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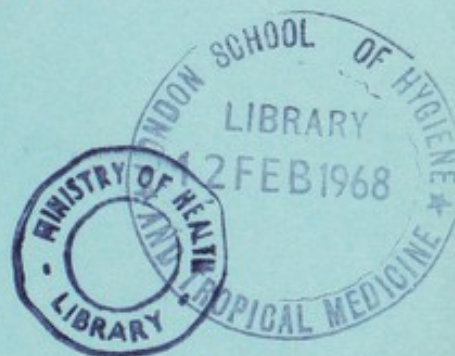
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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


# 1962





# C O N T E N T S.

	<u>Page.</u>
Public Health Committee	2
Staff of Public Health Department	3
Section I - Summary of Statistics	5
Section II - Natural and Social Conditions	10
Section III - Meteorology	11
Section IV - General Provision of Health Services	13
Section V - Sanitary Circumstances	17
Section VI - Housing	22
Section VII - Prevalence of, and control over infectious disease	25
Section VIII - Inspection and supervision of food.	29
Port Health Administration	34
Annual Report of Senior Public Health Inspector	35
I N D E X	46



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - JUNE, 1962.

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman W. H. Greenstreet

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Alderman L. F. Davey

His Worship the Mayor  
(Alderman J. Barnett, J.P.)

Councillor C. H. Barton

"	Miss L. C. Chamberlain
"	C. T. Curzon
"	S. T. Groombridge
"	Mrs L. M. Maile
"	Mrs J. Neeves
"	F. R. Smith
"	G. R. Smith
"	E. H. Swendell
"	R. J. Whiteman





STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

H. M. Cargin, M.D., D.P.H. (Retired 31st March 1962)

G. L. Brocklehurst, M.D.(Lond), D.P.H. (Commenced  
1st April 1962)

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.

F.A.Sadler, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERICAL STAFF:

J. S. Robertson

D. Liles

DISINFECTOR:

G.C.Riordan

RODENT OPERATOR:

V. C. Barker

PUBLIC ANALYST:

J.H.E.Marshall, M.A., F.R.I.C.,  
Canterbury.





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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1962.

My predecessor, Dr. H.M.Cargin, officially retired on 31st March 1962 and I was appointed as your Medical Officer of Health as from 1st April after negotiations between the other Local Authorities had been completed.

The Registrar General gives an estimated mid-year population of 37,380, an increase of 810 over the figure estimated for 1961, the increase no doubt being due to persons taking up residence in new housing accommodation.

Reference to the statistical information provided in the body of this report shows that there was also an increase in the number of live births. This increase has been maintained over a period of years.

The total number of deaths was 607, an increase of 32 as compared with those occurring in 1961. There was also a decided increase in deaths due to cancer of the lung. Infantile deaths fortunately show a decrease, from 22 in 1961, to 17 in 1962, and of these 9 were due to prematurity.

The year 1962 can be considered as one with the minimum of infectious diseases, no large numbers of any one disease were notified, and at the beginning of the year there was a demand for vaccination against smallpox, due to a number of cases which occurred elsewhere.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support since I took up office, and my thanks are also due to the staff of this Department for their assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. L. BROCKLEHURST,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I - SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	4,778
Registrar General's estimate of population	37,380
Number of inhabited houses	13,465
Rateable Value	£555,373
General Rate	24/9d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,190

BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	Total 1961.
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	285	243	528	493
Illegitimate	28	26	54	39
	313	269	582	532

BIRTH RATE.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.6
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	16.5
(England and Wales - 18.0)	

The illegitimate births formed 10.2% of the total and were equal to 1.4 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 when the uncorrected Birth Rate is multiplied by this factor, it results in a Corrected Rate of 16.5.



STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	Total <u>1961.</u>
Legitimate	5	1	6	14
Illegitimate	1	3	4	2

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births was 16.8 as compared with 18.1 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE DEATHS.

	<u>Legitimate:</u>		<u>Illegitimate:</u>		<u>TOTAL.</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
PERINATAL (Under one week)	6	3	1	1	11
NEO-NATAL (Under one month)	6	4	1	1	12
INFANTILE (Total under one year)	9	6	1	1	17

(Total 1961 = 22)

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

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

TOTAL	29.2	(England and Wales = 21.4)
Legitimate	28.4	
Illegitimate	37.0	

Causes of Infantile Deaths :-

Prematurity	9
Congenital Malformations	3
Other causes	5



TOTAL DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages	303	304	607	575

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	16.2
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	13.7
England and Wales	11.9

The Death Rate shows an increase of 0.5 per 1,000 of population compared with 1961. The Registrar General has supplied a correction factor of 0.85, and when the uncorrected Death Rate is multiplied by this factor it results in a Corrected Rate of 13.7

The number of deaths exceeded the total live births by 25.

During 1962, the number of deaths increased by 32 as compared with the previous year, and as usual the preponderance occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

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

CAUSE OF DEATH	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-
2. " - other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	6
11. " " lung, bronchus	29	1
12. " " breast	-	6
13. " " uterus	-	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic conditions	27	30
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2
16. Diabetes	2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	40
18. Coronary disease, agina	55	48
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	7
20. Other heart disease	29	59
21. Other circulatory diseases	15	23
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	21	16
24. Bronchitis	26	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	12	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis, nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth etc.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34. All other accidents	8	7
35. Suicide	3	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-
<hr/>		
TOTAL	303	304



## NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

Age group.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 1 year	10	7	17
1 - 2 years	-	1	1
2 - 3 years	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	1	-	1
15 - 20 years	-	1	1
20 - 25 years	2	-	2
25 - 35 years	3	6	9
35 - 45 years	5	2	7
45 - 55 years	22	9	31
55 - 65 years	52	14	66
65 - 75 years	88	72	160
Over 75 years	120	192	312
TOTAL	303	304	607

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES  
OF DEATH.

Year.	CANCER: Total.	Lung.	*	Vascular lesions.	Heart diseases.	Tuber- culosis.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.
1950	71	11	(15.5)*	52	143	16	44
1951	88	16	(18.2)	92	157	17	54
1952	93	16	(17.2)	77	152	10	39
1953	76	13	(17.1)	60	123	11	30
1954	60	11	(18.3)	65	135	5	35
1955	78	13	(16.6)	50	121	5	29
1956	80	12	(15.0)	59	136	2	41
1957	87	17	(19.5)	54	131	6	41
1958	98	15	(15.3)	59	173	4	57
1959	89	17	(19.1)	59	150	2	53
1960	83	18	(21.7)	72	186	5	47
1961	101	29	(28.7)	78	185	5	47
1962	111	30	(27.0)	64	203	1	69

Percentage  
of total  
deaths in  
1962

18.2	4.9	10.5	33.4	0.1	11.3
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\* The figures in brackets show the percentage of cancer deaths due to cancer of the lung.

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, provides walks and enjoyment for 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 repairs.

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.

M E T E O R O L O G Y.

The principal part of the Meteorological Station is situated on the East Cliff and consists of a standard fenced enclosure containing the following instruments :-

Rain gauge 5" diameter	
Dry bulb thermometer	Mounted in a Stevenson screen.
Wet bulb thermometer	
Maximum thermometer	
Minimum thermometer	

A Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder is set up on a platform on the roof of Albion House, and Kew pattern barometer, graduated in millibars, is kept in the Municipal Buildings.

Readings are taken daily at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year, and coded telegrams sent to the Air Ministry at these times.

During the summer season, details of sunshine, rainfall and temperatures, are publicised at the Meteorological Station and at various points along the sea front.

The sunshine and rainfall figures for 1962 are as follows :-

SUNSHINE.

January	69.0 hours	Daily average	2.2 hours
February	77.5 "	"	2.8 "
March	141.8 "	"	4.6 "
April	138.4 "	"	4.6 "
May	184.8 "	"	6.0 "
June	275.6 "	"	9.2 "
July	182.0 "	"	5.9 "
August	204.1 "	"	6.6 "
September	156.6 "	"	5.2 "
October	144.0 "	"	4.6 "
November	32.4 "	"	1.1 "
December	84.3 "	"	2.7 "

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TOTAL	1690.5 "	(Total 1961 = 1859.6 hours)
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	Most sunshine recorded in any one day.	Date.	Sunless days.
January	7.7 hours	29th	13
February	7.7 "	5th	8
March	10.5 "	19th	4
April	11.8 "	20th	4
May	15.0 "	31st	3
June	15.4 "	14th	1
July	13.2 "	7th	1
August	13.5 "	4th	2
September	11.9 "	9th	4
October	9.6 "	1st	6
November	7.5 "	15th	16
December	7.4 "	3rd	10

RAINFALL.

		Most recorded in any one day.
January	1.98 inches	0.38 inches
February	0.55 "	0.35 "
March	1.68 "	0.40 "
April	1.58 "	0.47 "
May	1.26 "	0.31 "
June	0.11 "	0.08 "
July	1.83 "	0.67 "
August	2.24 "	1.51 "
September	1.28 "	0.28 "
October	1.94 "	0.73 "
November	3.33 "	0.79 "
December	1.59 "	0.31 "

TOTAL 19.37 " (Total for 1961 = 23.91 inches)



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

Samples of water, ice cream and other pathological specimens are sent to the nearest Public Health Laboratory situated at Preston Hall, Maidstone.

Examinations of pathological specimens are also carried out at the laboratories at the Ramsgate and Margate General Hospitals for medical practitioners.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The provision of an ambulance service is the responsibility of the Kent County Council. Two ambulances are stationed at the Health Centre and are controlled from the Divisional Headquarters at Broadstairs.

MEDICAL COMFORTS.

Medical comforts, such as bath chairs, bed rests etc. can be hired from the St. John Ambulance Corps, St. Pauls Hall, Sussex Street, for a small weekly hire charge. The depot is open daily between 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. and provides a useful service both for residents and visitors. In addition, a First Aid Beach Hut is provided and manned by the Corps during the summer season at which minor accidents can be dealt with on the spot, thus relieving a certain amount of pressure on the Ambulance Service.

MORTUARY.

The Municipal Mortuary situated in the grounds of the Police Station continues to function. The number of bodies admitted during the year was 98, 96 of which had post mortems carried out.

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.

	At Health Centre.		At Broad Street.	
Infant Clinics:	Monday Wednesday	} 2 - 4 p.m.	Tuesday Thursday	} 2 - 4 p.m.

School Health Service.

Minor Ailments:      Monday      }  
                                  Wednesday }      9.30 a.m.

Dental Clinics:      By appointment

Orthopaedic "      do.

Ophthalmic "      Tuesday 9 - 11 a.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

This Clinic, is now in its eighth year and is held at Hut C, Margate General Hospital. The Medical Officer in charge, Dr.M.Cagney, informs me that attendances show a slight increase compared with the previous year. The reasons given for attendance at this clinic are (1) the planning of a family, (2) health, i.e. some definite medical or surgical reason, (3) pre-marital advice, and (4) sub-fertility.

HOSPITALS.

Mr. R.A.G.White, Secretary of the Ramsgate General Hospital, informs me that the following patients were dealt with during 1962 :-

	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
In-patients:    Maternity	997	895
Others	2100	2073
Out-patients:    Casualty department	8367	8445
Special Departments:		
Medical	416	373
Surgical	1277	1319
Gynaecological	285	232
Ophthalmic	539	600
Paediatric	34	97
Ear, Nose and throat	650	662
Rheumatic	75	100
Ante-natal	488	487
Post-natal	344	367
Dermatological	338	343
Mental illness	234	217
Orthopaedic	1683	1711
Dental	74	98
* Physical medicine	93	274
Diseases of chest	138	286
Radiotherapy	163	186



The number of units of work (examinations and/or treatment) performed in the Radiological and Physiotherapy Departments was :-

	1962.	1961.
Radiological	17,385	17,740
* Physiotherapy	17,299	31,462

(\* Owing to shortage of physiotherapy staff the Physical Medicine and Physiotherapy Departments were transferred temporarily to the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, as from 19th April 1962).

Individual patients' requests involving work in the Pathological Department :-

12,224	11,889
--------	--------

The following patients were dealt with at Haine Hospital during 1962 compared with 1961 :-

Infectious Diseases	228	220
Chronic sick	71	48
Dermatological	163	153
Medical	261	186

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

The registration and supervision of Nursing Homes is the responsibility of the Local Authority, and at the end of the year there was only one home on the register, providing beds for medical patients only :-

21 Vale Square and annexe	60 beds.
---------------------------	----------

One registered Nursing Home ceased to function as from 1st November 1962. 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 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 condition, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Application to the Court for the removal of one elderly person coming within one of these categories was made and the patient was removed to a Home. One other elderly person coming within the provisions of the Acts volunteered to be admitted to a suitable Institution, and enquiries into the circumstances of three other elderly persons was undertaken by the Department.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50.

Six persons were buried during 1962 by the Local Authority at a cost of £82.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, provided by the Kent County Council, dealt with the following cases in Ramsgate during 1962 :-

Family Care	14
Family Welfare	1
Maternity cases	37
Aged	470
Others	52
Evening service	24
Tubercular patients	9
Night cases	3
	<hr/>
	610
	<hr/>

The total number of helpers employed during the year was 64, and the average number of cases attended each week was 230.

HOME NURSING.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

These services are provided by the Kent County Council. Four District Nurses and four Midwives are employed in the Borough.



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. Normally the supply is sufficient for all purposes, but should the need arise, it can be augmented from other sources within the area served by the Board. This water is drawn from the deep chalk strata, and is very hard, though much of the hardness is temporary and is removed by heating, leaving the typical 'fur' on the inside of pipes and kettles. On the other hand, the water in passing through the chalk is subject to a natural filtration and thus has a high standard of purity, and it is most unusual to find any bacteria or deleterious material even in untreated water. Nevertheless, all water is being chlorinated before being passed into public supply. It is most important that the purity of the water supply is maintained at its present high level, thus there is some concern over the building developments in that part of the catchment area where there is no main drainage as this always creates a danger of pollution. It was anticipated that work on the schemes for sewerage these areas, Cliffsend and Manston, would commence during the year 1962, but there has been some unavoidable delay.

Water is sampled frequently by the officers of the Thanet Water Board and submitted for bacteriological examination, further samples are also taken at regular intervals by the Public Health Inspectors also for bacteriological examination. This apparent duplication is carried out to ensure a complete coverage and provide an independent check on the supply. Bacteriological examination of water supplies is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory service, Preston Hall, Maidstone. A total of 48 samples were submitted for examination, and all were reported as being satisfactory.

In addition, four samples were taken and submitted to the South Eastern Laboratory, Canterbury, for chemical analysis, and a copy of one of the reports is reproduced hereunder :-

Appearance	Clear and bright.
Odour	None.
	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Free and saline ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	10.0
Chlorine as chlorides	79
Temporary hardness	250
Total hardness	318
Permanent hardness	68
Total solids	520
pH value	7.2



I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the information concerning drainage and sewerage, refuse collection and disposal, and public cleansing, as under :-

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new major works have been carried out during 1962 but the scheme for the main drainage of the Manston and Cliffsend districts has been approved for grant by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and in addition, the Kent County Council has agreed to make a contribution. A tender for the works has been obtained and it is anticipated that the scheme will commence within the next few months.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The disposal of all domestic and trade refuse is dealt with at the controlled tip adjoining Sandwich Road and during the year a total of 79,900 cubic yards of refuse was collected and disposed of by this means.

Of this total, 66,867 cubic yards was domestic and 13,061 was trade refuse, an increase of 17.6% over 1961.

A fourth 23 cubic yard enclosed 'Fore and Aft' tipping collecting vehicle is on order and will be brought into service in the early summer of 1963.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During 1962 there were no alterations to the system of street sweeping and cleansing which employs the gang system with electric orderly trucks in the residential areas and individual beat sweepers in the business and sea front areas, and both methods are augmented by a mechanical road sweeper/collector and two gulley emptiers fitted with street washing equipment.

#### 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.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Public Health Inspectors paid a total of 6,408 visits during the year. Information about their work including lists of notices, together with results of these notices, is to be found in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector which follows.



SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Public Health Inspectors are responsible for the administration of the Shops Act in its entirety. Further information is to be found in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.Caravans and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Seven sites are licensed to accommodate a total of 310 caravans, and are restricted to use during the holiday season only. All sites are subject to the conditions laid down in the Model Standards as modified for holiday sites. There are no residential sites within the Borough.

The sites are reserved for bona-fide mobile caravans and tents are not encouraged. The Council has made accommodation available for 42 caravans or tents on a site in Nethercourt Park, and there is provision for overflow in the peak season at King George VI Memorial Park.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

There is very little smoke producing industry in the town. Steam raising plants are largely oil fired and those that do use solid fuel give very little trouble. Atmospheric pollution, such as there is, is largely confined to domestic smoke, and, with our fortunate situation, dilution and dispersal is so rapid that pollution is infinitesimal.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The Act came into force on 1st April, and being a consolidating Act, has made very little change in administration. The following table shows the number on the register at 31st December 1962, together with inspections and defects dealt with.

<u>(i) Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of premises.</u>	<u>Number of:</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written notices.</u>
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority.	28	8	-
Factories not included above in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	164	43	-
Other premises	42	4	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-</b>



## (ii) Defects.

No. of cases in which defects were :-

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred:</u>		
			<u>To H.M.</u> <u>Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u> <u>Inspector.</u>	<u>Prosec-</u> <u>utions.</u>
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-					
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable	-	-	-	-	-
Not separate for					
sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-

Thirty three outworkers were registered, all of which were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Marina Swimming Pool is the only one available to the general public. This is an open air pool, now under the Council's management, and is operated on the continuous circulation principle.

The pool is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season, and topping-up water is added from time to time to make up any loss. There is a considerable loss of water through leaks where the concrete bottom is cracked and fresh sea water has to be taken in at every available tide. During operation, water is drawn off through the outlet at the bottom of the diving well, filtered and chlorinated, and then returned to the pool through inlets spaced around the perimeter. Similarly, fresh sea water is filtered and chlorinated before being admitted to the pool.

Colorimetric tests for residual chlorine and pH values are taken daily, and samples of the water are despatched to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination at weekly intervals. It is not claimed that the water is sterile, but the results of this examination have not given any cause for anxiety.

There are three other pools in the area, these are not available to the public. Two are reserved for school use, and the other, newly constructed, forms part of the recreational facilities at one of the caravan sites.

Three slipper baths are available for public use, one for men in the Charlotte Court conveniences, and two for women in the Paragon conveniences. In addition there are four shower baths in the Pier Yard conveniences.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Six Marine Stores are registered under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907, and two of these, being dealers in rags and bones, are also registered as offensive trades under the Public Health 1936.

PET ANIMALS ACT.

Five premises are licensed as Pet shops under the provisions of this Act. These are visited regularly to ensure that the animals are being kept properly and that there is no nuisance.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956.

Local Authority responsibility in this field is limited to the provision of sanitary accommodation for workers on the land, the Minister is responsible for the enforcement of the provision of washing facilities. There seems to be no valid reason for this rather peculiar division of responsibility, and it is odd that Local Authorities cannot be entrusted with the enforcement of the whole of Section 3 of the Act. Particular stress is laid on the employment of casual labour at certain seasons of the year, that is when the labour force is likely to exceed what is considered reasonable provision for normal working. Chemical closets and screens are provided where existing facilities are inadequate, and it has not been found necessary to take any enforcement action.



## SECTION VI.

H O U S I N G.CLEARANCE AREAS.

All the houses in the Elizabeth Road Area have been vacated, the houses demolished and the site cleared and levelled. Negotiations for the purchase of houses in the Turner Street Area have not reached fruition, although this Order was confirmed in November 1960.

The two Clearance Areas declared during 1961, Newcastle Hill and Alfred Cottages, were confirmed as Compulsory Purchase Orders after a Public Inquiry in January. Negotiations for purchase are proceeding, but the houses had not been vacated at the end of the year. No further Clearance Areas were declared during 1962, preparatory work has been carried out, but the demand for housing accommodation has far exceeded the supply and after careful consideration it was decided that no more areas could be represented until a real move had been made on the construction of sufficient houses or flats to deal with the immediate need. Individual houses, where it is obvious that action cannot be delayed, are being dealt with, though we are reluctant to take this sort of piece-meal action.

Nine houses have been dealt with as individual unfit houses. Demolition Orders have been made on four of these, but with the remaining five demolition was not practicable and Closing Orders have been made. Two basement dwellings (Underground Rooms) have been closed.

Closing Orders on three dwellinghouses have been revoked, the necessary works being carried out and the houses made fit.

The following table repeats the information given in the quarterly returns to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government :-

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED.

<u>In Clearance Areas.</u>		<u>Houses</u> <u>demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u> <u>Persons. Families.</u>	
(i)	Houses unfit for human habitation	13	24	15
(ii)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	2	2	1
(iii)	Houses on land acquired under Sec.43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-

<u>Not in Clearance Areas.</u>	<u>Houses demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced:</u>	
		<u>Persons.</u>	<u>Families.</u>
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec.17(1) Housing Act	5	3	2

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED.

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

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT.

	<u>By owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	123	-
(ix) After formal notice under:		
(a) Public Health Acts	9	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	4	1
(x) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act	-	-

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

A total of 163 applications were received during 1962. At the end of the year there were 999 applications on the housing waiting list.

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>Properties.</u>	<u>Families.</u>	<u>Persons.</u>
Council houses	61	62	284
Prefab bungalows	10	10	24
Flats	29	29	88
Maisonettes	21	21	86
Aged persons dwellings	15	15	18
	136	137	500



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

Pre-war schemes	583
-----------------	-----

Post-war schemes:-

Traditional houses	864
Prefab bungalows	199
Traditional flats	268
Maisonettes	20
Aged persons dwellings	50
Houses purchased by Council	108

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2092

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## SECTION VII.

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

STATISTICS.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1962 :-

Age group.	Poliomyelitis:		Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Dysentery.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
	Para-lytic.	Non para-lytic.					
0-1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
1-2	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
2-3	-	-	1	-	9	-	-
3-4	-	-	1	-	19	-	-
4-5	-	-	4	1	3	-	-
5-10	-	-	3	-	26	1	-
10-15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	1	1	-	13
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	10	4	67	2	13
Number of cases removed to hospital.	-	-	10	-	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA.

No case of this disease has been notified in Ramsgate for the past 15 years. During the year, 496 primary and 384 re-inforcing injections were given to children under the age of 15 years as a result of the immunisation campaign.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Only four cases were notified, and a total of 436 children were given a primary inoculation against the disease.

MEASLES.

There was no epidemic during the year, 67 cases only were notified.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of smallpox has been notified for many years. There was a definite increase in the number of persons vaccinated during the year due to a number of cases of this disease notified elsewhere, and 1656 primary vaccinations were carried out, together with 757 persons who were re-vaccinated. It is interesting to note that well over 50% of children under the age of 1 year are vaccinated.

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

No case of Poliomyelitis occurred.

The County Medical Officer informs me that the following injections were given under the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme during 1962 :-

2 Injections (Salk)	174
3rd Dose (Salk and Oral)	1235
4th Dose (Salk and Oral)	635
3 Orals (Complete course)	477

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

Ten cases were notified during the year and all were removed to Haine Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

It was not found necessary to take any action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

New cases notified and deaths which occurred during 1962 are tabulated below :-

Age group.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-resp.		Respiratory.		Non-resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December 1962 was :-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Respiratory	99	73	172
Non-respiratory	16	9	25
	<b>115</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>197</b>

This shows a reduction of 37 compared with the previous year. Of the removals, 67 in all, which occurred, 52 were classified as having recovered from the disease, 10 had removed to other areas and 5 as having died.



MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mobile Radiography unit did not visit Ramsgate during the year. There is however, facilities available for the general public at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, each Thursday between the hours of 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

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

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

Dr. D. Sharvill, Medical Officer in charge of the Clinic informs me that the work continues to be light compared with previous years, and the area does not share in the nation wide increase in gonorrhoea, possibly because there is no substantial immigrant population. There were no new cases of syphilis during the year, but of the 14 new cases of gonorrhoea from Ramsgate, it is known that a greater proportion of them were casual workers and the infection was acquired outside the Borough.

In spite of these small numbers, one cannot be complacent about the situation, and vigilance and contact tracing are still necessary.

SECTION VIII.  
-----INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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

MILK.

All milk sold by retail in the area is sold under one or other of the Special Designations. Milk is being pasteurised by the H.T.S.T. method, one plant only has been in operation during the year.

The experiment in carton packaging introduced during 1961 has proved successful, and is being continued as a permanent measure. Thus milk in glass bottles is no longer available for retail sale from shops, but glass bottles are being retained for door to door delivery and for school milk.

LICENCES.

There has been no general issue of licences during the year, a limited number of new licences have been granted which relate mainly to changes in occupancy. The total number of licences to retail milk now amounts to 135.

EXAMINATION AND TESTING.

Samples of milk are taken at frequent intervals at all points in the chain of distribution and submitted for examination by the methylene blue and phosphatase tests, and, in the case of sterilised milk, for the turbidity test. School milks are sampled at the same time and the Education Authority notified of the results. A total of 59 samples were taken during the year, all satisfied the prescribed tests.

ADULTERATION.

Thirty six formal and one informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, all were reported as being genuine. The informal sample was taken from a milk vending machine.

The presumptive standard for milk as laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations is 3 per cent fat and 8.5 per cent solids not fat. This standard has been exceeded in Ramsgate over many years as is indicated in the comparative figures for the past four years given overleaf :-



	1962.	1961.	1960.	1959.
Fats	4.28	3.93	3.78	3.71
Solids not fat	8.93	8.79	8.76	8.78
Total	13.21	12.71	12.54	12.49

A break-down of the figures for 1962 only gives :-

(i) Pasteurised milk. Average: Fats 3.91  
Solids not fat 8.82  
Total 12.73

(ii) Channel Islands Milk: Average: Fats 4.63  
Solids not fat 9.03  
Total 13.66

(Channel Islands milk must contain not less than 4% fats).

### ICE CREAM.

Forty seven samples of ice cream were taken for bio-chemical examination, i.e. testing and grading according to the methylene blue test in the manner indicated in Circular 8/59 Ice Cream (Heat treatment) Regulations 1959, and the grades were as follows :-

Grade I	26
Grade II	9
Grade III	7
Grade IV	5

Only one of the samples falling into Grade IV was produced outside the Borough and both the manufacturer and the Authority were notified. The remaining low grade samples were produced within the Borough, in many cases a complete cold mix was concerned, and whilst some improvement did occur, on 'follow-up' sampling it was not maintained. Investigation had to be abandoned when the firms concerned closed down at the end of the season.

### Standard.

Four samples of ice cream, including three of soft mix ice cream, have been taken and submitted for analysis. All were found to comply with the standard prescribed in the Food Standard (Ice Cream) Regulations 1959. The prescribed standard for ice cream in each case is 5% fats and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ % solids not fat, but in the case of dairy ice cream, the fat must be milk fat, no other fat is permitted.

The greater part of the ice cream sold in the Borough is pre-packed, the sale of loose ice cream from bulk in mixed shops is not encouraged. There is a flourishing trade in 'soft' ice cream sold direct from the freezer.



FOOD PREMISES.(a) Restaurants.

Restaurants and cafes in the town number 95, there are also 53 snack bars and 21 hotels providing meals for non-residents as well as residents. All are subject to frequent visits and it has not been found necessary to take any formal action during the year.

(b) Bakehouses.

The small private bakehouse is gradually disappearing in the face of intensive competition from the larger combines and the number of bakehouses remaining on the register at the end of the year was reduced to 11. On the other hand we have an increasing number of bread and cake shops newly fitted out on more modern and hygienic lines.

(c) Preserved Foods.

Fifty seven premises are registered under Section 16(1)(b) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, to prepare various types of preserved and manufactured foods, as under :-

Preparation of sausages, cooked and pickled meats	36
Preparation of cooked meats only	7
Bacon smoking and ham curing	1
Fish curing and smoking	2
Cooking and preparation of shellfish	2
Manufacture of pickles	2
Manufacture of sugar confectionery	7

All premises are subject to periodic inspection.

(d) Fish Fryers.

Twenty one premises are registered for the trade of fish frying.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

There is no slaughtering carried on in the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

A total of 8 tons 14 cwts. of unsound meat and various tinned goods etc. was surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. ADULTERATION.

One hundred and twenty three samples (44 formal and 79 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	36	3
Evaporated milk	-	1
Jelly etc	-	6
Cocoa	-	1
Vinegar	-	2
Sago	-	1
Jam	-	4
Scotch Broth	-	1
Coffee	1	4
Cake and pastry	-	3
Tinned meat	-	9
Fruit salad	1	-
Fruit drink	-	4
Confectionery	-	7
Soup	-	2
Raisins	-	1
Pork Brawn	-	1
Egg rusks	-	1
Chocolate	-	1
Ice cream	-	4
Brine	-	1
Butter	1	1
Tinned crab	-	1
Tripe	-	1
Tinned shrimps	-	1
Sausages	-	1
Lemonade powder	-	1
Beef curry	-	1
Welsh rarebit	-	1
Apple flakes	-	1
Mint sauce	-	1
Bread mix	-	1
Yorkshire pudding mix	-	1
Lemon pie filling	1	1
Trex	-	1
Pepper	-	2
Cauliflower	-	1
Scampi	1	-
Frankfurters	1	-
Tea	1	-
Glace cherries	1	-
Mincemeat	-	2
Margarine	-	1
Rice	-	1
Christmas pudding	-	1



### PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD) REGULATIONS.

In cases where appropriate the Public Analyst examined the foregoing samples for the presence of preservatives and with the exception of two samples of coffee, all were declared to be within the prescribed limits.

The sample of instant coffee, imported into this country, was found to contain an excess of sulphur dioxide, and formal samples confirmed the amount to be 450 parts per million. This was followed back to the importer, and it was found that the Local Authority for that area had already instituted proceedings. In the circumstances the Committee decided to send a warning letter.

### SHELLFISH.

Frequent visits are made to 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 end of each day, and stall holders have the use of washing facilities in a wash room nearby.

The Pegwell Bay Shellfish Regulations prohibit the sale for human consumption of cockles gathered in Pegwell Bay unless and until they have been sterilised by steam under pressure for six minutes. There is no steam sterilisation plant in the Borough and cockles are not being collected from there. All cockles sold in the district are brought in from other areas under guarantee of sterilisation. Some mussels and whelks are collected locally and cooked on the vendor's own premises, but during the holiday season it is often necessary to augment local supplies by importation from other areas.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1962.  
-----Amount of shipping entering the port.

Ships from:	Number.	Tonnage.	No. inspected;		No. reported as having had infectious disease on board.
			By MOH.	By PHI.	
Foreign ports	855	99,000	-	20	-
Coastwise	1212	98,500	-	-	-
TOTAL	2067	197,500	-	20	-

Character of shipping and trade.

## Passenger traffic:

No. of passengers inwards	32,697
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No. of passengers outwards	29,543
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## Cargo traffic:

Principal imports - Motor vehicles, timber, wheat  
and fertiliser.

A separate yearly report has been submitted to the Ministry of Health in which was set out details of all health services available for the port. There have been no changes in any of these arrangements during the year 1962.

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 by air.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during the past year. The report essentially consists of figures relating to the number of visits and inspections, with a tabular statement of work done. I have taken the opportunity of making comment on some aspects of the work and must stress that where opinions are expressed, they are my own and do not necessarily express the opinion of the Council.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their co-operation and support, and to my fellow officers and members of the staff, in particular to the Medical Officer of Health.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. WELLER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

During 1962 it was found necessary to stop work on slum clearance, thus no new Clearance areas have been declared. This drastic action was necessary as the demand for housing accommodation had outstripped supply, and until there is an increase in the number of dwellings under construction, the clearance of unfit dwellings must stop. The Council is well aware of the situation and vigorous action is being taken to improve it, contracts are being placed for the construction of large blocks of flats, work will start during 1963, and it is to be expected that slum clearance, at least the first stages will be resumed soon after. There is a feeling of acute disappointment over this action as there is no wish to prolong the life of unfit dwellings any further than is necessary, but we are governed by economic and planning considerations. It is unlikely however, that this delay will have any serious effect on the implementation of the slum clearance programme.

It must be remembered that slum clearance is not an end in itself, whilst the humanitarian aspect is of first importance, it should be considered in conjunction with the proper development of the town, thus the clearance of unfit areas should proceed concurrently with rebuilding so that alternative accommodation is ready as families are displaced.

Apart from slum clearance, there is a real need for systematic house to house inspection. This would enable us to put our fingers on those houses which are falling into disrepair by neglect or otherwise, and use our powers of persuasion or enforcement to get these houses brought up to an acceptable standard. This is essential work and would help considerably in reducing the future slum problem, but there is not sufficient qualified staff in the Health Department to carry out the work in the manner envisaged by the Housing Acts or Public Health Acts.

At this stage it is well to consider the record over the past few years. From the 1st January 1955 to the end of 1962, thirteen clearance areas have been declared, comprising a total of 161 houses. 122 unfit houses have been demolished, this includes individual demolition orders, and 122 families have been displaced. Of the displaced families, 96 have been re-housed by the Council, 26 did not require Council house accommodation.

The present position is :-

Turner Street Compulsory Purchase Order.

This Order was confirmed in 1960, but owing to difficulties beyond the Council's control, the houses had not been acquired by the end of the year, and are still occupied.



Elizabeth Road Compulsory Purchase Order.

This area has been acquired, the families have been re-housed and the houses demolished. The site is now being used as a temporary car park pending future development.

Newcastle Hill Compulsory Purchase Order.

This Order was confirmed without modification after a Public Inquiry held in January. Re-housing had not commenced at the end of the year, but will not be delayed as the site is required to complete the development now proceeding.

Alfred Cottages Compulsory Purchase Order.

This Order was also confirmed without modification after a Public Inquiry held in January. Re-housing had not commenced at the end of the year.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Four demolition orders have been made, these houses had not been vacated at the end of the year. Five closing orders were made where demolition was impracticable owing to the situation of the houses in question. The tenants of two of these houses have been re-housed.

Two basement dwellings have been closed during the same period.

Closing Orders made on three dwellinghouses in 1961 have been revoked, necessary works have been carried out and the houses made fit.

RENT ACT, 1957.

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received, one certificate has been issued, and one undertaking has been given by the owner. Three applications for cancellation of certificates have been received, and no objections having been received, all were cancelled. Since the Rent Act came into force, a total of 68 Certificates have been granted, 15 have been cancelled, leaving 53 still in force.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer, and in order to avoid the possibility of grants being made in unsuitable cases, such as where property is likely to be included in a Clearance Area and cannot be given the required life, all applications are referred to the Health Department for a report.

Ninety applications for grants were made and 88 were granted.

#### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Regular and frequent inspections of food premises are carried out in an endeavour to maintain as high a standard as possible. These frequent inspections are important as it means that faults can be detected and corrected at the outset before they can become serious. It was not found necessary to take any enforcement action during the year.

#### PROSECUTIONS ETC.

Two prosecutions have been taken under the Food and Drugs Act during the year. These were as follows :-

1. Pork chops purchased from a self-service store which were found to be unfit. The vendors pleaded guilty and were fined £15 and costs.
2. Bread rolls purchased from a retailer which were found to be mouldy. The retailer in turn brought in his supplier, who was dismissed from the case. The first defendant was found guilty and fined £5 and costs.

Certain other matters concerning foods were reported to the Health Committee and when all the facts were considered it was decided that warnings would be the more appropriate :-

1. Boned Chicken in Jelly: In this the label was considered to be misleading, and the Public Analyst expressed the opinion that the meat content was too low.
2. Instant Coffee: An imported product which contained an excess of sulphur dioxide preservative. In this case it was found that the wholesalers were being proceeded against by another local authority, and it was decided that a warning would be sufficient.
3. Foreign objects in Milk:
  - (a) Cake paper. There was some doubt as to how this paper got into the bottle, and because of this a warning was given.
  - (b) Metal spool in school milk: In this case the Analyst was unable to show that the object would have any deleterious effect on the milk, and it was decided that a warning should be given.

A further complaint was received regarding a leaf in a



bottle of school milk. Suspicions were aroused when this was found to be a holly leaf, this being immediately after the Christmas holidays, and when enquiries were made it was found to be no more than a schoolboy prank. The Headmaster was left to deal with the culprit.

#### SHELLFISH.

The shellfish stalls in the Pier Yard continue to operate as hitherto. These are kept under observation and they are as satisfactory as such stalls are ever likely to be.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Ramsgate's fortunate situation and the absence of heavy industry keeps the area free from serious atmospheric pollution. There has been an almost complete conversion to oil fuel where steam raising apparatus is used, and when these are properly maintained, there is little, if any, visible smoke.

#### CAMPING SITES.

Seven sites are licensed under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, these licences are limited to the period from 1st March to 31st October in each year, and cater for holiday traffic only. The total number of caravan spaces amounts to 285, in most cases the caravans are stationed on the sites all the year round, but remain unoccupied during the winter months. A very few spaces are left available for touring caravans, and there is no space for tents on any of the licensed sites. The Corporation has set aside a part of Nethercourt Park to provide accommodation for tents, and provision for overflow at the peak season is available at King George VI Memorial Park. None of this is sufficient to meet the demand as there is a great deal of unauthorised camping during the holiday season, and until more sites are made available, particularly for tents, this is likely to increase.

#### SHOPS ACT.

The whole of the administration of the Shops Act comes within the purview of the Health Department, and 493 visits have been paid to shops within the year. These visits are concerned with the health and comfort of shopworkers, hours of closing and Sunday trading. A large proportion of these visits are made outside normal office hours, it has been found that at the beginning of the 'off' season period, there is a tendency for some shopkeepers to keep open beyond normal closing hours and to continue trading on Sundays. This may be due to some confusion over the timing of

the seasonal concessions, as during the four holiday months, shops are allowed to keep open up to 10 p.m. and for some purposes all day on Sundays. Usually it is sufficient to direct the shopkeeper's attention to the regulations when offences occur, and most are willing to keep within the law.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

Complaints of noise have been rather less than last year. I am at a loss to say if this indicates an improvement in the noise position or rather more tolerance by the public. Where complaints have been made, they have been investigated and so far we have been able to find an acceptable solution.

#### CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS.

The number of places of amusement for public music and/or dancing in the Borough is 89, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

#### COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 577. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona-fide complainant can be sure of receiving prompt and sympathetic consideration.

#### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

During the general observations kept on shops for other purposes, i.e. Shops Act, Food Hygiene Regulations etc. note is also taken of the marking of produce in conformity with the requirements of the Merchandise Marks Act. It is rarely found to be necessary to correct the shopkeeper on this point, and there has been no occasion to institute proceedings.

#### NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	150.
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	120.
Work carried out voluntarily	50.
Statutory notices served	11.



INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

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

## Public Health Act:

Inspections	136
Re-inspections	675
Repairs	117

## Housing Act:

Inspections	87
Re-inspections	313
Improvement Grants	88
Rent Act	1
Work in progress	27
Overcrowding	7
Council houses	10

## Food and Drugs Act:

Bakehouses	19
Ice cream premises	275
Fish fryers	41
Restaurants	187
Shellfish	4
Other food premises	833
Shops re Unsound food	348

## Milk and Dairies Regulations:

Dairies	15
Distributors	167

## Sampling:

Food and Drugs	122
Designated milk	63
Ice cream	47
Water	44
Swimming pool	122

## Factories Act:

Factories - mechanical	43
" - non-mechanical	8
Workplaces	4

## Rodent Control:

Business premises	4
Dwellinghouses	13

## Other inspections:

Drainage	277
Drainage - stoppages	144
Drains tested	55
Accumulations	65
Keeping of animals	22
Refuse receptacles	175
Public conveniences	36
Smoke abatement	29
Caravans and camping sites	48
Infectious diseases	30
Music and dancing	2
Licensed premises	27
Places of public entertainment	11
Schools	28
School kitchens	5
Shipping	20
Shops Act	493
Pet Animals Act	10
Merchandise Marks Act	4
Verminous premises	76
Interviews	588
Miscellaneous visits	264
Noise abatement	3

IMPROVEMENTS AS RESULT OF INSPECTIONS.

## Drainage system:

Drains cleared	76
Drains amended	18
Sink gully traps provided	6
Inspection chambers built	10
Soil and vent pipes fitted	7
" " repaired	3

## Internal repairs:

Floors relaid	1
W.C. cisterns provided	7
W.C. cisterns repaired	4
Sash cords renewed	16
Windows repaired	29
Sinks trapped	4
Sinks provided	8
Lavatory basins provided	7
Fireplaces renewed	4
Fireplaces repaired	2



W.C. pans fixed	23
W.C. seats renewed	8
Plaster repaired	42
Water service provided	2
Water service improved	6
Walls repaired	3
Floors repaired	8
Doors repaired	8
Baths provided	2

## External repairs:

Chimney stacks repaired	4
Eaves gutters renewed	8
" repaired	2
Walls repointed	9
Roof repaired	43
Yards paved	4
Walls treated	9
Walls rebuilt	1

## Shops:

Heating provided	3
W.C. renovated	1
Hot water provided	4
Wash-hand basins provided	1
Sinks provided	2

## Factories:

Sanitary accommodation improved	1
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## Cafes:

Sinks fitted	1
Wash-hand basins fitted	4
Water heaters provided	5
Redecorated and cleansed	5

## Miscellaneous:

Accumulations removed	22
Verminous houses cleansed	23
Refuse receptacles provided	71
Houses renovated throughout	1
Keeping of animals abated	1

## Bakehouses:

Sinks provided	2
Rooms cleansed	1
Hot water provided	1
Refrigeration provided	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Investigations are made into all cases of notifiable disease and contacts followed up. This matter is dealt with more fully by the Medical Officer of Health in Section VII.

DISINFECTION.

Twenty five rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and cancer, and 11 sets of bedding were treated in the steam disinfectant.

PEST CONTROL.

It is almost traditional for the Health Department to be called in to help whenever insect infestations occur, and the measures we employ are usually successful. Fleas and bugs are still with us, but are so much less common than formerly that there is a feeling of shock when one encounters a serious infestation. Cockroaches are troublesome from time to time, these are often associated with structural defects, and now we have accepted responsibility for dealing with wasp nests. Each case is treated on its merits, and we use liquid or powder insecticides as circumstances demand. Although there have been reports of insect immunity to synthetic insecticides, i.e. DDT and BHC, indeed this has become quite a problem in some localities, so far we have no reason to suspect that any such immunity exists in this area.

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	-	-	5	7
Fleas	2	10	21	112
Flies, beetles, insects etc.	9	29	22	69

In addition, 40 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

One set of bedding believed to be infested or soiled after death was removed for treatment and 45 lots were destroyed at the request of owners.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

One full-time Rodent Operator is employed to deal with complaints of rodent infestation and treatments are carried out in all classes of property. A charge is made for the treatment of business



premises but private dwellinghouses are treated free of charge.

When complaints are investigated, the survey includes adjoining property. This policy of thorough examination has proved worthwhile as the rat population is being kept under control. The few agricultural buildings in the area are surveyed from time to time, mainly to ensure that treatments are being carried out. Occupants know about Warfarin and use it. They know the importance of keeping their premises clear of rats and do not hesitate to ask for the services of the rodent operator when considered necessary.

A perennial source of infestation is of course the controlled tip on Sandwich Road. This is kept under observation and any signs of infestation is quickly dealt with. The nature of the material does encourage rats, and there is other wild life present including many protected birds. The introduction of a new form of bait container last year has helped considerably in dealing with the rat population on this ever moving terrain, and has removed the danger of destruction of other forms of wild life. There has been no evidence of any infestation by coypu.

Sewer treatments are continued at six monthly intervals. As a result of this regular treatment, the rat population in the sewer is extremely low. Complete eradication is not to be expected, some sections of sewer are beyond reach, but we are able to keep rats within a manageable number.

## I N D E X.

	<u>Page.</u>
Area	5
Age at death	9
Ambulance facilities	13
Adulteration - food	32
Aircraft Regulations	34
Births	5
Birth Rate	5
Bakehouses	31
Causes of death	8
Clinics	13, 14
Closet accommodation	18
Clean Air Act	19, 39
Clearance areas	22
Camping Sites	19, 39
Cinemas	40
Complaints	40
Deaths - total	7
Death Rates	7
Deaths - ages at	9
Domestic Help Service	16
Drainage and sewerage	18
Diphtheria	26
Disinfection	44
Family Planning Clinic	14
Factories	19
Fish fryers	31
Food Poisoning	26
Food Hygiene Regulations	38
General Rate	5
Health Committee	2
Hospitals	14
Home Nursing	16
Housing	23, 36
Housing - applications	23



Infantile deaths	...	6
Infantile Mortality Rates	..	6
Infectious Diseases	...	25,44
Ice cream	...	30
Improvement Grants	...	37
Inspections	...	41
Improvements	...	42
Laboratory facilities	...	13
Meteorology	...	11
Medical comforts	...	13
Mortuary	...	13
Midwifery service	...	16
Moveable dwellings	...	19
Measles	...	26
Mass radiography	...	28
Milk	...	29
Merchandise Marks Act	...	40
Natural and social conditions		10
Nursing Homes	...	15
National Assistance Acts	...	15
Notices	...	40
Noise Abatement Act	...	40
Offensive Trades	...	21
Population	...	5
Public cleansing	...	18
Pet Animals Act	...	21
Poliomyelitis	...	26
Preservatives in food	...	33
Prosecutions	...	38
Pest control	...	44
Pests Act	...	44
Rateable value	...	5
Rainfall	...	12
Refuse collection	...	18
Rivers and streams	...	18
Rent Act	...	37
Restaurants	...	31

Staff	...	3
Stillbirths	...	6
Sunshine	...	11
School Health Service	...	14
Smallpox	...	26
Sanitary inspection	...	18
Shops Act	...	19, 39
Swimming Baths	...	20
Scarlet Fever	...	26
Slaughter of animals	...	31
Shellfish	...	33, 39
Shipping	...	36
Trend of mortality	...	9
Tuberculosis	...	27
Vaccination	...	26
Venereal diseases	...	28
Water supply	...	17
Whooping Cough	...	26



