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Contributors

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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

1957



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - JUNE, 1957.

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman 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 C.H.Barton

" C.T.Curzon

" D.T.Featherstone

" G. Jefford

" Mrs L.M.Maile

" Sinclair St.Clair

" F.R.Smith

" G.R.Smith

" Mrs E. Stone

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.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

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

K.J.Hadler, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.H.
(Commenced 24th June, 1957).

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S.Robertson

R. Whitmore

DISINFECTOR:

G.C.Riordan

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 1957.

The usual form of tables and commentaries has
been adhered to.

The Registrar General's estimate of the
population again shows a slight decrease of 20.

A mild epidemic of Whooping Cough and Measles
occurred in the early part 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 gratitude is also due to my colleagues in other Departments of
the Corporation for their information used in compiling part of
this Report. I also 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	36,010
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	11,931
Rateable Value	£505,668
General Rate	22/3d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,990

BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total 1956.</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	271	228	499	507
Illegitimate	22	22	44	62
TOTAL	293	250	543	569

BIRTH RATE.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.0
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.9
(England and Wales - 16.1)	

The illegitimate births formed 8.1% of the total and were equal to 1.2 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 1.06 and this multiplied by the uncorrected Birth Rate results in a Birth Rate of 15.9.

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Legitimate	7	9	16	13
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births was 28.6 as compared with 22.3 for the previous year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS.

(Neo-Natal Mortality).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Legitimate	7	2	9	5
Illegitimate	1	1	2	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

(Infantile Mortality).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Legitimate	8	7	15	13
Illegitimate	1	1	2	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

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

TOTAL	31.3	(Compared with 24.6 for 1956)
Legitimate	30.0	(Per 1,000 legitimate live births)
Illegitimate	45.4	(Per 1,000 illegitimate live births)

England and Wales 23.0

During the first month of life the Infant Death Rate showed a slight increase of 4.0 as compared with 1956, while the deaths under one year also increased by 4.0. The Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) thus becomes 31.5 compared with 24.6 for the previous year, and compared with 23.0 for England and Wales.

The following Table shows the number of deaths of children under one year of age from 1891 to 1957. This happy improvement, which is not confined to Ramsgate, is largely due to our better knowledge of hygiene and cleanliness in the preparation of and handling of food. For the spread of this knowledge those engaged in Child Welfare work are mainly to be thanked.

	<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 - 1891	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
1957	17	31.3	23.0

INFANTILE DEATHS.
TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH.

CAUSE.	WEEKS.				MONTHS.								TOTAL.	
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9		9-12.
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculous diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Premature Birth	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Injury at Birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asphyxia, Atelectasis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital debility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	7	3	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	17

TOTAL DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages	243	194	437	456

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	12.1
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	10.5
England and Wales	11.5

The Death Rate shows a decrease of 0.4 per 1,000 of population compared with 1956. A correction factor has been supplied by the Registrar General. The factor for this Authority is 0.87, and this, multiplied by the uncorrected death rate, gives a corrected rate of 10.5 as compared with 10.9 for the previous year.

The births in the Borough exceeded the total deaths by 106.

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	5	1
2. " - other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	5
11. " " lung, bronchus	16	1
12. " " breast	-	7
13. " " uterus	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	21
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	31
18. Coronary disease, angina	50	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	1
20. Other heart disease	27	30
21. Other circulatory diseases	9	14
22. Influenza	1	3
23. Pneumonia	11	5
24. Bronchitis	18	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis, nephrosis	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth etc.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-
34. All other accidents	4	3
35. Suicide	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTAL	243	194

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

Age Group.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	9	8	17
1 - 2 years	1	-	1
2 - 3 years	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	1	-	1
4 - 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	1	1
20 - 25 years	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	2	3	5
35 - 45 years	4	7	11
45 - 55 years	14	8	22
55 - 65 years	42	19	61
65 - 75 years	77	46	123
Over 75 years	93	102	195
TOTAL	243	194	437

"PEOPLE LIVE LONGEST IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND."

The Registrar General's report for the past year, quoted by the Press, gives an analysis of the deaths for the years 1950 - 1953.

This shows that deaths in males in the South Eastern area were 8% below the average for England and Wales. The female deaths in the southern area were also much lower than the general average.

The main causes of increase in deaths in the Northern and Western region was Bronchitis and also a higher proportion of infantile deaths under one year of age.

Coronary disease of the heart was also considerably higher in the northern areas of England.

The cause of Coronary disease has not been generally agreed upon, though it is considered by some to be associated with the consumption of animal fats in quantity. Previously it was considered that those engaged in manual work were more likely to suffer from this complaint than those in sedentary occupations. From the Registrar General's returns for 1956, it would seem that manual workers show a diminishing death rate from this cause.

Another form of heart failure is that which is associated with Bronchitis and Pneumonia. The Registrar General in his analysis of death rates in the years 1950 - 1953, shows that these rates were higher in the north of England and Wales than in the rest of England, and that London and the South East were lowest. He also points out that Coronary Heart disease and Bronchitis were above the average in those northern regions, whereas the southern area was below the average.

It would appear from this analysis that those who wish to live longer should come to live in the south east of England.

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 :-

1957	87	1952	93
1956	80	1951	88
1955	78	1950	71
1954	60	1949	84
1953	76	1948	78

CANCER OF THE LUNGS.

In this area deaths from this disease have risen by 5 since last year, and have exceeded the 1951/52 figures by one death. Again the Registrar General points out that in London and the South East, the figures for 1951 and 1953 were 23% above the average, and that in Greater London and its aggregation of towns, the figures were 32% above the average.

The figures would seem to show either that more tobacco is smoked in the thickly populated areas or that other causes than tobacco smoke have to be considered.

In this area we enjoy an atmosphere almost free from impurities and at the same time we have a low incidence of lung cancer, with little 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
1957	87	54	131	6	41

Percentage of total deaths in 1957	19.9	12.1	29.9	1.3	9.3
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DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

This disease was referred to by Bunyan as "The Captain of the Men of Death". In England and Wales in 1909, there were 54,435 deaths due to this disease, and as so aptly put by one writer, "Death which once rode on every passing breeze" is now the rarest of visitors to the wards where treatment is carried out. In England and Wales in 1920, Tuberculosis was responsible for one seventh of the total deaths.

In 1956 there were 5,375 deaths from Tuberculosis compared with 4,853 in 1957. Since 1947, the Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis has fallen by more than 79%.

Deaths from this complaint in this area are rapidly diminishing and there is every reason to hope that it will be, if not completely eradicated, as rare as smallpox or diphtheria.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths due to childbirth during the year.

POPULATION.

The population as given by the Registrar General was 36,010, which shows a decrease of 20 as compared with 1956. (36,030).

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 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	70.9 hours	Daily average	2.3 hours
February	94.4 "	" "	3.3 "
March	132.8 "	" "	4.3 "
April	180.6 "	" "	6.0 "
May	249.6 "	" "	8.0 "
June	296.6 "	" "	9.9 "
July	193.1 "	" "	6.2 "
August	196.6 "	" "	6.3 "
September	113.9 "	" "	3.8 "
October	106.9 "	" "	3.4 "
November	55.3 "	" "	1.8 "
December	64.7 "	" "	2.1 "

TOTAL 1755.2 "

Total for 1956 = 1630.8 hours.

Highest amount of sunshine
recorded in any one day.

Number of
sunless days.

January	17th	7.6	9
February	27th	9.9	5
March	4th, 22nd.	9.4	5
April	19th	12.3	4
May	21st	12.9	1
June	12th	15.7	1
July	19th, 31st.	13.8	3
August	1st	13.4	0
September	20th	8.1	4
October	1st	9.3	7
November	1st	8.6	15
December	1st, 2nd	7.2	12

RAINFALL.

Most recorded
in any one day.

January	1.14 inches	0.3 inches
February	2.78 "	0.38 "
March	0.73 "	0.22 "
April	0.34 "	0.12 "
May	0.91 "	0.22 "
June	0.59 "	0.17 "
July	2.49 "	0.81 "
August	1.71 "	0.48 "
September	2.73 "	0.44 "
October	0.91 "	0.31 "
November	4.49 "	1.56 "
December	1.20 "	0.35 "
TOTAL	<u>20.02</u> "	Total for 1956 = 20.21 inches.

Snow, hail or sleet fell on 11 days during the year.

SECTION IV.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There has been no alteration 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 83, and a total of 83 post mortems was carried out.

The services of the mortuary attendants of the Ramsgate General Hospital are used on a part-time basis, and this arrangement continues 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. Frid. 9-11 a.m.
Diphtheria immunisation and vaccination	-	First Friday monthly 2 - 3 p.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

This Clinic, now in its fourth year of existence, continues to progress. It is held on two Mondays in each month from 6.30 until 7.30 p.m.

The total number of patients attending during 1957 was 118, and 41 of these came from Ramsgate. The Clinic is open to any woman seeking advice or guidance. Some of the reasons for attendance were family planning, health, financial, housing etc.

The Clinic is still carried on in Hut C at the Margate General Hospital, under the direction of Dr. Mary Cagney.

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>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Maternity	398	375
Others	1,927	1,903

Out-Patients.

Casualty Department	6,215	6,082
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Special Departments.

	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Medical	331	315
Surgical	1118	1116
Gynaecological	204	244
Ophthalmic	490	499
Paediatric	98	94
Aural	691	726
Rheumatism	108	99
Ante-natal	298	302
Post-natal	176	203
Dermatological	365	392
Mental illness	172	170
Orthopaedic	1478	1604
Dental	91	97
Physical Medicine	321	320
Diseases of Chest	252	409
Radiotherapy	136	98

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

Radiological	16,443	15,713
Pathological	25,580	21,507
Physiotherapy	26,327	28,916

(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 ninety eight 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.

One Home ceased during 1957, and at the end of the year there were two Homes on the register, providing beds for medical patients :-

	<u>No. of beds.</u>
21 Vale Square	28
and annexe 11 Crescent Road	32
4 Clifton Lawn	9

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 found necessary to make application to the Court for the removal of one person to hospital.

In addition, the condition of twelve elderly persons was investigated and in the case of eight, their admission to hospital was arranged voluntarily.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 50.

Under the provisions of this Section, four persons were buried at the expense of the Local Authority at a cost of £46. 14. 8d.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Twenty seven medical examinations of Corporation employees were carried out for the purposes of the Superannuation Scheme. In addition, enquiries were made into the prolonged illness of six other employees on behalf of the Council.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

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

(i) Domestic Help Service.

A total of 560 patients in the Ramsgate district were provided with domestic help during the year. The number of cases averaged 205 per week, of which 80% were elderly people.

Fifty 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.

Nineteen 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 living with someone who is incapable of giving them care and attention to make them comfortable for the night.

Twenty 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.

(v) Child Help Service.

This service was introduced on 1st April 1957, the objects being to assist problem families and provide domestic help for a period of three months, such help being full-time in the first instance but gradually reduced as the mother becomes more skilled in domestic matters. Five cases were assisted during 1957.

HOME NURSING.

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

They are as follows :-

Telephone.

Miss E. Mean, S.R.N., S.C.M. 61 Melbourne Avenue	Thanet 52601
Miss J. McKenzie, 33 Grange Road.	" 52237
Mrs P. Howland, 7 Oakdene 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., 139 Hereson Road.	Thanet 52974
Miss A.Doyer, S.R.N., 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

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY.

Although Ramsgate water is now supplied by the Thanet Water Board, there is no change in the actual source of supply which continues to be drawn from the adits in the chalk strata. Normally the supply is sufficient for all needs, but it can be augmented in times of necessity from other sources within the Board's area. As with all water from the deep chalk stratas, this is of high organic purity but is extremely hard.

Samples for bacteriological examination were taken regularly, both before chlorination at the pumping station at Whitehall Road, and after chlorination from various points in the town, usually from a domestic supply selected at random. The samples were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Maidstone, and were reported to be satisfactory.

The following is a copy of the chemical analysis of a sample taken in December, 1957 :-

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Appearance	Clear
Odour	None
Chlorine in chlorides	136
" calculated as sodium chloride	224
Nitrogen in nitrates	9.0
Free Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.014
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours	0.08
Hardness, total	346
Hardness, non-carbonate (permanent)	93
Total matter in solution	615
Microscopical examination	A few mineral fragments.
Fluorine	0.18

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The scheme for the main drainage of the Manston and Cliffsend areas has again been submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government who has asked that tenders be invited for the carrying out of the works, and formal loan sanction is deferred until the tenders have been received and considered.

A scheme for the treatment of sewage prior to discharge into the sea outfall has also been submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for loan approval.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Refuse Destructor in Princes Road was closed down in April 1957, and all refuse dealt with by controlled tipping on 75 acres of land leased by the Corporation on the Sandwich Road. During the period 17th April - 31st December, a total of 50,125 cubic yards of refuse was dealt with.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The gang system of street sweeping with electric orderly trucks was re-organised and improved by the Borough Engineer in the early part of the year, and the system was augmented by the provision of a mechanical road sweeping vehicle and a new gully emptier equipped with street washing plant.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

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 6,164 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 AND WORKPLACES.

The following table shows the number on the register at 31st December, 1957 :-

	Number of premises.	Number of inspections.	Written notices served.
Factories with mechanical power	37	2	1
Factories with non-mechanical power	173	40	6
Other premises	42	1	1

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

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The number of sites for caravans or tents, 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 not encouraged on any of these sites which are reserved for bona fide trailer caravans. There is also accommodation available at Nethercourt Park where two acres can be used to site about 42 caravans or an appropriate number of tents. Sanitary conveniences and toilet facilities have been installed here. Overflow accommodation is also available at the west side of King George VI Memorial Park.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Part only of this Act has been in force throughout the year, this deals mainly with the formation of Smoke Control areas. There is very little smoke producing industry in the area, steam raising plants and the like are largely fired by oil, and those that continue to use solid fuel give very little trouble. Thus atmospheric pollution is mainly limited to domestic smoke. Here we find an increasing number of domestic users are installing the modern appliances that give little or no smoke, particularly when smokeless fuels are used. Although domestic smoke can be blamed for a high proportion of atmospheric pollution in the aggregation of towns, in an area such as this with the fresh sea breezes, there is a constant change of air with rapid dilution, and pollution is infinitesimal.

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 are 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 at something over 1 part per million, colorimetric tests at the inlet gave readings of 1.6 parts per million, which indicated an input of approximately 2 parts per million. Distribution takes place throughout the bath water and tests taken at the furthest points from the inlets gave readings of 0.1 to 0.3 parts per million. This is a little below the recommended standard of 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million, but samples taken for bacteriological examination were all satisfactory. On filling, the pH value was found to be 8, and this rose to 8.4 over the season, indicating a slight increase in alkalinity.

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.

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

SECTION VI.

H O U S I N G.CLEARANCE AREAS.

The Clearance Area proposals for the Newcastle Hill/Plains of Waterloo area were reduced to 28 houses in all. These were declared in three areas. There was some opposition and a Public Inquiry was held in July.

Subsequently the Minister confirmed the areas without variation and re-housing was in progress at the end of the year.

The following table conforms with information supplied in quarterly returns to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and shows the number of unfit houses dealt with during 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	3	29	7
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-	-	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Sect.43(2) Housing Act 1957.	-	-	-

Not in Clearance Areas.

(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17(1) Housing Act 1957.	11	27	8
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	----	---

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u> <u>Persons. Families.</u>	
(v) Under Sects. 16(4) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957.	2	2	2
(vi) Under Sect. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	-	-	-
(vii) Parts of buildings closed under Sect. 18 Housing Act	6	12	5

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	66	-
(ix) After formal notice under :-		
(a) Public Health Acts	10	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957.	-	-
(x) Under Sect. 24, Housing Act 1957	-	-

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

There were seven 4 bedroom type houses in course of construction on Newington Road. The 78 flats mentioned in the Report for 1956 were practically complete by the end of 1957.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

A total of 261 applications were received during 1957. At the end of the year there were 621 on the housing register. A review of applications was carried out during the year and all persons not residing in the Borough were informed that their applications had been withdrawn from the housing waiting list. Many other applicants did not renew their applications, thus reducing the list still further.

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	89	89	353
Pre-fab bungalows	12	12	37
Flats	51	51	103
Old Persons Bungalows	2	2	2
	<u>154</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>495</u>

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	266
Requisitioned properties	4
Houses purchased by the Council	39
Old persons bungalows	31
	<hr/>
	1,979
	<hr/>

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.
RENT ACT, 1957.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was superseded by the Rent Act, 1957, which came into force on 5th July 1957. Very few landlords had taken advantage of the powers given to increase rents, and the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the 1954 Act (24) was infinitesimal.

Eleven Certificates of Disrepair granted under the Act were still outstanding at the end of June 1957, and since then one has been revoked.

The impact of the new Rent Act was not felt until September, when tenants, threatened with increases in rents, came armed with their Forms 'G' to make application for the new Certificate of Disrepair. Then came the difficult task of deciphering some of these manuscripts. Each Form 'G' was examined and checked, and some were found to be invalid for one reason or another, but most were acceptable. Each property was inspected and each item checked, and sometimes items had to be deleted, but often we were amazed at the moderation displayed by tenants. Operation of the Act has not been made any easier by the multiplicity of forms required. We agree that each is necessary for its particular purpose, but the general public, so easily confused, has a suspicion that these lettered forms are a means devised by the bureaucratic mind to befog the uninitiated.

Although 57 applications were received, only 22 Certificates of Disrepair were issued, in all other cases where valid, Forms 'G' were accepted and landlords have given Undertakings on Form 'K'.

Statistical details of the work under the Rent Act are included in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

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, 6,833 have been immunised, but the percentage of children born in 1956 and immunised remains too low, as only 47% of these 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 supervision of all contacts.

The County Medical Officer supplied the information that 382 persons were vaccinated in Ramsgate against smallpox during 1957. Some of these were persons going abroad who had to be vaccinated to conform with the regulations. In addition, 61 were re-vaccinated.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Fourteen cases of this disease occurred during the year, nine of them being paralytic and five non-paralytic. All cases were removed to Haine Hospital. There were no deaths.

None of the cases notified had received vaccination against the disease. The first notification of a paralytic case was received early in August, and from then until the end of the year, notifications were received spasmodically. In only one particular instance was there any question of contracting the disease from a known case. This instance occurred in a family of which one child was found to be a paralytic case, and the mother and another child non-paralytic cases. These cases are marked '*' in the following table.

One of the notified paralytic cases was a visiting child here on holiday. All other cases were permanent residents.

Paralytic cases.

Non-paralytic cases.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>
7.8.57	F	4	30.8.57	M	8
2.11.57	M	3	31.8.57	M	4
"	F	1	20.9.57	F	36
5.11.57	M	13	7.11.57	M	6 *
6.11.57	F	2 *	11.11.57	F	27 *
15.11.57	M	33			
6.12.57	F	4			
9.12.57	F	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			
23.12.57	F	30			

ASSISTANCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX.

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

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

INDIVIDUAL DISEASES.

One case of Dysentery and one of Paratyphoid were notified and were removed to hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The incidence of these diseases was 307 Measles and 106 cases of Whooping Cough, and of these 2 cases of Measles and 4 of Whooping Cough were removed to hospital. There were no deaths from these causes. The outbreaks occurred in the early part of the year.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirteen cases were notified and 10 were removed to hospital. All were mild cases.

Food Poisoning.

There were 17 notifications, 16 of these patients occurred in one house. Although examinations of food etc. were carried out, no definite infecting medium or particular organism was discovered by the Laboratory.

Asian Influenza.

This disease was not made notifiable, and consequently it is not possible to state the number of patients in this area. Deaths from Influenza, which began in the Great Towns of England and Wales about August or September, appear to have reached a maximum in mid October, and thereafter they gradually declined. The maximum number of deaths coincided with the greatest number of cases of Pneumonia notified.

The maximum claims for sickness benefit in London and the South Eastern area were made towards the end of October. In this area there was a total of eight deaths ascribed to Influenzal Pneumonia.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

Immunisation against this disease was commenced in August 1957, and by the end of the year a total of 826 children had received two protective doses of the vaccine. British manufactured vaccine was used. The figures shown below do not include those children who might have received only one dose, as it is understood that a single dose, if it confers immunity at all, does so only for a very short period.

The following table shows the age groups of children who received the course of two injections :-

<u>Number of</u> <u>children.</u>	<u>Year of</u> <u>Birth.</u>
203	1947
188	1948
169	1949
136	1950
49	1951
41	1952
26	1953
13	1954
-	1955
1	1956
-	1957

TUBERCULOSIS.

Formal notifications in respect of 27 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory cases were received. In addition, 12 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources :-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-respiratory.</u>
Transferred from other areas	11	-
Restored to register	1	-

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

AGE PERIOD.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>		<u>NON-</u>	
	<u>RESPIRATORY.</u>		<u>NON-RESPIRATORY.</u>		<u>RESPIRATORY.</u>		<u>RESPIRATORY.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	7	2	-	-	3	1	-	-
Over 65	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	11	1	1	5	1	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December, 1957, was :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory	138	143	281
Non-respiratory	14	17	31
TOTAL	152	160	312

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

	Average number of deaths per annum.
1900 - 1910	47
1911 - 1920	39
1921 - 1930	34
1931 - 1940	24
1941 - 1950	17
Average for past seven 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, 11 sessions having been held in 1957 and a total of 132 vaccinated.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit, which examined 4,482 of the general public and 3,164 school children in 1956, did not visit the town in 1957.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

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 70 patients from Ramsgate attended and made 480 attendances.

There appears to have been a steady decline in Infectious Syphilis and in Congenital Syphilis since the Second World War, and in 1955 new cases were less than 50% of those in 1946 (the year of highest post-war incidence), but some doubt is expressed whether this is likely to be a permanent reduction.

Gonorrhoea shows a tendency to increase.

SECTION VIII.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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

MILK.

The Borough of Ramsgate being within a Specified Area, all milk sold by retail for human consumption is sold under one or other of the special designations. Milk is being pasteurised by the H.T.S.T. method, the number of pasteurising plants has been reduced to two, one having been absorbed by another dairy. One dairy has installed plant for homogenisation, and a limited quantity of pasteurised homogenised milk is being distributed. There is no sterilisation plant within the Borough.

(a) Licences.

Registrations issued under the Milk and Dairies Regulations are as set out below :-

Dairies	2
Dairymen	2
Distributors	114

The number of Dealers' Licences, i.e. licences issued to dairies and distributors to retail designated milk, and renewed annually, were as follows :-

To retail pasteurised milk	84
" tuberculin tested milk	28
" sterilised milk	64

(b) Examination and Testing.

A total of 74 samples of designated milk as shown, were taken for examination and testing :-

	Designation:		
	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>T.T.Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
No. of samples tested	51	11	12
Satisfactory by:-			
(i) Methylene Blue test	49	11	-
(ii) Phosphatase test	51	11	-
(iii) Turbidity test	-	-	12

Two samples failed the Methylene Blue test; follow-up samples were taken and these proved to be satisfactory.

The Methylene Blue test is used to indicate the cleanliness and keeping quality of the milk, and the Phosphatase test indicates the efficiency of the pasteurising plant. All samples of Sterilised milk satisfied the Turbidity test, a test used to check the efficiency of sterilisation.

Samples are taken indiscriminately from roundsmen, distributors and dairies in order to keep a 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, 144 visits have been made to dairies and distributors' premises, excluding those visits made for the sole purpose of sampling, thus every effort is made to maintain a high standard in the processing and distribution of milk.

(c) Adulteration.

Fifty samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Two of these were Homogenised and eight were Channel Islands milk; all proved to be genuine. In addition, 5 informal samples of Channel Islands and one of Sterilised milk were submitted.

(d) Quality of Milk.

The usual high quality of milk has been maintained throughout the year, and indeed there is a steady improvement in the quality as shown in the table below. None of the samples has fallen below the prescribed standard either for fats or non-fatty solids. There has been no case of adulteration.

Average composition:			
	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>
Fats	3.85	3.71	3.65
Non-fatty solids	8.91	8.62	8.77
<hr/>			
Total	12.76	12.33	12.42
<hr/>			

ICE CREAM.(a) Cleanliness.

Thirty two samples of ice cream were taken for biochemical examination and subjected to the Methylene Blue test, with results as follows :-

Grade I	20
Grade II	8
Grade III	2
Grade IV	2

Of the four samples falling within Grades III and IV, one was from a manufacturer outside the Borough, and the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned was informed. Follow-up samples were taken and in each case these proved satisfactory.

Testing and grading of ice cream in this manner is a useful indication of both the cleanliness of the product and the degree of efficiency with which heat treatment is carried out. Methylene Blue becomes decolourised when bacteria are present, and the speed of decolourisation is an indication of the degree of bacterial contamination, and this fact is used to determine the grades into which the samples fall, thus :-

Grade I	Methylene Blue not decolourised in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours
Grade II	" decolourised in $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours
Grade III	" " $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours
Grade IV	" " 0 hours.

Grades I and II are regarded as being satisfactory, Grades III and IV are unsatisfactory and in these cases, plant and methods are checked thoroughly in an endeavour to locate any fault. Manufacturers are invariably co-operative, as they are all anxious to produce and sell a top grade product.

(b) Standard.

Five samples were taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst, they were found to comply with the standard laid down in the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. Judging by the results of the analysis, the standard for fat at 5% is rather low, as all the samples taken showed a much higher percentage of fat than this. Sixty five visits were paid to ice cream premises during the year.

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 sold from bulk, mainly in the form of cornets and wafers, and there is an increasing trade in 'soft' ice cream which is dispensed directly from the freezer.

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.

Ninety nine 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 one 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 were found to be satisfactory.

(d) Fish Frying.

Nineteen premises are registered.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

The slaughterhouse in Alexandra Road, which has been operated under the Council's control since 1954, was closed as from 31st March. The decline in throughput became so marked it was obvious that there was no real need for the retention of this slaughterhouse, which has long been a bone of contention because of its unsatisfactory situation and the condition of the buildings which do not fall in with modern requirements.

The trade does not appear to be adversely affected and it is assumed that use is being made of the facilities at Canterbury and Sandwich.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

All animals were slaughtered by humane methods, i.e. the Cash Captive Bolt humane killer for large animals, and the Electrolethaler for small animals.

MEAT.

Meat inspection was carried out in accordance with the recommendations in Memo. 3/Meat, examinations for the parasitic condition, *Cysticercus Bovis*, continued to be made during the three months whilst slaughtering took place, but no cases of infestation were found.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

A total of 5 tons 12 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs. of unsound meat and various tinned goods, etc., was surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - ADULTERATION.

Ninety four samples (57 formal and 37 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	50	6
+	Sausage	6	-
+	Butter	-	2
	Ice cream	-	5
+	Confectionery, sweets etc.	-	5
	Glucose	-	1
+	Orange drink	-	1
	Corn cob	-	1
+	Black pudding	-	1
	Mandarin Oranges (tinned)	-	1
+	Lemonade powder	1	-
	Beer	-	1
+	Peas (tinned)	-	1
	Whelks	-	1
	Lemon juice	-	1
	Brisling	-	1
	Mixed spice	-	1
+	Pineapple juice	-	1
+	Flour	-	1
	White pepper	-	1
	Rum Butter	-	1
	Silver Sild	-	1
+	Currants	-	1
	Ground almonds	-	1
+	Marzipan	-	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES ETC) IN FOOD REGULATIONS.

The 77 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 which consist of sink and wash basin with hot and cold water in a small washroom nearby. The stall holders are not co-operative and constant surveillance is needed to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

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 cooked on the vendors own premises, but during the holiday season it is often necessary to augment local supplies by importation from other areas.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1957. -----

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	465	23379	-	21	-
Coastwise	726	13282	-	2	-
Total	1191	36661	-	23	-

Character of shipping and trade.

Passenger traffic :-

No. of passengers inwards 10,321

No. of passengers outwards 10,323

Cargo traffic :-

Principal imports - Tomatoes, wheat, vegetables, timber.

Principal exports - Coke, apples.

Principal ports from which ships arrive.

Hamina, Raumo, Skoghall, Kotka, Halsingborg.

Water supply.

All water supply is obtained from the town mains.
The results of samples taken during 1957 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.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1935 and 1948.

The Pegwall 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 Lymgne, 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 my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1957.

As anticipated in my last report, some months were to elapse before a successor to Mr. Whiteley, who resigned on 31st December 1956, was appointed, but eventually the vacancy was filled by Mr. K.J.Hadler who took up the appointment on 24th June 1957.

Naturally this shortage of staff has had some effect on the work of the Department, and in addition, it has been necessary to absorb the extra work occasioned by the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Rent Act, 1957. The more onerous of these has been the Rent Act, and at the end of the year there was no sign of diminution in the flow of applications for Certificates of Disrepair. Once again the extra work has been absorbed, but I must point out that the imposition of extra duties must impair the overall efficiency of the Department, and the need for another additional inspector becomes more and more apparent.

I have to express my appreciation of the valued support from the Medical Officer of Health and the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and my thanks are due to the Inspectors and clerical staff for their loyal and willing co-operation throughout the year.

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

C.H.WELLER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

There has been some progress on the Clearance Area programme. Of the 95 houses in the Newcastle Hill area inspected and reported on in 1955, 28 have been dealt with as Clearance Areas and two as individual unfit houses, one of these has been demolished and the other repaired under an undertaking. The 28 houses were formed into three Clearance Areas, one area of three houses was unopposed and the Order was confirmed in September. The remaining 25 houses were formed into two distinct areas of 17 and 8 houses each. These were the subject of a Public Inquiry in July. Subsequently the Orders were confirmed without modification and came into operation in December. Re-housing was commenced but had not been completed at the end of the year.

In the light of experience, it was considered that the Clearance programme submitted in 1954 was somewhat unrealistic, as the areas as set out envisaged a comprehensive programme of re-development allied with slum clearance; thus some properties were included more by reason of location i.e. bad arrangement or narrowness of the streets rather than actual unfitness. This programme was, perhaps, too ambitious, and has in fact, acted as a brake on progress. In December a revised programme was submitted to the Health Committee, this included only those houses considered to be so unfit as to be incapable of repair at a reasonable cost. This revision has reduced the number of houses included in the clearance programme from 724 to 318, that is something less than half. The proposals are to receive further consideration, and being less ambitious there may be better hopes of fruition.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act came into force on 6th July 1957. It is not known how many landlords have taken advantage of the provisions of the Act permitting them to increase their rents, nor is there any means of knowing how many tenants have served Form 'G' on their landlords, as it is probable that only a small proportion reach this Department. There has been a great deal of repair work going on, and never have I seen so many houses receiving the attention of the decorator, (this work does not call for the supervision of this Department unless it is carried out under notice), so it seems likely that the Act has had some success in its avowed object of arresting the deterioration of many properties that were becoming neglected owing to the lack

of money to pay for repairs and redecorations. For this reason alone, the Act can be welcomed, and where landlords are still unwilling to carry out repairs in spite of an increased rent return, there are other powers that can be used.

The multiplicity of forms required was somewhat confusing, but experience has shown each to have its special purpose and with understanding the path has become smoother. There have been many appeals for advice from both sides, and where asked for, advice is given without bias.

The position at 31st December 1957 was as follows:-

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	57
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	6
Number of decisions to issue Certificates :-	
(a) In respect of some defects only	Nil
(b) In respect of all defects	51
Number of Undertakings given by Landlords	29
Number of Certificates issued	22

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Regular and frequent inspections of food premises are carried out in an endeavour to maintain that high standard of hygiene in food handling which we all aim for and which is so very important in this area where catering for the visitor is the main industry. It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings for contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, it would be wrong to say these do not occur, but so far it has been possible to get these matters cleared up by persuasion, re-inforced at times by threats, and on the whole traders have been co-operative.

PROSECUTIONS.

No prosecutions have been taken during the year. A complaint was received concerning a green colouration in a loaf of brown bread thought to be verdigris. Examination showed this to be a harmless vegetable dye such as is used for colouring icing. On investigation it was found that a bottle of green colouring matter had been spilled and some had found its way into the flour. It was considered that a letter of caution would suffice in this case.

SHELLFISH.

The shellfish stalls in the Pier Yard continue to operate as hitherto and the stall holders have the use of the wash room referred to in last year's report. This is a small room approximately 8 feet by 4 feet, equipped with a sink and wash basin, and with hot and cold water, and is sufficient to comply with the Regulations. These stalls are an anachronism, their only virtue is their appeal to the visitor, it would be preferable for them to be housed in more permanent booths where the principles of hygiene could be better observed. Two such booths are operating in another section of the sea front and there is no fault to find with them.

Whelks and Mussels are mainly local caught, and are cooked and prepared on the vendors own premises, being brought to the stalls for sale. The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles gathered in the Bay unless they have been subjected to steam sterilisation; at present no cockles are being gathered there for sale. Cockles sold in Ramsgate are all brought in from other areas under guarantee of sterilisation.

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 the itinerant caravanner who stays for short periods only. Tents are not encouraged on the same sites as caravans, and accommodation has had to be found for tent camping. This has been arranged in the grounds of Nethercourt House, the house has now been demolished, and the sanitary accommodation has been rebuilt, thus giving three W.C's and two wash basins for females, two W.C's, urinal stalls, and one wash basin for males.

SHOPS ACT.

Six hundred and forty six 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

Sixteen visits of inspection were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 462. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona-fide complainant can be sure of receiving prompt and sympathetic consideration.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS.

Visits are not made deliberately for the purpose of enforcement of the Merchandise Marks Acts, but a general observation is kept on shops under the Food Hygiene Regulations and Shops Acts. This includes observations under the Merchandise Marks Acts. In general the marking requirements are complied with and no contraventions have been observed.

NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	197
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	102
Work carried out voluntarily	61
Statutory notices served	15
Statutory notices complied with	21

Proceedings were taken under Section 94 of the Public Health Act in respect of a house where the owner had failed to comply with an Abatement Notice. The owner disputed his liability for repairs, and the Court found for him in respect of a defective cooking range, and against him in respect of defective ceilings. These ceilings have now been repaired.

Proceedings were also taken under Section 14 of the Housing Act 1936 where the owner had failed to comply with a Closing Order made under Section 12 of the Act. In this case the owner was fined £5 and the Closing Order has now been made effective.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

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

Public Health Act:

Inspections	190
Re-inspections	467

Housing Act:

Inspections	68
Re-inspections	468
Improvement Grants	34
Work in progress	31
Overcrowding	3
Houses measured	9
Council houses	7

Rent Act:

Inspections	188
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Food and Drugs Act:

Bakehouses	31
Ice cream premises	65
Fish fryers	20
Restaurants	99
Shellfish	76
Other food premises	254
Shops re unsound food	245
Slaughterhouse	81

Milk and Dairies Regulations:

Dairies	13
Distributors	131

Sampling:

Food and Drugs	126
Designated milk	109
Ice cream	40
Shellfish	6
Water	58
Swimming Pool	9

Factories Act:

Factories - mechanical	72
" - non-mechanical	7
Workplaces	11

Shops Act:

Visits	646
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Pet Animals Act:

Visits	10
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Rodent Control :

Business premises	7
Dwellinghouses	24
Local Authority property	36

Shipping:

Visits	23
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Other inspections:

Drainage	703
Drains tested	99
Accumulations	62
Keeping of animals	28
Refuse receptacles	215
Public conveniences	47
Smoke abatement	13
Caravans and camps	38
Infectious disease	94
Music and dancing	16
Licensed premises	44
Marine stores	3
Schools	6
School kitchens	9
Merchandise Marks Act	4
Verminous premises	102
Interviews	529
Miscellaneous visits	547

IMPROVEMENTS AS RESULT OF INSPECTIONS.

Drainage system:

Drains cleared	50
Drains amended	22
Sink gully traps provided	10
Inspection chambers built	11
Soil and vent pipes fitted	3
Soil and vent pipes repaired	3
Houses re-drained	4
Cesspool covers renewed	1

Internal repairs:

W.C. cisterns provided	4
W.C. cisterns repaired	7
Sash cords renewed	10
Windows repaired or renewed	17
Sinks trapped	5
Sinks provided	14
Lavatory basins provided	6
Fireplaces, stoves, etc. renewed	2
W.C. pans fixed	41
W.C. seats renewed	16
Plaster repaired	14
Water service provided	5
Water service improved	3

Water service improved	3
Walls and ceilings redecorated	2
Floor repaired	14
Doors repaired	8
Ceiling repaired	8

External Repairs:

Chimney stacks, flues etc.	2
Eaves gutters renewed	7
Eaves gutters repaired	4
Walls cement rendered	2
Walls re-pointed	3
Roofs repaired	22
Yards paved	2
Walls treated with damp proofing material	1
Manhole covers provided	1

Shops:

Wash basins provided	5
Sinks provided	1
W.C's provided	2
Gas heaters provided	4
Water service provided	2
Premises renovated	1
Drains amended	1
Miscellaneous improvements	2

Bakehouses:

Artificial lighting provided	1
Latvatory basins provided	1
Store rooms constructed	1
Wash basins provided	3
Gas water heaters provided	1

Dairies:

Urinals provided	1
Wash basins fitted	1

Factories, Workplaces:

Cleansed or linewashed	1
Sanitary accommodation improved	3
Ventilated space provided	1
Premises renovated	3

Miscellaneous:

Accumulations removed	9
Verminous houses cleansed	15
Refuse receptacles provided	71

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 94 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

DISINFECTION.

One hundred and six rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and cancer, and 80 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfecter.

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 insecticides containing D.D.T. are 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	2	7	8	43
Fleas	3	10	31	126
Flies, Beetles, insects etc.	12	12	51	93

In addition, 11 premises were treated for wasps nests.

Ten sets of bedding believed to be infested with vermin or soiled after death, were removed for treatment. In addition, 39 lots were 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 required by the Ministry for grant. There are a few agricultural holdings in the area, most occupiers are fully alive to the necessity of controlling rodent infestations and they 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 the decline in rat population has been maintained. This year experimental treatments have been carried out in the use of Warfarin as against Arsenic and Zinc Phosphide. In the past there has been a suspicion that the rats were developing a "bait shyness" with these two poisons, this was particularly noticeable where bread mash was used as a bait base with Arsenic, and we have been pressing the Divisional Rodent Officer to try other methods for some time past.

On the first treatment of the year, no test baiting was carried out, the sewers were treated directly with Warfarin 5 in medium oatmeal plus the mould inhibitor Paranitrophenol. Although this baiting was not strictly in accordance with the Ministry recommendation, the results were very pleasing and the new method showed distinct possibilities. On the second treatment, a 10% test was carried out using damp sausage rusk, then the sewers were baited according to the Ministry formulation, i.e. Warfarin 5, pin-head oatmeal, caster sugar white oils and paranitrophenol. This treatment too was very satisfactory and results confirm the conclusion arrived at after the previous treatment. One of the troubles in using cereal baits in sewers has been the rapid growth of moulds, thus making the bait unattractive. With the use of Paranitrophenol, mould does not grow on the bait, thus it remains attractive and palatable to the rat so long as it is there. This means that larger quantities can be used. The standard bait is 8 oz. and rats can be left longer to feed and there is a better chance of drawing others from the more distant parts of the sewer.

No matter what method of treatment is used there is very little chance of eliminating the rat population from the sewers, these must always be regarded as a potential reservoir for further infestation. Thus it is vital that the regular six monthly treatment is maintained in order to keep these rats in check.

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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