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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

### REPORT

OF THE


### Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

## 1958



13



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

*With  
The Compliments  
of  
The Medical Officer of Health*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.  
L BUILDINGS, RAMSGATE.

Centre,  
Newington Road,  
Ramsgate.

Telephone: Thanet 53542





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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - JUNE 1958.

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman W.H.Greenstreet.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

His Worship the Mayor,  
Alderman L.F.Davey, J.P.

Councillor C.H.Barton

" Miss L.C.Chamberlain  
" C.T.Curzon  
" D.T.Featherstone  
" D.M.Hughes  
" Mrs L.M.Maile  
" Sinclair St.Clair.  
" J.A.Shell  
" F.R.Smith  
" G.R.Smith





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

K.J.Hadler, M.A.P.H.I.  
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.H.

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S.Robertson

R.Whitmore (Resigned 31.8.58)

D. Liles (Commenced 17.9.58)

DISINFECTOR:

G.C.Riordan

RODENT OPERATOR:

V.C.Barker

PUBLIC ANALYSTS:

Messrs Hawkins & Hawkins, Canterbury.



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

-----

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 1958. The usual form of tables and commentaries has been followed.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough again shows a slight decrease of 10.

A mild epidemic of Measles began in the first quarter of the year with six cases and gained momentum until the figures reached 218 in the fourth quarter.

Only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

I would again thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued encouragement and support of the various matters put before them.

My thanks are also due to my colleagues in other Departments of the Corporation for their information used in compiling this report.

I also acknowledge with gratitude the loyalty and good work of the staff of this Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H.M.CARGIN,

Medical Officer of Health.



5.

# I - SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of population	36,000
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	12,000
Rateable value	£507,574
General Rate	22/3d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,025

## BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>Total 1957.</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	249	250	499	499
Illegitimate	16	24	40	44
	<hr/>			<hr/>
TOTAL	265	274	539	543
	<hr/>			<hr/>

## BIRTH RATE.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	14.9
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.8
(England and Wales - 16.4)	

The illegitimate births formed 7.4% of the total and were equal to 1.1 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 15.8.

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Legitimate	5	5	10	16
Illegitimate	1	2	3	-

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births was 23.4 as compared with 21.6 for England and Wales.

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

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Legitimate	3	4	7	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-	2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.  
(Infantile Mortality).

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Legitimate	5	7	12	15
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTLAITY RATE.

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

TOTAL	22.2 (Compared with 31.3 for 1957)
Legitimate	24.0 (Per 1,000 legitimate live births)
Illegitimate	NIL.
England and Wales	22.5.



During the first month of life the Infant deaths showed a decrease of 4 as compared with the number in 1957.

The deaths under one year also decreased by 5. The Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) thus becomes 22.2 compared with 31.6 for 1957, and compared with 22.5 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 - 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
1957	17	31.3	23.0
1958	12	22.2	22.5

This table shows that a steady improvement continues to take place and that the infant deaths are being reduced in a most successful manner.

INFANTILE DEATHS.  
TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH.

CAUSE.	WEEKS.				MONTHS.									
	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.	TOTAL.
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculous diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Premature birth	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Injury at birth	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia, Atelectasis	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Congenital debility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	1	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	12



TOTAL DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages	267	259	526	437

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	14.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	12.7
England and Wales	11.7

The Death Rate shows an increase of 2.2 per 1,000 of population compared with 1957. 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 12.7 as compared with 10.5 for the previous year.

The births in the Borough exceeded the total deaths by 13.

During 1958 the number of deaths increased by 89 as compared with the previous year. As usual the preponderance of deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

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
2. " - other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	14	7
11. " " lung, bronchus	13	2
12. " " breast	-	9
13. " " uterus	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	4
16. Diabetes	1	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	27	32
18. Coronary disease, angina	49	32
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	3
20. Other heart disease	35	48
21. Other circulatory diseases	16	6
22. Influenza	1	2
23. Pneumonia	14	19
24. Bronchitis	20	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis, nephrosis	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, etc.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	40
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	2
34. All other accidents	4	9
35. Suicide	6	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTAL	267	259



NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

Age group.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 1 year	5	7	12
1 - 2 years	1	1	2
2 - 3 years	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	-	1	1
10 - 15 years	-	1	1
15 - 20 years	-	2	2
20 - 25 years	1	-	1
25 - 35 years	2	-	2
35 - 45 years	4	8	12
45 - 55 years	19	15	34
55 - 65 years	56	27	83
65 - 75 years	74	53	127
Over 75 years	105	144	249
<hr/>			
TOTAL	267	259	526

The deaths from Cardiac disease were 90 in 1958, compared with 74 in 1957. The cause of this disease still appears to be in doubt.

Other heart diseases numbered 83; there were 57 in 1957.

Cancer of the stomach increased from 10 in 1957 to 21 in 1958, but cancer of the lung and bronchus were reduced by 2 in the year under review.

Three deaths were ascribed to Influenza, but it must be remembered this disease is not notifiable. There was an increase in the associated condition, viz. Pneumonia, 33 as compared with 16 in 1957.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in his report for 1957 says "If there is now widespread enlightenment on mental disorders, the same can perhaps not be said of the relation of lung cancer to smoking. Cancer of the lung and bronchus shows a further increase of 845 deaths in England and Wales. This is equivalent to 5.2% more than for 1956."



In females there was an increase in the number of deaths from this disease by 118, equivalent to a rise of 4.6%. The Chief Medical Officer asks that it be made known that the opinion of the Medical Research Council is that the most reasonable explanation of this increase is the association of tobacco smoking particularly in the form of cigarettes. Our figures seem to show that atmospheric impurities other than tobacco smoking are suspect as a cause of this disease.

The number of deaths from all forms of cancer from the year 1948 is shown below :-

1948	-	78	1954	-	60
1949	-	84	1955	-	78
1950	-	71	1956	-	80
1951	-	88	1957	-	87
1952	-	93	1958	-	98
1953	-	76			

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	60	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
1958	98	59	173	4	57

Percentage of total deaths in 1958	18.6	11.2	32.9	0.7	10.8
--	------	------	------	-----	------

The Superintendent Registrar informs me that during 1958, of the total deaths of persons registered in Ramsgate, 54.8% were interred and 45.2% were cremated.

#### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Four deaths were ascribed to this disease as compared with 6 deaths in 1957. The title used by Bunyan, "Captain of the Men of Death" seems no longer applicable to this disease which now takes a very minor position in the causes of death. The title can now be transferred to cardiac disease, with cancer in second place.

In 1957 there were 4,853 deaths from Tuberculosis and in 1958 there were 4,480. If the present diminution in the number continues, the disease will become rare within a reasonable period.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths due to childbirth during the year.



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.

Employment in the Borough is provided by hotels, boarding houses and catering establishments, brewing, flour milling, manufacture of drugs and plastics, doll and stocking making, engineering, tool making and ship and yacht repairing.

Most of the manufactories are situated on the outskirts of the town, and as a consequence fog and atmospheric pollution are almost unknown.

## SECTION III.

METEOROLOGY.

Meteorological observations were carried on throughout the year by the staff of the Borough Engineer's Department to whom I am indebted for this information. Twice daily telegraphic reports were transmitted to the 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	54.6 hours.	Daily average	1.8 hours
February	51.4 "	" "	1.4 "
March	146.9 "	" "	4.7 "
April	169.7 "	" "	5.7 "
May	190.4 "	" "	6.1 "
June	189.2 "	" "	6.3 "
July	231.0 "	" "	7.4 "
August	146.9 "	" "	4.7 "
September	182.5 "	" "	6.1 "
October	110.1 "	" "	3.6 "
November	55.8 "	" "	1.8 "
December	45.0 "	" "	1.5 "

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TOTAL 1,573.5 " (Total for 1957 - 1,755 hours).

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	Most sunshine recorded in <u>any one day.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Sunless days.</u>
January	7.2 hours	12th	11
February	8.0 "	3rd	9
March	10.0 "	16th	2
April	12.0 "	12th, 30th	2
May	13.9 "	24th	0
June	14.8 "	3rd	0
July	13.9 "	9th, 24th	1
August	12.1 "	27th	1
September	10.5 "	12th	1
October	9.8 "	6th	8
November	7.8 "	1st	17
December	5.7 "	14th	10

RAINFALL.

Most rainfall  
recorded in  
any one day.

January	2.37 inches	0.46 inches
February	2.51 "	0.52 "
March	1.51 "	0.38 "
April	1.35 "	0.46 "
May	1.43 "	0.58 "
June	5.39 "	1.82 "
July	2.48 "	0.65 "
August	3.36 "	0.80 "
September	2.73 "	0.83 "
October	3.57 "	0.76 "
November	1.22 "	0.43 "
December	3.65 "	0.82 "
<hr/>		
TOTAL	31.57 "	(Total for 1957 - 20.02 inches)
<hr/>		

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



SECTION IV.  
-----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	-	First Friday monthly 2-3 p.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

This clinic, now in its fifth year of existence, continues to progress.

The total number of patients attending during 1958 was 125, and 39 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>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Maternity	401	398
Others	2,136	1,927

Out Patients.

Casualty Department	6,325	6,215
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Special Departments.

	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
Medical	367	331
Surgical	1,297	1,118
Gynaecological	248	204
Ophthalmic	574	490
Paediatric	122	98
Aural	737	691
Rheumatism	99	108
Ante-natal	335	298
Post-natal	266	176
Dermatological	385	365
Mental illness	159	172
Orthopaedic	1,555	1,478
Dental	115	91
Physical medicine	361	321
Diseases of chest	159	252
Radiotherapy	154	136

The number of unts of work (examinations and/or treatment) performed in the Radiological and Physiotherapy Departments were as follows :-

Radiological	16,184	16,443
Physiotherapy	27,896	26,327

The number of individual patients requests involving work in the Pathological Department was :-

8,953	6,914
-------	-------

(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. Four hundred and one 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 two Homes on the register, providing beds for medical patients :-

	<u>No. of beds.</u>
21 Vale Square and annexe	60
4 Clifton Lawn	9
(Not at present in use as a Nursing Home).	

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 any person to hospital, but the condition of 9 elderly persons was investigated, and in the case of 4, their admission to hospital was arranged voluntarily.



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 50.

Under the provisions of this section, one person was buried at the expense of the Local Authority at a cost of £12. 10. 0.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Nineteen 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 seven 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.

Forty six home confinements received daily help for a period of fourteen days in each case. In addition one case was provided with a resident home help.

(ii) Family Help Service.

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

(iii) Evening Service.

Evening service is given for bedridden 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.

(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.

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 J. McKenzie, 33 Grange Road.	" 52237
Mrs P. Howland, 77 Southwood Gardens.	" 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 82974
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



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

Water is supplied by the Thanet Water Board, and there has been no change in the source of supply, which continues to be drawn from the adits in the chalk, as in the time of the Ramsgate Undertaking. Normally the supply is adequate for all needs, but can be augmented as necessary from other sources within the area served by the Board. As is to be expected with waters from the deep chalk strata, this is of high organic purity, but is very hard.

Samples are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination. Fifty five have been taken during the year, and are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Maidstone. All samples were reported as being satisfactory. These samples are taken both before chlorination, i.e. at the Pumping Station in Whitehall Road, and after chlorination from various points in the town, usually from a domestic supply selected at random.

Four samples were taken for chemical analysis, and the following is a copy of the analysis of a sample taken in December 1958 :-

Parts per million.

Appearance	Clear
Odour	None
Chlorine in Chlorides	94
Chlorine calculated as Sodium Chloride	155
Nitrogen in Nitrates	10.25
Free Ammonia	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.006
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours	0.16
Hardness, total	330
Hardness, non-carbonate (permanent)	70
Total matter in solution	576
Microscopical examination	A few mineral fragments.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Progress is being made on the preparation of a scheme, estimated to cost £100,000, for the drainage of the Manston and Cliffsend districts, approved in principle by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1956 and temporarily deferred due to the limitation on capital expenditure since that time. Tenders will be invited early in 1959 and formal application for loan sanction will again be submitted for approval.

A scheme for the construction of a by-pass sewer between Margate Road and Ellington Road has been submitted for loan approval. The scheme is estimated to cost £29,000 and is very necessary in order to ensure the safety of the source of water supply in this district, and to relieve the existing sewers in the low lying parts of the central area which are quite inadequate to deal with the run off in times of storm, so causing frequent flooding of basement premises in this part of the town.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has also approved in principle a scheme for the treatment and control of sewage prior to the discharge into the outfall, and it is anticipated that work will commence on the installation of the plant and equipment in September 1959.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The disposal of all refuse continues to be dealt with at the controlled tip on the Sandwich Road, and during the year a total of 70,800 tons of refuse was dealt with.

Two new enclosed Fore and Aft tipping refuse collecting vehicles were brought into service by the Works Department during the year and the much greater capacity of these modern vehicles has substantially reduced the number of journeys that have to be made to and from the tip each day.

## 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 system 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 7,479 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 1958 :-

	Number of premises.	Number of inspections.	Written notices served.
Factories with mechanical power	36	15	1
Factories with non-mechanical power	172	73	4
Other premises	42	4	-

Seventeen 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
Cliffsend, Sportsman	8
Manston Court Road	25
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.

Officially recognised caravan sites have increased by more than 200 in the past year in England and now number 3,337 sites.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The remaining sections of the Act came into force on the 1st June 1958. This was accompanied by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, and the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods)(Vessels) Regulations which came into force at the same time and which are designed to control the periods during which dark smoke may be emitted without creating an offence.

There is very little smoke producing industry in this town, steam raising plants are largely fired by oil, and those that do use solid fuel give very little trouble. Any atmospheric pollution there is, is mainly confined to domestic smoke, and with our fortunate situation, dilution and dispersal is so great that 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 4.6 parts per million, which indicated an input of approx. 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 was 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.

Five Clearance Areas were represented during the year, comprising a total of 43 houses. One area, a block of six houses in Paradise was unopposed and the Order was confirmed without modification. A second area, a corner block of five properties (houses with shops) at the junction of Plains of Waterloo with King Street, was opposed, and after a Public Inquiry, a Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed with the modification that one house and shop should be included only as a fit house. The remaining three areas, Alma Place (5 houses), Plains of Waterloo (19 houses), and Cavendish Place (8 houses), were still awaiting a decision at the end of the year.

Demolition Orders have been made in respect of 20 houses, these are awaiting vacation and had not been demolished at the end of the year. A Closing Order has been made in respect of one house where demolition is impracticable and the occupier has been rehoused.

Final action was deferred in the case of two Demolition Orders made during 1957, the owner having taken advantage of the provisions of paragraph 24 of the Act. One of these houses has now been rehabilitated, the order is revoked and the house re-occupied. Work is proceeding on the other house, but is not yet complete.

The Newcastle Hill area, referred to in the last report has been cleared of all houses, and it is now proposed to build flats on the cleared site.

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	30	65	27
(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.	-	-	-
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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	1	-	-
(vi) Under Sects. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	-	-	-
(vii) Parts of buildings closed under Sect. 18 Housing Act	-	-	-

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	84	-
(ix) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	6	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	2	-
(x) Under Sect. 24 Housing Act 1957	-	-



HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

A total of 263 applications were received during 1958. At the end of the year there were 696 on the housing register.

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	104	105	460
Pre-fab bungalows	23	23	56
Flats	51	51	112
Old Persons Bungalows	7	7	12
	<hr/>		
	185	186	640
	<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	266
Requisitioned properties	1
Houses purchased by Council	39
Old persons bungalows	31
Corporation properties	16
	1,992

RENT ACT, 1957.

At the beginning of the year, applications for Certificates of Disrepair continued in a steady stream, but this, as was expected, gradually diminished to a mere trickle. We then had to deal with applications for revocation, together with a series of Form 'O' applications following undertakings given on Forms 'H' or 'K'.



A further 61 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, making a total of 118.

Thirty four Certificates of Disrepair were issued, and with the remainder, undertakings on Form 'K' have been accepted. During the same period, five Certificates of Disrepair have been cancelled.

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

## SECTION VII.

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

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified, in age groups, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases:-

Disease.	Deaths	Admitted to hospital.	Age Groups:											Over 65	TOTAL.
			0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65		
Poliomyelitis:															
Paralytic	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	-	26	-	-	3	1	3	26	1	-	1	-	-	35	
Whooping Cough	-	4	8	13	21	14	12	45	3	1	2	-	-	119	
Measles	-	1	2	21	33	35	39	213	4	3	-	-	-	350	
Dysentery	-	7	-	2	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	7	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	4	10	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	



DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of this disease have 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, 6,844 have been immunised, but the percentage of children born in 1957 and immunised remains too low, as only 49.9% of these have been protected.

WHOOPING COUGH.

119 cases were notified, and these occurred over a period January to July. No serious complications were reported and there were no fatalities. Immunisation against Whooping Cough was begun in October 1957 by the County Authority using a Fritish made vaccine. Immunisation is carried out when required at the Baby Clinics, 375 children being immunised during 1958.

MEASLES.

350 cases were notified, the majority occurring in the latter part of the year in common with the rest of the country. All the patients recovered.

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 423 persons were vaccinated in Ramsgate against smallpox during 1958. Some of these were persons going abroad who had to be vaccinated to conform with the regulations. In addition, 60 were re-vaccinated.



POLIOMYELITIS.

Only one case of this disease was notified in 1958, and it was slightly paralysed.

The 1959 April volume of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service gives some interesting information about Poliomyelitis. Until 1947, the occurrence of the disease was sporadic (not epidemic) in England and Wales, but in that year it abruptly assumed epidemic proportions and 7,000 cases were notified. The following year a smaller epidemic occurred, and in 1949 and 1950 a larger outbreak took place. In later years there has been a tendency for the years of high incidence to alternate with years of low incidence.

Males are more frequently attacked than females - in the proportion of 5 to 4 - but females show more paralysis more frequently than males. There does not seem to be any relation between the size of the epidemic and the proportion of paralytic cases. The general pattern of paralysis in both sexes is for the proportion of paralytic cases to be very high in the first years of life, and thereafter to decrease very considerably.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis was begun in 1957 for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years and for expectant mothers. In 1958 the age limit for children was raised to 15 years, and by the end of the year, with the increase in the supply of vaccine, the age limit was further increased to 25 years.

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the Borough who received injections during the year :-

<u>Year of birth.</u>	<u>Number given:</u>	
	<u>Two injections.</u>	<u>Third injection.</u>
1958	64	-
1957	278	-
1956	333	18
1955	373	24
1954	290	10
1953	308	20
1952	287	13
1951	249	12
1950	195	17

Year of birth.Number given:  
Two injections.    Third injection.

1949	176	17
1948	190	20
1947	239	17
1946	417	8
1945	354	3
1944	361	2
Others	735	10

Total	4,849	191
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Vaccination is carried out in three stages. The first two doses are given at an interval of one month, and the third dose after seven months. Vaccination can be arranged by consulting one's own doctor, or by attending one of the two evening clinics held each month at the Health Centre, Newington, or the Broad Street Clinic.

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.

SCARLET FEVER.

Thirty five cases were notified and 26 were removed to hospital. All were mild cases.

FOOD POISONING.

There were 4 notifications, all single cases and not considered to be food borne.



TUBERCULOSIS.

Formal notifications in respect of 16 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory cases were received. In addition, 10 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources :-

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-respiratory.</u>
Transferred from other areas	6	-
Restored to Register	3	-

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>RESPIRATORY.</u>		<u>NON-RESPIRATORY.</u>		<u>RESPIRATORY.</u>		<u>NON-RESP.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Over 65	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	6	2	1	2	2	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December 1958, was :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory	129	128	257
Non-respiratory	17	17	34
	146	145	291



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 8 years	5

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

- (a) Modern drugs
- (b) Advances in surgical methods
- (c) Protection conferred by B.C.G. vaccination.  
(Twenty one sessions have been held in 1958 and a total of 86 persons vaccinated).

If neglected this can be a serious and deadly disease, but if handled properly it is no longer a sentence of death for the patient. It is estimated that there are more than a quarter of a million suffering from this disease in Great Britain.

In Ramsgate, 257 cases of respiratory tuberculosis were on the register at the end of 1958, beside 34 cases suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis. These figures show a reduction of 48 cases. The figures also show that 4 deaths were due to respiratory tuberculosis, a reduction of 2 on the previous year.

The names of 26 patients were removed from the register, having recovered from the disease.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health gives the following figures showing the fall in notifications of tuberculosis :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of cases.</u>
1953	44,000
1954	42,000
1955	35,000
1956	34,000
1957	32,000

Mass Radiography, responsible for the discovery of many cases, has grown in the number of instruments employed and the results achieved.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of units in use.</u>	<u>No. of patients examined.</u>	<u>No. of sufferers found.</u>
1954	18	79,730	2,889
1955	54	1,590,732	5,650
1956	76	3,617,550	6,872

At the end of 1958 arrangements were in hand for the Mass Radiography Unit to visit Ramsgate in Spring 1959.

#### B.C.G. VACCINATION.

Since 1949 B.C.G. vaccination has been offered to all nurses and medical staff in hospitals at the discretion of the Chest Physician, and to the close home contacts of tuberculosis cases.

Since 1953 vaccination has been offered to children before they left school, between their 13th and 14th birthdays. The new extension applied to :-

1. Children aged 14 and upwards who are still at school, and also to students attending universities, teacher training colleges, technical colleges or other establishments of further education;
2. Children under 13 years of age, when these number a few among a whole school class that is to be offered vaccination.



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 :-

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

A total of 44 patients from Ramsgate attended.

There appears to be a steady decline in infectious 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.

The steady increase in Gonorrhoea has continued and it is estimated that in the 6 years ending 1957 the number of cases treated in England and Wales has doubled. The increase continued in 1958.



## 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 and one plant only has been in operation throughout the year. Homogenisation is no longer being carried out. There is no sterilisation plant within the Borough.

(a) Licences.

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

Dairies	1
Dairymen	1
Distributors	139

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	95
" tuberculin tested milk	47
" sterilised milk	80

(b) Examination and Testing.

A total of 72 samples of designated milk as shown below were taken for examination and testing :-

		Designation:		
		<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>T.T.Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
No. of samples tested	48	12	12	
Satisfactory by:				
(i)	Methylene Blue test	48	12	-
(ii)	Phosphatase test	48	12	-
(iii)	Turbidity test	-	-	12

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, 221 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 one samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, two of these were homogenised and six were Channel Island milk, and all proved to be genuine. In addition, two informal samples of Sterilised milk were taken.

(d) Quality of Milk.

The usual high quality of milk has been maintained throughout the year, but it is noted that the average composition shows a slight decrease over the average for 1957. Nevertheless 3.79% of fat can be considered very satisfactory.

None of the samples taken has fallen below the prescribed standard and there has been no case of adulteration.

	Average composition:		
	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Fats	3.79	3.85	3.71
Non-fatty solids	8.69	8.91	8.62
<hr/>			
Total	12.48	12.76	12.33
<hr/>			



ICE CREAM.(a) Cleanliness.

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

Grade I	19
Grade II	4
Grade III	5
Grade IV	5

Of the ten samples falling within Grades III and IV, five were manufactured within the Borough. After investigation the cause of the trouble was found and subsequent samples proved satisfactory. The remaining five samples were manufactured outside the Borough, and the Medical Officer of Health for the district was informed and later samples also 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.

Eight 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. The fat content of these samples varied from 6.0 to 12.5, giving an average of 9.64%. It appears that some manufacturers have no difficulty whatever in supplying an ice cream of reasonably high fat content. Nevertheless the opinion must be expressed that the 5% statutory content is far too low.



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 is 97, and there are also 52 snack bars. Hotels providing meals for residents and non-residents number 22.

Ninety six 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. Twenty 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

All of these were periodically inspected and were found to be satisfactory.

### (d) Fish Frying.

Twenty one premises are registered.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

There is now no slaughtering carried on in the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

A total of 5 tons 18 cwts. 1 qr. 27 lbs of unsound meat and various tinned goods etc. was surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. ADULTERATION.

One hundred and seventeen samples (57 formal and 60 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	51	2
*	Jam	-	1
	Borax	-	1
	Camphorated Oil	-	1
	Asprin tablets	-	2
*	Sausage	3	2
*	Figs	1	1
	Saccharin tablets	-	1
*	Sauce	-	1
*	Banana fingers	-	1
*	Dried Yeast	-	1
*	Savorall	-	1
*	Vinegar	-	1
	Sardines	-	2
*	Silver Dragees	-	1
	Custard powder	-	1
*	Puff pastry	-	1
	Stewed steak	-	1
*	Jelly	-	1
	Bubble gum	-	1
	Slimming Berries	-	1
	Ice cream	-	8
	Butter	-	1
*	Synthetic cream	-	2
*	Confectionery	-	2
*	Jersey cream	-	2



	<u>Description.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>
	Evaporated milk	-	1
	Sild	-	1
*	Cashew nuts	-	1
*	Salted pea nuts	-	1
	Crab	-	1
	Meat	-	1
	Sponge flour mixture	-	1
*	Rock	-	4
*	Beer	-	1
	Chocolate	-	1
	Margarine	-	1
*	Candied Peel	-	1
*	Sultanas	-	1
*	Currants	-	1
*	Dates - stoned	-	1
	Whisky	2	-
*	Ground Almonds	-	1
*	Garlic salt	-	1

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 57

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 60
 

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The 88 samples marked \* in the preceding table were examined for the presence of preservatives. One sample of sausages contravened the Preservatives Regulations, and contained 415 parts per million of Sulphur Dioxide. A warning letter was sent.

#### 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 are 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, 1958.  
-----Amount of Shipping entering the Port.

Ships from:	Number.	Tonnage.	No. inspected by:		No. reported as having had during voyage infectious disease on board.
			MOH.	P.H.I.	
Foreign ports	576	53693	-	31	-
Coastwise	760	23944	-	21	-
Total	1336	77637	-	52	-

Character of shipping and trade.

## Passenger traffic:-

No. of passengers inwards	10,038
No. of passengers outwards	10,040

## Cargo traffic:-

Principal imports	-	Wheat, Timber.
Principal exports	-	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 1958 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 Diseases.

No international arrangements are in operation.

Special clinics are held at Margate General Hospital as follows :-

Fridays:	Females	10 - 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 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, 1952.

No action was found necessary under these Regulations, which deal with all matters of health in the case of passengers or crew arriving from abroad or from infected areas.

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.  
-----

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1958. The report is largely statistical, and I have taken the opportunity of making explanatory comment on various items. It will be seen that there has been some real progress on the slum clearance programme during the year, a progress which it is hoped will continue during the following years.

I have to express my appreciation of the valued support given by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chairman and members of the Health Committee. My thanks are also due to the Inspectors, Messrs Brown and Hadler, and the 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.

Work has proceeded on the revised programme of slum clearance and a total of five Clearance Areas, comprising 40 houses, were represented during the year. These are as follows :-

No. of houses.

Paradise Clearance Area No.4, 1957

6

(There were no objections and the Order was confirmed without modification).

King Street Clearance Area No.1, 1958

5 (with shops)

(It was decided to make a Compulsory Purchase Order in this case, there were objections and a Public Inquiry was held. The Order was confirmed with the modification that No. 81 King Street should be considered as a 'fit' house).

Plains of Waterloo Clearance Area No.2, 1958

16

(Awaiting decision at 31.12.58)

Alma Place Clearance Area No.3, 1958

5

(Awaiting decision at 31.12.58)

Cavendish Place Clearance Area No.4, 1958

8

(Awaiting decision at 31.12.58).

The whole of the houses in the Newcastle Hill area, referred to in previous reports, have now been demolished, leaving the site available for future development.

Twenty one houses are being dealt with as individual unfit houses, although action was not completed at the end of the year, the position is that 20 Demolition Orders have been made, and one Closing Order. In one case the owner gave an undertaking to carry out works, which have now been completed.

One house, which was the subject of an operative demolition order, and in which the owner has taken advantage of the deferment provisions in Section 24, has been repaired and improved, and therefore the order has been removed. A second property, the subject of a Closing Order, has been made fit and the Closing Order cancelled.

#### RENT ACT.

The flood of applications for Certificates of Disrepair continued unabated during the early part of the year, but, as was anticipated, this did not continue. Tenants do not appear to realise that they can submit a Form 'G' at any time that they are dissatisfied with the state of repair of their house, and that this can be followed up by a Certificate of Disrepair if the Local Authority is satisfied that the defects do exist.

The position as at 31st December 1958 was as follows :-

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	61
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates -	
(a) in respect of some defects only	3
(b) in respect of all defects	58
Number of Undertakings given by landlords	28
Number of Certificates issued	34

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications for improvement grants are made to the Borough Engineer. In order to avoid the possibility of grants being made in unsuitable cases, such as where the property falls within the Council's slum clearance programme, a report is called for from this Department, thus there is full co-operation between the Departments.



Applications for grants were approved in the case of two houses to be converted into nine self-contained flats and also in the case of 38 individual houses.

#### 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 that 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.

There have been no prosecutions during the year. Offences have been reported to the Health Committee as under :-

1. Fragment of wood in a loaf of bread. Complaint was made of a jagged fragment of wood which was alleged to have been found in a loaf of bread. On consideration of the facts the Committee decided to send a letter of caution.
2. Wrapped sliced bread mouldy on delivery. During August Bank Holiday period a quantity of wrapped sliced bread was found to be mouldy on delivery to the retailers. In each case the retailers had surrendered the bread, and a successful prosecution was taken against the bakers by the local authority for the area where the bread was produced, and again it was considered that a letter of warning would suffice.
3. Fly in Sponge Sandwich Cake. On receiving a complaint, this cake was examined and a dead fly was found to be embedded in the texture of the sponge cake and this had the appearance of being baked in it. This matter was reported and it was decided to send a letter of warning.



#### 4. Preservatives in Sausages not declared.

A sample of sausages was found to contain preservative, i.e. sulphur dioxide at the rate of 415 parts per million, and there was no indication that preservative had been used. The amount of preservative permitted by regulation is 450 parts per million but this must be declared, either on the wrapper or by means of a notice displayed in a prominent position. The offence being one of detail, a warning letter was considered appropriate.

#### SHELLFISH.

The shellfish stalls in the Pier Yard continue to operate as hitherto. Frequent visits are made, and there has been some improvement during the past year. These stalls are not compatible with modern ideas of hygiene, and there seems little reason why this mushroom growth should be allowed to go on year by year. If the need has been demonstrated and the visitors want shellfish served in this manner, surely the time has come when these barrows should be done away with and permanent stalls properly fitted for the purpose, erected in their stead.

Whelks and mussels are mainly gathered locally, some are brought in from layings in other areas, and some mussels are imported from abroad. Cockles are all brought in from other areas under a guarantee of sterilisation. The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations prohibit the collection of cockles in this bay for sale, unless they are being subjected to steam sterilisation under pressure. There is no sterilising plant in the Borough, and cockles are not being gathered for sale.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

There is very little industry in the Borough and consequently very little trouble from industrial smoke. The situation of the town is such that atmospheric pollution from domestic sources is negligible, and we suffer little from fog, least of all from those smoke laden fogs which are so prevalent in less favoured areas; thus there is little point in declaring a Smoke Control Area.



One small industrial plant was causing trouble. On investigation this was found to be due to overloading, the business having outstripped the steam raising capacity of the plant. Following representation made by the Department, the owner installed new plant, and a new chimney of increased diameter and height. This appears to have cleared up the trouble as no nuisance has been observed since. Complaints are received from time to time during periods of soot blowing from certain premises within the Borough. Unfortunately this is permitted by regulation for limited periods, thus there seems to be no way of obviating nuisance so caused. It is strange that some alternative to this iniquitous practice has not been devised. It is admitted that boiler flues must be cleared of accretions of soot if efficiency is to be maintained, but could not this be accomplished by some adaptation of the industrial vacuum cleaner whereby accumulations would be removed by suction rather than by blowing?

One application has been received under Section 2(2) for a certificate that it has not been practicable to alter or equip the building to enable it to be fully used without the possibility of a contravention of the Act. At no time has any contravention been observed, and taking all circumstances into consideration, the certificate was granted for a period of one year.

#### 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 for the itinerant caravaner who stays for short periods only, and accommodation for tented camping has been arranged in the grounds of Nethercourt House.

#### SHOPS ACT.

Seven hundred and seventy one 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

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

#### COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 484. 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.

A general observation is kept upon shops for the purposes concerned with the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Shops Act, and at the same time the marking of produce in conformity with the Regulations made under the Merchandise Marks Act is noted. On one occasion during the year it was found necessary to draw a shop keepers attention to the regulations regarding the marking of imported tomatoes. After explanation, this act of non-compliance was not repeated and no further action was taken.



NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	216
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	127
Work carried out voluntarily	99
Statutory notices served	16
Statutory notices complied with	11

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

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

## Public Health Act:

Inspections	303
Re-inspections	396

## Housing Act:

Inspections	109
Re-inspections	428
Improvement Grants	53
Work in progress	30
Overcrowding	2
Houses measured	11
Council houses	4

## Rent Act:

Inspections	230
-------------	-----

## Food and Drugs Act:

Bakehouses	27
Ice cream premises	102
Fish Fryers	35
Restaurants	96
Shellfish	59
Other food premises	553
Shops re unsound food	357
Butchers re unsound meat	13

## Milk and Dairies Regulations:

Dairies	10
Distributors	211

## Sampling:

Food and Drugs	189
Designated milk	93
Ice cream	50
Water	61
Swimming Pool	15

## Factories Act:

Factories - mechanical	73
" - non-mechanical	15
Workplaces	6

## Shops Act:

Visits	771
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## Pet Animals Act:

Visits	9
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## Rodent Control:

Business premises	12
Dwellinghouses	29
Local Authority property	9

## Shipping:

Visits	52
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## Other inspections:

Drainage	674
Drains tested	46
Accumulations	91
Keeping of animals	21
Refuse receptacles	337
Public conveniences	60
Smoke abatement	28
Caravans and camping sites	31



Infectious disease	76
Music and dancing	13
Licensed premises	19
Marine stores	6
Schools	9
Merchandise Marks Act	7
Verminous premises	203
Interviews	650
Miscellaneous visits	795

### IMPROVEMENTS AS RESULT OF INSPECTIONS.

#### Drainage system:

Drains cleared	44
Drains amended	14
Sink gully traps provided	4
Inspection chambers built	9
Soil and vent pipes fitted	6
Soil and vent pipes repaired	4

#### Internal repairs:

W.C. cisterns provided	6
W.C. cisterns repaired	10
Sash cords renewed	8
Windows repaired or renewed	16
Sinks trapped	7
Sinks provided	13
Lavatory basins provided	2
Fireplaces etc. renewed	11
W.C. pans fixed	27
W.C. seats renewed	15
Plaster repaired	24
Water service provided	1
Water service improved	4
Waste pipes repaired	1
Fireplaces etc. repaired	4
Walls, ceilings redecorated	2
Floors repaired	15
Doors repaired	9
Ceilings repaired	2
Baths provided	1

## External repairs:

Eaves gutters renewed	16
Eaves gutters repaired	21
Walls cement rendered	1
Walls re-pointed	7
Roofs repaired	42
Yards paved	9
Walls treated with damp-proof material	1
Fences repaired	1

## Shops:

Wash basins provided	7
Sinks provided	1
Gas heaters provided	9
Premises renovated	6
Miscellaneous improvements	4

## Bakehouses:

Sinks provided	1
Artificial lighting provided	1
Lavatory basins provided	1
Premises cleansed	1
Miscellaneous	1

## Factories, Workplaces:

Cleansed or limewashed	1
Lavatory basins provided	1
Drainage improved	1
Miscellaneous	4

## Miscellaneous:

Wasps nests destroyed	28
Accumulations removed	16
Verminous houses cleansed	30
Refuse receptacles provided	115
Houses renovated throughout	2



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 76 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

DISINFECTION.

One hundred and eleven rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and cancer, and 58 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	12	4	5
Fleas	8	50	45	197
Flies, Beetles, insects etc.	40	63	31	64

In addition, 28 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Four sets of bedding believed to be infested with vermin or soiled after death were removed for treatment. In addition 32 lots were destroyed at the request of owners.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Act deals with the powers and duties of Local Authorities for the destruction of rats and mice.

One full-time 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.

Sewer treatments with Warfarin have proved successful, there being a marked decline in the rat population and the results give real cause for optimism though not complacency. It is improbable that the sewers will ever be completely cleared of rats, but with regular treatment and continual vigilance, they can be kept within manageable proportions. Any relaxation would enable the rat to breed freely and it would not be long before we had a serious infestation to deal with.



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