5
Dwellinghouses	34
Local Authority property	29

Shipping:

Visits	19
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Other inspections:

Drainage	608
Drains tested	63
Accumulations	43
Keeping of animals	24
Refuse receptacles	611
Public conveniences	40
Caravans and camping sites	76
Infectious diseases	96
Music and dancing	20
Licensed premises	61
Verminous premises	102
Merchandise Marks Act	22
Cinemas	2
Interviews	668
Miscellaneous visits	779

IMPROVEMENTS AS RESULT OF INSPECTIONS.

Drainage system:

Drains cleared	52
Drains amended	15
Sink gully traps provided	5
Inspection chambers built	11
Soil and vent pipes fitted	6
" " repaired	2
Houses re-drained	6

Internal Repairs:

W.C. cisterns provided	12
" repaired	13
Sash cords renewed	35
Windows repaired or renewed	34
Sills repaired	2
Sinks trapped	9
New sinks provided	7
Lavatory basins provided	1
Fireplaces, stoves, etc. renewed	7
" " repaired	7
W.C. pans fixed	54
W.C. seats renewed	6
Plaster repaired	56
Water service provided	1
" improved	21
Walls and ceilings redecorated	5
Floors repaired	15
Doors repaired	18
Baths provided	1
Ceilings renewed	1

External repairs:

Chimney stacks repaired	13
Eaves gutters renewed	16
" repaired	18
Walls cement rendered	2
Walls repointed	8
Roofs repaired	65
Yards paved	6
Walls treated with damp proof material	3
Walls rebuilt	1
Sub-floor ventilation provided	1

Shops:

Wash basins installed	5
Electric water heaters provided	2
Gas " "	5
Sinks installed	2
Walls stripped and re-lined	1

Cafes and Restaurants:

Wash basins installed	3
Sinks installed	1
Hot water supply provided	4
First aid requisites provided	1

Stalls:

Drainage to stall	1
New stall provided	1
Walls lined	1
Separate wash basin installed	1

Licensed premises:

Sinks replaced	3
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Miscellaneous:

Accumulations removed	7
Verminous houses cleansed or disinfected	29
Houses renovated throughout	1
Refuse receptacles provided	203

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 96 visits were made by the Health Inspectors.

DISINFECTION.

Sixty six rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and cancer, and 89 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfectors.

PEST CONTROL.

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

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

	Council property:		Other property:	
	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Rooms.</u>	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Rooms.</u>
Bugs	1	3	12	31
Fleas	3	7	33	138
Flies, beetles, insects etc.	25	63	51	119

In addition, 10 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Fifty three sets of bedding believed to be infested with vermin or soiled after death, were removed for treatment. In addition, 19 lots were also destroyed at the request of owners.

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 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.

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