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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1964

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - JUNE 1964.

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor S.C.Haywood, B.E.M., J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Mrs J. Neeves.

His Worship the Mayor
(Alderman F.R.Smith, J.P)

Councillor P. Ashley

" C.H.Barton

" Miss L.C.Chamberlain

" C.T.Curzon

" J. Hill


" Mrs F. Mussell

" N.G.Rabson

" E.H.Swendell

" Mrs P.F.Williams

" P.J.A.Wood



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

G.L.Brocklehurst, M.D. (Lond), D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

C.H.Weller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

F. Brown, M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b) (d)

T C.P.Mansell (Commenced 1.7.64) (c)

D. Liles (Commenced 30.7.64) (c)
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

A.J.Longley (Pupil - Commenced 27.7.64)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S.Robertson

Miss F. Holliday (Commenced 10.2.64)

DISINFECTOR:

G.C.Riordan

RODENT OPERATOR:

V.C.Barker

PUBLIC ANALYST:

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

- (a) Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.Exam. Joint Board
- (b) Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
- (c) Certificate P.H.I. Education Board
- (d) Certificate, Food Hygiene, R.S.I.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1964.

The Registrar General gives an estimated mid-year population of 38,200, an increase of 530 over the figure estimated for 1963, 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 a slight increase in the number of live births, giving a Birth Rate of 18.9 per 1,000 of population. This increase has been maintained over a period of years. It is to be deprecated however that there has also been an increase in the number of illegitimate live births from 57 in 1963, to 66 in 1964, which shows a percentage of 10.8 of the total live births.

The total number of deaths was 542, a decrease of 62 as compared with those occurring in 1963, and an analysis of the causes does not show any appreciable change in any one specific cause.

The number of infantile deaths unfortunately showed an increase from 12 in 1963 to 22 in 1964, which gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 36.1 per 1,000 live births as compared with 19.9 the previous year and with 20.0 for the country as a whole.

The largest number of these deaths was due to misadventure. In seven instances the children in question died from inhalation of vomit and at the inquests a verdict of misadventure was returned in each case. In two other instances death was due to asphyxia, six to prematurity, three to congenital defects and four were ascribed to other miscellaneous causes.

In the case of seven children who died from inhalation of vomit, their ages ranged from seven weeks to four months, all died at home and at the inquests the Coroner could find no specific organic cause to account for death other than the physical inhalation.

The incidence of Infectious diseases fortunately remained low in 1964. No serious disease was notified and the only large number of cases notified were among children who had contracted measles. These occurred at the end of the year.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support, 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	38,200
Units of accommodation	12,451
Rateable value at 31.12.64	£1,373,288
General Rate	11/6d
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,350

BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1963.</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	274	269	543	545
Illegitimate	36	30	66	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	310	299	609	602
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH RATE.

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.9
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	18.9
(England and Wales - 18.4)	

The illegitimate births formed 10.8% of the total and were equal to 1.6 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 1.19, and when the uncorrected Birth Rate is multiplied by this factor, it results in a corrected rate of 18.9.

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total 1963</u>
Legitimate	4	7	11	8
Illegitimate	2	1	3	2

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births was 22.4 as compared with 17.2 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE DEATHS

	<u>Legitimate:</u>		<u>Illegitimate:</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
PERINATAL (Under one week)	3	4	1	-	8
NEO-NATAL (Under one month)	4	4	1	-	9
INFANTILE (Total under one year)	10	9	3	-	22

(Total 1963 - 12)

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

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

TOTAL	36.1 (England and Wales = 20.0)
Legitimate	34.9
Illegitimate	45.4

TOTAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1963</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages.	281	261	542	604

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	14.1
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	10.8
England and Wales	11.3

The Death Rate shows a decrease of 1.5 per 1,000 of population compared with 1963. The Registrar General has supplied a correction factor of 0.77, and when the uncorrected Death Rate is multiplied by this factor it results in a Corrected Rate of 10.8.

During 1964, the number of deaths decreased by 62 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	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	1	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	4
11.	" " lung, bronchus	25	4
12.	" " breast	-	9
13.	" " uterus	-	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic conditions	29	23
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	3
16.	Diabetes	-	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	52
18.	Coronary disease, angina	51	41
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	25	46
21.	Other circulatory diseases	9	15
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	17	14
24.	Bronchitis	25	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	7	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	3	4
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth etc.	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	1
34.	All other accidents	10	4
35.	Suicide	2	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTAL		281	261

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

Age group	Males	Females	TOTAL
Under 1 year	13	9	22
1 - 5 years	2	1	3
5 - 15 years	2	1	3
15 - 25 years	3	2	5
25 - 35 years	1	2	3
35 - 45 years	5	3	8
45 - 55 years	15	5	20
55 - 65 years	43	33	76
65 - 75 years	103	61	164
Over 75 years	94	144	238
TOTAL	281	261	542

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
OF DEATH

Year	CANCER:		Vascular	Heart	Tuber-	Bronchitis
	Total	Lung #	lesions	diseases	culosis	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
1963	112	30 (26.7)	59	223	2	71
1964	107	29 (27.1)	77	169	1	63

Percentage
of total
deaths in
1964:-

19.7 5.3 14.2 31.1 0.1 11.6

† The figures in brackets show the percentage of cancer deaths due to cancer of the lung.

DEATHS FROM CANCER

There has been a slight decrease in the number of deaths from Cancer as compared with 1963. This disease does not hold the terrors it did in past years as the population is becoming educated to the importance of obtaining treatment at the earliest possible opportunity. Research into the causes and treatment still continues and although great strides have been made, unfortunately there is, as yet, no complete answer to all the problems associated with the disease.

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

METEOROLOGY

The meteorological instruments are situated on the East Cliff Promenade and a sunshine recorder is placed on the roof of the Municipal Buildings. Readings are taken twice daily and sent to the Air Ministry.

During May and June the station was closed down and no figures are available for these months. The total rainfall and sunshine, however, for the remaining 10 months of the year were 16.7 inches and 1162.5 hours respectively.

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

In August, 1963 the new ambulance station was opened. This is situated in Haine Road, Ramsgate and provides accommodation for ambulances and sitting cars and also office and rest room facilities.

A total of ten ambulances and nine cars for sitting cases are based at the station; all ambulances are fitted with radio, which greatly assists the smooth administration of the service.

The total number of patients transported during 1964 was 87,064 and the total mileage amounted to 275,865.

On the 1st. October, 1963, the Westbrook Day Hospital was opened, which necessitates transporting some 50 to 60 patients per day, thus increasing the amount of work placed on the station.

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. Emergency requests are dealt with by the Superintendent, telephone Thanet 51017. 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 86, 85 of which had post mortems carried out.

NURSING HOMES ACT, 1963

On the 15th May, 1963, The Nursing Homes Act, 1963, came into operation. This Act repeals Section 192 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which originally dealt with exemption from registration of Nursing Homes, and also empowers the Minister of Health to make Regulations as to the conduct of these Homes.

Subsequently, The Conduct of Nursing Homes Regulations came into operation as from 27th August, 1963. These Regulations are similar to those previously in operation for the conduct of disabled and old persons homes and Registration Authorities now have powers similar to those applied to residential and mental nursing homes. There were 4 Nursing Homes on the register at the end of 1964, providing 107 beds for medical cases.

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 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 persons coming within the categories mentioned, but enquiries were made into the circumstances of 3 elderly persons. In all cases arrangements were made for admission to Hill House hospital voluntarily.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50

Two persons were buried during 1964 by the Local Authority.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, provided by the Kent County Council, dealt with the following cases in Ramsgate during 1964:-

Family Care	8
Family Welfare	1
Evening Service	2
Night Service	1
Tubercular Patients	1
Chronic Sick	25
Mentally Disordered	1
Illness of Mother	15
Maternity Cases	34
Aged (over 65)	378

An average of 1,100 hours per week was worked by 50 helpers and the average number of cases attended each week was 300.

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

There has been no change in the source of supply, which is sufficient for all purposes. Should the need arise it can be augmented from other sources within the area served by the Thanet Water Board.

The water is drawn from the deep chalk strata and is very hard, though much of this is temporary and is removed by heating, thus leaving the typical 'fur' on the inside of pipes and kettles.

Although a high standard of purity is expected, and indeed is maintained, all water is chlorinated before passing into the public supply.

Water is sampled frequently by the officers of the Thanet Water Board and submitted for bacteriological examination; independent samples are also taken at regular intervals by the Public Health Inspectors, also for bacteriological examination. This ensures a complete coverage and provides a further check on the supply. Bacteriological examination of water 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 ammonia	0.008
Albuminoid ammonia	0.016
Nitrogen as nitrite	nil
Nitrogen as nitrate	15.5
Chlorine as chlorides	90
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	258
Total Hardness	304
Permanent Hardness	46
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours of 80°F.	0.04
Total solids	520
pH value	7.2

Microscopic examination revealed very little mineral or vegetable matter.

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

The sewage pumping station at Foads Lane, Cliffsend, built in connection with the Manston and Cliffsend Drainage Scheme, came into operation on 6th July, 1964, and by the end of the year most of the properties within the drainage area had been connected to the new system.

Existing cesspools were pumped dry, partially filled and the tops sealed with concrete. Public highways throughout the drainage area have been provided with surface drainage, either with new gullies or by the connection of existing gullies to the main sewer.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The disposal of all refuse, both domestic and trade, is dealt with at the controlled tip at Ebbsfleet and during 1964 a total of 17,075 tons of refuse was dealt with, of which 3,124 tons were trade refuse.

A new 15 cub. yd. enclosed 'Fore and Aft' freighter for use in the collection of trade refuse came into service in May.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There were no major alterations to the system of street sweeping and cleansing which employs the gang system with electrically driven orderly trucks in the residential roads and individual sweepers in the town centre streets, seafront roads and promenades.

In addition all roads are swept by a mechanical sweeper/collector once each week and shopping streets and parts of the seafront are washed early each morning during the summer season by vehicles fitted with special street-washing equipment. The Council has agreed that a modern suction road sweeper should be purchased during 1965, together with a smaller type of suction cleanser as an experiment for footways and promenades.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Public Health Inspectors paid a total of 6,033 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 Chief 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 Chief Public Health Inspector.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan and Control of Development Act, 1960

Eight sites are licensed to accommodate a total of 313 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, 1952, and being a consolidating Act, has made very little change in administration. The following table shows the number on the register at 31st December 1964, together with inspections and defects dealt with.

<u>(i) Inspections.</u>	Number of premises.	Number of:	
		<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written notices.</u>
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority.	31	9	1
Factories not included above in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority,	162	30	-
Other premises	37	3	-
TOTAL	230	42	1

(ii) Defects.

No. of cases in which defects were :-

	Found. Remedied.		Referred:		<u>Prosec-</u> <u>utions.</u>
			To H.M. <u>Inspector.</u>	By H.M. <u>Inspector:</u>	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable	-	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-	-

Twenty 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 open-air 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. 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 four other pools in the area, these are not available to the public. Two are reserved for school use, and the others, newly constructed, form part of the recreational facilities at two 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.

Five 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 Act 1936.

PET ANIMALS ACT.

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

SECTION VI

H O U S I N G

CLEARANCE AREAS

Three areas were represented during the year, namely Meeting Street Nos. 1 & 2, and Staffordshire Street; a total of 36 dwelling houses.

Two public inquiries were held, the first in October on the Hertford Street area and the second in November on Meeting Street No. 1. At the end of the year the results of these inquiries had not been received.

The following is a copy of the housing return made to the Ministry which gives details of houses demolished etc.

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

<u>In clearance areas</u>	<u>Houses demolished</u>	<u>Displaced: Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	25	57	24
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>	<u>Houses demolished</u>	<u>Displaced: Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17 (1) Housing Act.	1	2	1

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

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

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT

	<u>By owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	113	-
(ix) After formal notice under:		
(a) Public Health Acts	4	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	1	-
(x) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act	2	-

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Three tower blocks of flats were completed during the year which provides 293 units of accommodation. By the end of the year two of the blocks were fully occupied and the third was in process of being allocated to housing applicants.

The Housing Manager informs me that after review the total on the waiting list stood at 663.

SECTION VIIPREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASESSTATISTICS

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1964:-

Age group	Poliomyelitis:		Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia
	Para-lytic.	Non para-lytic.				
0-1	-	-	-	4	12	-
1-2	-	-	-	4	43	-
2-3	-	-	-	10	51	-
3-4	-	-	-	3	59	-
4-5	-	-	-	4	43	-
5-10	-	-	1	39	192	-
10-15	-	-	-	3	8	-
15-25	-	-	-	3	7	4
25-45	-	-	-	-	1	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	1	73	416	4
Number of cases removed to hospital.-	-	-	1	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA

No case of this disease has been notified in Ramsgate for the past 17 years. During the year, 493 primary and 506 re-inforcing injections were given to children under the age of 15 years as a result of the immunisation campaign.

WHOOPING COUGH

Seventy cases were notified, and a total of 461 children were given a primary inoculation against the disease.

MEASLES

Four hundred and sixteen cases were notified.

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 1964:-

3rd and 4th doses (Salk and Oral)	446
3 Orals (complete course)	608

FOOD POISONING

No cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER

Only one case was notified during the year and was removed to Haine Hospital.

DYSENTERY

No cases were notified.

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 1964 are tabulated below:

Age group	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-respi	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Over 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	1	-	1	1	-	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1964 was:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	89	56	145
Non-respiratory	15	9	24
	104	65	169

This shows a reduction of 5 compared with the previous year. Of the removals, 25 in all, which occurred, 14 were classified as having recovered from the disease, 7 had removed to other areas and 4 as having died.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mobile Radiography Unit visited Ramsgate in September - October and was stationed at various strategic points. A total of 4,400 (1,844 males, 2,556 females) of the general public attended. In addition 712 pupils from schools also attended.

The Director of the Unit reports that 41 persons (16 male, 25 female) were found to have inactive Tuberculosis and one male to have cancer of the lung.

VENEREAL DISEASES

A special clinic for the treatment of these diseases is held at Margate Wing, Isle of Thanet 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 and the area does not share in the nation wide increase in gonorrhoea, possibly because there is no substantial immigrant population. There was one new case of syphilis during the year, and four new cases of gonorrhoea from Ramsgate.

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 159.

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 72 samples were taken during the year, only one failed the methylene blue test but all passed the phosphatase test.

ADULTERATION

Fifty-eight formal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, all were reported as being genuine.

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:-

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
Fats	4.23	4.46	4.28	3.93
Solids not fat	8.78	9.0	8.93	8.75
Total	13.01	13.46	13.21	12.71

A break-down of the figures for 1964 only gives:-

(i) Pasteurised milk, Average:	Fats	3.74
	Solids not fat	8.69
	Total	12.34
(ii) Channel Islands Milk : Average:	Fats	4.73
	Solids not fat	8.96
	Total	13.69

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

ICE CREAM

Thirty-nine 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	19
Grade II	11
Grade III	8
Grade IV	1

All samples falling into Grades III and IV were investigated and follow-up samples showed an improvement.

Testing of ice-cream and grading is carried out in accordance with Circular 8/59 dated 21st April, 1959 and the grading is set out as follows:-

<u>Provisional Grade</u>	<u>Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue</u>
I	Fails to reduce in 4 hours.
II	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours.
III	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours.
IV	No hours.

The majority of samples should fall into Grades I and II. Where samples fall into Grades III and IV, there is an indication to some fault, either in materials or processing and in this case examination of the plant is carried out and further samples are taken.

Standard

Two samples of 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 7½% 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 96, there are also 55 snack bars and 20 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 8. 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

Sixty-one 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	40
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-two 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 15 cwt. 3 lbs. of unsound meat and various tinned goods etc., was surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - ADULTERATION

One hundred and thirty-six samples (sixty-eight formal and sixty-eight 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	58	1
Cream	-	3
Cherries	-	2
Vinegar	-	2
Chocolate Spread	-	1
Cheese & Butter Spread	-	1
Tinned Beef	-	5
Tinned Pork	-	1
Candy Sugar	-	1
Tea	-	1
Soup	-	1
Medical Preparations	-	10
Sausages	5	1
Savoury Tangs	-	1
Crisp Bread	-	1
Cake	-	2
Jam	-	2
Tinned Chicken	-	4
Tinned Sausages	-	1
Pie Filling	-	2
Beans	-	2
Blackcurrants	-	1
Ice Cream	-	2
Coconut	-	1
Fruit Pudding	-	1
Apple Sauce	-	1
Tinned Carrots	-	1
Tinned Strawberries	-	1

<u>Description</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>
Cream Doughnuts	-	1
Confectionery	-	1
Ground Nutmeg	-	1
Tinned Apples	-	1
Gravy Browning	-	2
Seasoning	-	1
Fruit Drinks	-	1
Cereal	-	3
Bread	-	1
Cochineal	-	1
Butter	2	1
Margarine	1	1
Jelly	1	-
Christmas Pudding	1	-
Mincemeat	-	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD) REGULATIONS

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

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, 1964

Ships from:	Number	Tonnage	No. inspected:		No. reported as having had infectious disease on board.
			By MOH	By PHI.	
Foreign ports	1,013	123,650	-	14	-
Coastwise	1,444	135,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,457	258,650	-	14	-

Character of shipping and trade

Passenger traffic:

No. of passengers inwards	34,524
No. of passengers outwards	34,586

Cargo traffic:

Principal imports - Vehicles, Timber, Wheat and Gravel.

Principal exports - Vehicles.

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 1964.

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 CHIEF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Again I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during the past year.

The report is factual, but I have taken the opportunity of making comment from time to time, in itself it is incomplete, as some of the matters dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors is reported on under the appropriate heads in the Medical Officer's section of the report, which precedes this.

We suffered from staff shortage during the first half of the year. The vacancy left by the resignation of Mr. Sadler in December, 1963 proved very difficult to fill, ultimately Mr. T. Mansell, who has the statutory qualifications only, was appointed and commenced duty in July. Mr. D. Liles, a Clerk in the Department, training for the certificate examination was transferred to the inspectorial staff in the early part of the year, and his assistance proved of great value. He passed the qualifying examination in June, and was then appointed as a Public Health Inspector. Both Mr. Mansell and Mr. Liles are taking practical training for the Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods at Canterbury Abattior, and we are very grateful to Canterbury for the help given in this matter.

Largely because of the difficulty in filling vacancies with qualified men, your Council decided that a pupil should be engaged to enter into training, and Mr. A.J. Longley was taken on to the staff in July in that capacity. He came to us from Chatham House Grammer School, has more than sufficient "O" levels to satisfy the entrance requirements, and he has been entered for a "Block Release" course at the South East London Technical College.

During the latter part of the year we began to feel the impact of the extra work involved in the implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act which came into force at varying dates. The department has also been charged with duties under Part II of the Housing Act, 1964, which deals with the compulsory improvement of dwellings, but it had not proved possible to make any advance on this work by the end of the year.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and support, to the Medical Officer of Health for his guiding hand, to the members of the staff for their loyalty and co-operation, and to my fellow officers who have always given help where needed.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. WELLER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

The three tower blocks of flats referred to in last year's Annual Report were completed during the year, rather ahead of schedule and have 293 units of accommodation.

The houses in the Turner Street Area, a Compulsory Purchase Order, were vacated and demolished during the year, and the cleared site is being used for car parking pending the future development of the area. Negotiations for the acquisition of the properties in the Alfred Cottages Area, also a Compulsory Purchase Order, were still proceeding at the end of the year, and the tenants were still in occupation.

The Hertford Street Area, declared as a Compulsory Purchase Order, was the subject of a public inquiry on 27th October, 1964. Subsequently the order was confirmed with certain modifications.

Three areas have been represented as Clearance Areas during the year, in each case the Council decided to make Compulsory Purchase Orders as the sites are required for future development.

1. Meeting Street - No. 1 Area

A small area of 5 houses adjoining Foresters Hall. A public inquiry was held on 10th November and subsequently the order was confirmed without modification.

2. Meeting Street - No. 2 Area

An area consisting of 19 houses together with other buildings, which will complete the clearance of the area. The date of the public inquiry had not been fixed at the end of the year.

3. Staffordshire Street Area

A small area of 12 houses together with other buildings required for development. In this case too, the date for the public inquiry had not been fixed at the end of the year.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Demolition Orders were made on two properties, 1 & 2, Queens Court; one being occupied and the other unoccupied at the time the order was made. These are old houses, believed to date back to the 17th century, and considered to be of some architectural merit. Although the order was not opposed in the first instance, the property changed hands and the new owner has taken advantage of Section 24 of the Act, asking for deferment of demolition to enable him to carry out works of repair and restoration. There is much to be said for the restoration of older buildings that have some architectural features or historical associations worthy of preservation, but the local authority must consider fitness for use as a dwelling. If a house is unfit and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense, procedure under Section 16 must follow. Reasonable expense is so much a matter of opinion that it is for the owner to decide

if costs, which by ordinary computation are excessive, would be worth while.

Seven basement dwellings consisting of underground rooms were represented for Closing Orders, and five Closing Orders were made. Two owners gave undertakings to carry out works, one has completed, and the basement now complies with the regulations.

Closing Orders have been removed from five dwelling houses and one basement. Two of the dwelling houses have been reconstructed, making two very useful living units, with the other three houses extensive repairs have been carried out. The basement consisting of two rooms has been made to comply with the regulations and is now being used as a small restaurant.

RENT ACT, 1957

One application for cancellation of a Certificate of Disrepair has been received. No objection was raised by the tenant and the Certificate was cancelled.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for discretionary and standard grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer, and in order to avoid the possibility of grants being given in unsuitable cases, such as where the 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-six applications for grants were made and ninety-one were granted.

HOUSING ACT, 1964

This Act makes provision for the compulsory improvement of dwelling houses, and entails the survey of the town area by area to ascertain those houses which are worthy of improvement. There are many houses which are structurally sound and in good repair, but which are lacking in standard amenities, such as a fixed bath, a hot water supply and internal sanitation. While it is recognised that the intention of the Act is good, and that every effort must be made to prevent houses falling into the slum category, merely because of the lack of essential maintenance and standard amenities, the pressure of work in other directions has prevented progress in the field of compulsory improvement.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Regular and frequent inspections of food premises are made 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. The policy of inspection and advice does not always help, co-operation on the part of the food trader is essential at all times, and thus it has been found necessary to report on a restaurant for contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The Health Committee authorised prosecution, but the case had not been heard at the end of the year.

PROSECUTIONS ETC.

One prosecution was taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. This concerned a loaf of bread which was alleged to be mouldy at the time of delivery. The defendants pleaded not guilty, the Magistrates found for the defendants and the case was dismissed.

Other complaints have been received as follows:-

1. Bottled Vinegar in which the Analyst found some bacterial slime. The Manufacturers were informed and after investigation it was decided that a warning letter would be sent.
2. Metal in faggots: This concerned a piece of steel wire alleged to be present in faggots. Because of the long period between purchase and the time of making complaint and the inconclusive evidence, it was decided that a warning letter should be sent.
3. Mould in Bread Rolls: These rolls were purchased on Saturday, packed in a cellophane wrapper and not opened until Sunday, when mould was first seen. It was considered that the time lag was sufficient to have allowed the mould to develop, and again a warning letter was sent.
4. Gammon Rashers: This was prepacked in transparent film, and was brought into the office two or three days after purchase, there was considerable doubt as to the condition of the rashers at the time of purchase and again a warning was given.
5. Canned Braised Steak in Rich Gravy: An informal sample in which the Analyst found the meat content to be 55%, that is below the recommended standard of 80%. This not being a legal standard, the manufacturer was informed.
6. Mouldy Bread: This was a loaf of "slimming" bread which the complainant alleged to be mouldy. On enquiry it was found that the bread had been in the house three days before the mould was discovered, and again it was decided that a warning would suffice.
7. Butter: This was a prepacked butter, imported from Poland, with an outer wrapping of foil. The butter was found to have dark coloured patches of mould on its surface beneath the internal greaseproof wrapper. The butter was traced through various channels to the importer, each in turn pleaded a warranty, and

as the producer was outside the jurisdiction of the English Courts, action could not be taken against him. In these circumstances a warning letter was sent to the Vendor.

SHELLFISH

The sale of shellfish from stalls in the Pier Yard continues as in previous years. Mussels, cockles and whelks, and in some cases jellied eels are offered for sale, served on small plates and eaten on the spot. They are probably an interesting and nourishing article of diet, but I have never regarded the method of serving open food with equanimity. Washing facilities with hot and cold water with a deep sink and a wash basin are provided for the exclusive use of the stall holders. These are in a kiosk close to the stalls, and they are used, and I admit that the stall holders do keep themselves and their stalls clean. None the less, I would prefer to see this trade carried on in a manner more compatible with present day ideas.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

There is no problem here with atmospheric pollution, we have no heavy industry in the area, and smoke is almost entirely domestic, and with the increasing emphasis on central heating even this is likely to be abolished within the foreseeable future.

CAMPING SITES

Eight 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 the holiday traffic only. The total number of caravan spaces amount to 313, in most cases caravans stay on the site all the year round, but remain unoccupied during the winter months. A few spaces are left available for touring caravans but there is no space on the licensed sites for tents.

A part of Nethercourt Park is set aside by the Corporation to provide accommodation for tents, and provision is made for overflow at the peak season at King George VI Memorial Park.

This is not sufficient to meet the demand and there is a great deal of unauthorised camping during the holiday season. These unauthorised sites are not provided with facilities, and such camping is very primitive. Control is difficult, the provision of more sites would help, but any vacant plot in the vicinity of the coast is likely to suffer this sort of invasion.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

That part of the Act, Sections 37 to 39, dealing with arrangements for health and comfort of shop workers has been repealed by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, but the Public Health Inspector still remains responsible for the enforcement of the remainder of the Act. This deals with hours of closing, Sunday trading and to a limited extent the employment of young persons. 348 visits have been made to shops during the year, and observations have been kept, very few contraventions have been found. There is growing practice with the multiple food shops to keep open on one day per week, usually Friday, up to 8 o'clock in the evening, to give a service to late night shoppers, and to close for one full day in lieu of the half day, thus giving staff the benefit of a five day week. The Council has given shopkeepers the full benefit of the concession permitted in holiday resorts during the holiday season, thus during the months of June, July, August and September, all shops may keep open until 10 p.m. on weekdays, and the obligation to close on one half day per week is waived. Furthermore the sale of all classes of foodstuffs with the exception of butchers meat and certain articles associated with the holiday traffic is permitted all day on Sundays during this period. It is found that there is a tendency for some shopkeepers to "forget" to return to normal closing hours at the end of the holiday season, and they have to be reminded.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act came into force in stages during 1964, this in itself will entail a considerable addition to the work of the Department. The first stage was the registration of premises, and in spite of advertisements and exhortations, these registrations came in very slowly, and it became obvious that personal visits would be needed if anything approaching a full registration was to be achieved. Even now we are sure that quite a number of people have failed to register, these will be found as inspections proceed. General inspections of premises were started towards the end of the year, and some minor contraventions were found. This was to be expected with new legislation. The policy is to inform the occupier where premises fall short of the requirements of the Act and to give him the opportunity of putting matters right before taking any further action, thus no prosecutions have been instituted. A specialist officer has not been appointed, the work is shared out among the Public Health Inspectors, who include the duties under the Act with their normal district work.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

Number of Premises Registered -

Offices	147		
Shops	261		
Wholesale shops, warehouses	34		
Catering establishments etc.	54		
Fuel storage premises	2	Total	498

Number of Persons Employed -

Offices	963		
Shops	1270		
Wholesale shops, warehouses	187		
Catering establishments	329		
Canteens	10		
Fuel storage depots	2	Total	2,761
	Male 1202	Female	1559

The number of visits of all kinds made by inspectors was 436, this includes visits for the purpose of information.

The number of premises receiving a general inspection was 20.

Accidents

It is a requirement that accidents occurring during the course of employment and which necessitate absence from work over a period of three days or more shall be notified to the local authority, to enable an investigation to be made into the cause and to ascertain if there has been any failure to observe the requirements of the Act, for example the fencing of dangerous machinery. Two such accidents have been reported.

1. A fall from a step ladder while placing goods on a shelf, resulting in severe bruising.
2. A falling metal object which struck the employee's foot, crushing a toe.

In no case was the employer at fault.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

There have been no complaints concerning nuisance from noise during the year.

CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS

There are now two cinemas and two theatres in the Borough, these together with halls used for public dancing and other forms of entertainment and other licensed premises provide for the needs of both residents and visitors throughout the year. The number of premises licensed for public music and/or dancing in the Borough is 89, and conditions in general are satisfactory.

COMPLAINTS

The number of complaints from all sources was 557. These are attended to as quickly as possible, it is important that complaints should be dealt with promptly, and the bona fide complainant can be sure of receiving sympathetic consideration.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT

During general observations of shops for other purposes, such as Food Hygiene Regulations and the Shops Act, due notice is taken of the marking of produce exposed for sale in conformity with the requirements of the Merchandise Marks Act. It is frequently found that the produce is marked with the country of origin where this is required, there does not appear to be any deliberate attempt to deceive the customer, and where produce is unmarked a verbal intimation is usually sufficient to put the matter right. Thus there has been no occasion to institute proceedings.

NOTICES SERVED

Intimation notices served	152
Statutory notices served -	
under Public Health Acts	35
under Housing Acts	9

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

A list of inspections and visits is given hereunder:-

Public Health Act:

Inspections, re-inspections etc.	830
Drainage	541
Other inspections	536

Housing Act:

Inspections, re-inspections etc. 604

Food & Drugs Act:

Inspections 942

Sampling: 343

Inspections and Visits:

Under other Acts 2,227

IMPROVEMENTS

To drainage systems 165

Internal repairs to houses 406

External repairs to houses 131

Miscellaneous items of repair 163

DISINFECTION

Eighteen rooms were disinfected following infectious disease, and other conditions where occupiers had made a request, and 13 sets of bedding were disinfected in the steam disinfecter.

PEST CONTROL

The officers of the Health Department are frequently called on for assistance and advice where insect infestation occur; indeed infestations are sometimes found during inspections, for other purposes. The common infestations, fleas and bugs, can be controlled, these only become a problem where there is insufficient attention to personal and household cleanliness, though there are occasions where they are inadvertently introduced almost by accident. Complaints of other forms of insect infestation are received from time to time, and we are occasionally called upon to identify some unusual type. In these cases, if we are unable to identify the species, we ask for help from the Natural History Museum, and have found the staff to be extremely helpful. Cockroaches can be troublesome, these are frequently associated with some structural defect, and where central heating is installed, they often get into the pipe ducts where they are very difficult to reach.

Each case is treated on its merits, we use liquid or powder insecticides as circumstances demand, these incorporate one or other of the chlorinated hydrocarbons, D.D.T or B.H.C., and so far we have had no problems of insect resistance.

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	8
Fleas	19	88	22	124
Flies, beetles, insects etc.	5	8	5	10

In addition 48 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

Two sets of bedding believed to be infested or soiled after death were removed for treatment and 7 lots were destroyed at the request of owners.

During the year the Council agreed that the Public Health Inspectorate should co-operate with the Forest Products Research Laboratory in a survey into the incidence of wood boring insects in South East England. The Public Health Inspectors were instructed in the identification of the various insects concerned and the type of damage caused, in addition to other forms of rot found in timbers. Ideally the survey should be carried out in vacant properties, and the co-operation of the Housing Department was enlisted, with a view to examining Council houses as they become vacant. In all sixteen properties were examined and reports forwarded to the Forest Products Research Laboratory. Treatment was recommended, and has been carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

One full time Rodent Operator is employed to deal with complaints of rodent infestations and treatments are carried out in all classes of property. A charge is made for the treatment of business premises but private dwelling houses are treated free of charge. It should be stressed that under the Act the occupier of premises is responsible for keeping his premises free from rats and mice, the Council is able and willing to help with treatment, but it is for the occupier to notify the Council and carry out such work of proofing as may be necessary.

When complaints are investigated, the survey includes adjoining property, as it is unlikely that an infestation would be confined to one house only. This policy has paid off, and the rat population is being kept well under control. The few agricultural holdings are surveyed from time to time, mainly to ensure that treatments are being

carried out. Farmers know the importance of keeping their premises clear of rats and do not hesitate to ask for the services of the Rodent Operator where necessary.

A perennial source of infestation is the controlled tip on Sandwich Road. This is kept under observation and any signs of infestation are quickly dealt with. The nature of the material deposited on the tip, household and other refuse, is bound to encourage rat infestation. There is an adequate food supply, water and shelter. Other forms of wild life, including many protected birds, are also present. Warfarin is generally used for treatment, massive baits are put down and baiting points are protected in such a manner as to exclude all forms of wild life other than rats.

Sewer treatments are carried out regularly at six monthly intervals. In the first part of the year treatment is preceded by test baiting, the result of this forms the basis for the two following treatments. We have been getting good results with Warfarin, and feel sure that we have kept the rat population in the sewers down. We do not claim complete eradication, this is not to be expected, as some sections of the sewer are out of reach and it is possible that pockets would build up at these points. So far we have not attempted to use the newer poisons, there seems very little reason for changing while we are getting such good results from the older methods.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

In 1963 the management of the public conveniences was passed to the Public Health Department, previously these had been managed by another department.

A permanent staff of nine attendants, including the Supervisor, is employed throughout the year, which is increased to 22 during the holiday season when there is a much greater use and all conveniences are opened up.

During the year, the turnstiles which had been installed at certain conveniences were abolished and the Council decided for an experimental period to abolish charges. The coin operated locks have been taken out of use, and in many cases removed altogether. This has meant some financial loss but has proved very popular and there has been very little abuse.

Towards the end of the year, the Public Health Committee recommended the installation of washing facilities in all conveniences; this was agreed to and is included in the forward programme and it is intended that these facilities shall be installed during 1965. That is to say each of the conveniences will be provided with wash-basins and a cold water supply, and where practicable, towels will be available from vending machines. Hot water and towels are available where conveniences are attended.

It was further decided that during the holiday season all conveniences would remain open all night, and surprisingly there was no increase in vandalism during this period.

A great deal of attention is given to proper care and maintenance, as cleanliness in such places is, of course, an essential.

In common with all other local authorities we do encounter trouble by vandalism. There is wanton damage, often more than plain mischief, and in some cases deliberate theft. Anti-social behaviour of this nature is a problem and it is difficult to know how to overcome it. The Police have been asked to keep watch, but so far no offender has been caught.