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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

# 1966






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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE  
JUNE 1966.

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor J.W.Duddington

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Mrs N.E.C.Kemp

-----

His Worship the Mayor  
(Councillor C.H.Barton, J.P.)

Alderman W.L.Austin

Alderman J. Barnett

Alderman H. Green

Alderman F.R.Smith

Councillor Miss L.C.Chamberlain

Councillor D.A.B.Coles

Councillor K. Jones

Councillor D.G.Long

Councillor D.W.J.Miles

Councillor G.R.Smith





STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

G.L.Brocklehurst, M.D.(Lond), D.P.H.  
(Till 24.9.66)

S.A.Boyd, M.D.(Vienna), D.P.H.  
(From 25.9.66)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E.A.Thompson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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 (Resigned 13.2.66)

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

R.J.Money, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (e)  
(Commenced 31.5.66)

A.J.Longley (Trainee)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S.Robertson

Miss F. Holliday

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) Certified P.H.I. Education Board
- (d) Certificate, Food Hygiene R.S.I.
- (e) Diploma, P.H.I. Education Board.





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 1966.

My predecessor, Dr. G.L. Brocklehurst, terminated his appointment with this Authority on 24th September when he retired, and I took over the duties of Medical Officer of Health of the Borough on 25th September 1966.

Population.

The Registrar General gives an estimated population of 38,730, which is an increase of 270 over the figure for 1965, the small increase probably due to people taking up residence in newly built accommodation.

Births.

574 live births were registered in 1966, a decrease of 82 as compared with the previous year, and this gives a Birth Rate of 17.6 per 1,000 of population which compares favourably with the national rate.

Reference has been made in previous years about the number of illegitimate births, and this high percentage still persists. A total of 78 illegitimate births were registered giving a percentage of 13.5.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths amounted to 575, and analysis of the causes does not show any appreciable change.

The Infantile Deaths, i.e. deaths of infants under one year of age, shows a decrease compared with 1965. In all, 11 children under one year of age died as against 15 the previous year.



Cancer.

For a number of years the total deaths due to cancer has remained static, and it may be considered that people are becoming educated to the fact that early diagnosis is essential to improve the successful outcome of treatment. In 1966, 110 deaths were attributed to this cause, 39 of these were due to cancer of the lung.

Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of infectious diseases remained low. No serious disease was notified and the only large number of cases notified was among children who had contracted measles.

Conclusion.

I wish to offer my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Committee, and to the staff of the Department, for the help and co-operation I have received since taking up my appointment.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. A. BOYD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I - SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	3,624
Registrar General's estimate of population	38,730
Units of accommodation	13,200
Rateable value at 31.12.66.	£1,449,676
General Rate	13/2d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,580

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1965</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	245	251	496	577
Illegitimate	<u>45</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>
	290	284	574	656

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	17.6

(England and Wales - 17.7)

The illegitimate births formed 13.5% of the total and were equal to 2.0 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 17.6.



# STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total 1965</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6	2
Illegitimate	2	3	5	2

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) was 18.8 as compared with 15.4 for England and Wales.

# INFANTILE DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>			<u>Females</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>

## Deaths of Infants:

Under 1 year of age:-	8	7	1	3	2	1
Under 4 weeks of age:-	5	4	1	1	1	-
Under 1 week of age	5	4	1	1	1	-

# INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births = 19.1  
(England and Wales = 19.0)

Legitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate  
live births = 18.1

Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate  
live births = 25.6

TOTAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1965</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages.	294	281	575	585

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	14.8
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	10.8
England and Wales	11.7

The Death Rate shows a decrease of 0.4 per 1,000 of population compared with 1965. The Registrar General has supplied a correction factor of 0.73 and when the uncorrected Death Rate is multiplied by this factor it results in a Corrected Rate of 10.8, which eliminates any undue weighting caused by too many elderly people living in Ramsgate.

During 1966, the number of deaths also decreased by 10 as compared with the previous year, most of these 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	-	-
2.	" - other	-	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
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	7	4
11.	" " lung, bronchus	34	5
12.	" " breast	-	9
13.	" " uterus	-	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic conditions	26	21
15.	Leukaemia. aleukaemia	2	5
16.	Diabetes	1	6
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	44
18.	Coronary disease, angina	54	43
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	6
20.	Other heart disease	34	54
21.	Other circulatory diseases	25	15
22.	Influenza	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	11	14
24.	Bronchitis	21	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	1
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth etc.	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34.	All other accidents	6	9
35.	Suicide	6	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-

TOTAL

294

281

575



NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Under 1 year	8	3	11
1 - 5 years	2	-	2
5 - 15 years	1	-	1
15 - 25 years	4	2	6
25 - 35 years	4	1	5
35 - 45 years	7	7	14
45 - 55 years	12	13	25
55 - 65 years	44	33	77
65 - 75 years	89	60	149
Over 75 years	123	162	285

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES  
OVER PAST 10 YEARS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>CANCER:</u> <u>Total.</u>	<u>Lung.*</u>	<u>Vascular</u> <u>lesions.</u>	<u>Heart</u> <u>diseases.</u>	<u>Bronchitis</u> <u>and Pneumonia.</u>
1957	87	17 (19.5)	54	131	41
1958	98	15 (15.3)	59	150	53
1959	89	17 (19.1)	59	173	57
1960	83	18 (21.7)	72	186	47
1961	101	29 (28.7)	78	185	47
1962	111	30 (27.0)	64	203	69
1963	112	30 (26.7)	59	223	71
1964	107	29 (27.1)	77	169	63
1965	107	29 (27.1)	77	206	68
1966	110	39 (35.4)	72	194	54

\* 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 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, and other light industries situated on the outskirts of the Borough.



### SECTION III

#### METEOROLOGY

The principal part of the station is situated on the East Cliff Promenade and consists of a standard fenced enclosure 30 feet by 20 feet, containing the following instruments:-

Dry Bulb Thermometer	}	Mounted in a Stevenson Screen.
Wet Bulb Thermometer		
Maximum Thermometer		
Minimum Thermometer		
Rain Gauge - 5 inch diameter		

Geographical position - Latitude  $51^{\circ} 20'N$ .  
Longitude  $1^{\circ} 25'E$ .

Height above sea level - 80 feet

A Campbell Stokes Sunshine Recorder is set up on a platform on the roof of Albion House.

A 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, an Information Board is maintained in the fenced enclosure, giving details of Sunshine, Rainfall and Temperatures, together with the official forecast for the S.E. Region.

In addition, two separate boards are maintained at the Main Sands Bathing Station and by the East Cliff Lift, giving comparative weekly Sunshine and Rainfall figures for Ramsgate and other resorts.

Weather details of special interest to visitors are broadcast from the Main Sands Bathing Station.



# SUNSHINE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>			
January	31.9	hours.	Daily Average	1.0 Hours
February	40.5	"	"	1.4 "
March	137.7	"	"	4.4 "
April	106.3	"	"	3.5 "
May	228.3	"	"	7.4 "
June	229.2	"	"	7.6 "
July	173.9	"	"	5.6 "
August	249.8	"	"	8.1 "
September	175.6	"	"	5.9 "
October	86.4	"	"	2.8 "
November	55.2	"	"	1.8 "
December	38.2	"	"	1.2 "
TOTAL:	1553.0	"		

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Most sunshine</u> <u>in any one day</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>Sunless Days</u>
January	5.9 "	19	14
February	7.2 "	27	12
March	9.6 "	20	4
April	12.9 "	30	11
May	14.5 "	30	3
June	13.9 "	9	-
July	14.2 "	23	4
August	13.3 "	17 & 18	-
September	10.4 "	17 & 20	5
October	9.2 "	11	10
November	8.0 "	10	11
December	5.2 "	7	16

# RAINFALL

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Most rain in</u> <u>any one day</u>
January	2.08 inches.	0.31 inches.
February	2.10 "	0.42 "
March	0.25 "	0.10 "
April	2.58 "	0.42 "
May	0.69 "	0.15 "
June	3.89 "	1.29 "
July	4.90 "	0.80 "
August	3.24 "	1.19 "
September	0.30 "	0.20 "
October	10.43 "	2.10 "
November	4.49 "	0.71 "
December	3.39 "	0.49 "
TOTAL:	38.34 "	

## 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 Wings of the Isle of Thanet District Hospital 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 11 ambulances and 12 vehicles, the latter each capable of carrying 10 sitting cases are based at the station. All ambulances are fitted with radio, which greatly assists the smooth administration of the service.

A total of 13,876 journeys were made by all vehicles, 94,025 patients being involved, and 293,994 miles covered. In addition 2,018 emergency cases were dealt with. All these figures show an appreciable increase over the previous year.

#### 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 months, where minor accidents can be dealt with on the spot, thus relieving a certain amount of pressure on the Ambulance Service. A mobile first aid caravan is also provided which covers all sporting and outdoor events.

#### MORTUARY

The Municipal Mortuary situated in the grounds of the Police Station continues to function. The number of bodies admitted during the year was 101, post mortems being carried out on all of them.



# TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

The following table gives particulars of the days and times of clinics which are provided by the Kent County Council:-

## Maternity and Child Welfare

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

## School Health Service

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

Dental Clinics: By appointment

Orthopaedic " "

Ophthalmic " Tuesday 9 - 11 a.m.

## HOSPITALS

Mr. R.A.G. White, Secretary of the Isle of Thanet District Hospital, informs me that the following patients were dealt with at the Ramsgate Wing during 1966:-

		1966	1965
In-patients:	Maternity	430	1200
	Others	2542	2181
Out-patients:	Accident and Emergency Dept.	6052	6035
Special Departments:	Medical	446	357
	Surgical	1637	1057
	Gynaecological	464	337
	Ophthalmic	648	605
	Paediatric	90	90
	Ear, Nose and Throat	890	841
	Rheumatic	66	50
	Ante-natal	484	550
	Post-natal	425	415
	Dermatological	342	299
	Mental Illness	180	188
	Orthopaedic	1637	1471
	Dental	69	98
	Physical Medicine	175	173
	Diseases of the chest	207	213
	Radiotherapy	101	79



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

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
Radiological	21285	17770
Physiotherapy	23175	19972

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

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
	10719	13607

#### 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.

At the end of 1966 there were 3 Nursing Homes on the register which were registered to accommodate 94 medical patients. One Home, however, was out of action owing to a severe fire and this Home is not expected to open again till Spring 1967, when it is possible that the number of patients to be accommodated may be amended.

#### 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 2 elderly persons.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50.

Two persons were buried during 1966 by the Local Authority.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service is provided by the Kent County Council and covers a wide range of cases requiring assistance.

A panel of approximately 50 helpers deal with 310 - 320 cases each week.

HOME NURSING.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

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

PRIVATE HOMES.

There are five Homes in the Borough for Elderly Persons, registered with the Kent County Council, accommodating some 71 persons, and a privately run Home accommodating 39 blind persons.



# 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 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, 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, on a sample taken in December, 1966, is reproduced hereunder:-

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Odour: None

pH value: 7.2

	<u>parts per million</u>
Free chlorine	nil
Free ammonia	nil
Albuminoid ammonia	nil
Nitrogen as nitrite	nil
Nitrogen as nitrate	11.5
Chloride	64
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	268
Total hardness	308
Permanent hardness	40
Sulphate	16
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.05
Total solids	495



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 Cliffsend and Manston drainage area is being extended by the construction of a new sewer to drain the Preston Farm area of the Borough and work will be completed in January, 1967.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The disposal of all refuse continues to be dealt with at the controlled tip at Ebbsfleet and during the year a total of 19,984 tons of refuse was taken to and disposed of at the site. Of this total 15,120 tons were domestic and 4,864 tons were trade refuse.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year there have been no alterations in the system of street sweeping and cleansing which employs the gang system with electric orderly trucks in the residential areas and beat sweepers in the shopping and sea front areas.

Both methods are augmented by a suction road sweeping vehicle and by gully emptiers equipped with street washing equipment.

#### 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 5,533 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 Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Ten holiday sites, to accommodate 506 caravans, have been licensed under the Act, and all sites are subject to the conditions laid down in the Model Standards as modified for holiday sites. There are no residential sites in the Borough. In addition to the above, the Council have made accommodation available for 70 tents in Nethercourt Park and there is provision for overflow in the peak season at King George VI Memorial Park.

### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1936

There is very little smoke producing industry within the area. Steam raising plants are largely oil fired, and those which 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, 1966 together with inspections and defects dealt with.

(i) <u>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.	35	21	1
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	153	52	1
Other premises	34	-	-
<hr/>			
TOTAL	222	73	2



(ii) Defects

No. of cases in which defects were:-

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

Twenty-one outworkers were registered, all were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

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

Colorimetric tests for residual chlorine and pH values are taken daily and samples of the water despatched to the Public Health Laboratory at weekly intervals for bacteriological examination. It is not claimed that the water is sterile, but the results of these examinations have been very satisfactory.

There are four other pools in the area not available to the general public, two are confined to school use, being within the school boundary, and the others form part of the recreational facilities provided at two of the caravan sites. These too are checked for residual chlorine and samples taken for bacteriological examination as with the public pool.

Only one slipper bath is available for men at the Charlotte Court Conveniences. Unfortunately the conveniences situated at the Paragon, where two baths were available for women, were considered dangerous and the Council were investigating alternative sites at the end of the year. Four shower baths are provided in the Pier Yard Conveniences for men, and is a new development. Shower baths are provided in a new block of conveniences on the Western Undercliff, six for men and six for women. Shower baths are available only during the summer season and are greatly appreciated by bathers.

### 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

Four 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

No Clearance Areas were represented during 1966. A number of properties were demolished which were included in areas already represented the year before.

The following table sets out the position as reported to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. These figures are compiled from quarterly returns made to the Ministry:-

### A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

<u>In clearance areas</u>	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced:</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	60	151	53
(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:</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act.	5	11	5

### B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	<u>Number</u>
(v) Under Sects. 16(4), 17 (1), and 35 (1), Housing Act 1957.	2
(vi) Under Sects. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	-
(vii) Parts of building 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	235	-
(ix) After formal notice under:-		
(a) Public Health Acts	5	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	2	-
(x) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act	-	-

Housing Accommodation

(1) Number of new applications for housing accommodation received during the current year.	456
(2) Number of families housed from current waiting list.	188
(3) Number of Corporation tenants transferred to other accommodation within the Corporation Housing Estates	155
(4) New properties completed during 1966/67.	74
(5) Number of properties at present under control of Corporation.	2,515



SECTION VII.

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

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified to the Department during the year :-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>No.</u>
Scarlet Fever	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Measles	268
Whooping Cough	27
Dysentery	6

None of these cases was admitted to the infectious block of Haine Hospital, though the four cases of puerperal pyrexia occurred among mothers while in the maternity ward of the Ramsgate Wing of the Thanet Hospital.

It is extremely gratifying to note that the number and severity of infectious diseases occurring nowadays bears no comparison with some 25 - 50 years ago. With the introduction of Diphtheria immunisation in 1940, and with further preventive measures introduced over the years, such as Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus immunisation, there has been a most impressive decline in this sphere of public health work. This state of affairs however, should not give rise to complacency, especially in a seaside resort like Ramsgate, with the floating holiday population. At any time there is the risk of an outbreak and it is the duty of the public health staff to be aware of this potential danger and be able to deal with it accordingly.

As will be seen, Measles was the only disease which occurred in any appreciable number, and this was confined to the child population. The six cases of Dysentery however, were sporadic and had no definite connection with each other.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

The County Medical Officer informs me that the following were carried out under County Council arrangements in 1966 :-

<u>Smallpox Vaccination :-</u>	Primary 352.
<u>Poliomyelitis Immunisation :-</u>	Primary 602 Re-inforcing 375.

Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus.

Immunisation

Primary Injections

Triple	567
Diph./Tet.	2

Re-inforcing Injections

Triple	388
Diph./Tet.	326

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 by age groups are shown below. There were 2 deaths from this disease during 1966.

New Cases

Age group	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	1
Over 65	3	1	-	1
TOTAL	8	2	-	2

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1966 was:-

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	90	60	150
Non-respiratory	14	11	25
	104	71	175



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.

The Medical Officer in charge of the Clinic informs me that during the year 1966, a total of 79 new cases from Ramsgate were treated, i.e. 2 Syphilis, 26 Gonorrhoea and 51 other conditions. In previous years the number of new cases has been considerably lower, and the trend of seeing increasing numbers of cases throughout the country applies also to Ramsgate.

## SECTION VIII.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### MILK.

There is one pasteurising plant operating within the Borough, this plant serving an area far beyond the Borough boundaries. Carton packaging continues to be used for distribution through the retail shops, and glass bottles for delivery to houses and schools by roundsmen. In spite of the care exercised by the dairies, we still have the occasional complaint of dirty milk bottles. There is misuse by some consumers, but the dairy has a responsibility to ensure that the bottle shall be clean before filled with milk again.

#### LICENCES.

The year 1966 was the first of the quinquennial period and a total of 92 licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, as amended. These licences authorise retailers to sell pre-packed milk as it is received from the supplier.

#### EXAMINATION AND TESTING.

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals at all points in the chain of distribution and submitted for examination for methylene blue and phosphatase tests. School milk is sampled at the same time, and the results forwarded to the Education Authority.

A total of 72 samples were taken during the year. Four failed the methylene blue test but all passed the phosphatase test. The four unsatisfactory samples were processed outside our area and the results were passed to the appropriate Local Authority for information and necessary action.

#### ADULTERATION.

Forty-eight formal samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst. One was found to be low in fat, and another low in solids not fat. In the former instance the Committee considered that a warning letter would be sufficient. Proceedings were, however, instituted in the second instance and the vendor was fined £20 with £16. 5. 0 costs.

Proceedings were also taken against a Dairy for supplying milk in a dirty bottle. The vendors pleaded guilty and were fined £10.



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 as shown :-

	1966.	1965.	1964.	1963.
Fats	4.30	4.30	4.23	4.46
Solids not fat	8.92	8.85	8.78	9.0
Total	13.22	13.15	13.01	13.46

A break-down of the figures for 1966 only gives :-

(i) Pasteurised milk average:	Fats	3.64
	Solids not fat	8.68
	Total	12.32

(ii) Channel Islands milk	average:	Fats	4.53
		Solids not fat	9.10
		Total	13.63

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

### ICE CREAM.

Thirty eight samples of ice cream were taken and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and grading according to the methylene blue test in the manner indicated in Circular 8/59, Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1959, and the grading was as follows :-

Grade I	31
Grade II	4
Grade III	1
Grade IV	2

Samples falling into Grades III and IV were investigated and follow-up samples were satisfactory.

### Standard.

Four samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, and were found to comply with the standards laid down in the Food Standard (Ice Cream) Regulations 1959.

In general, ice cream from shops in the town is sold pre-packed, the sale of loose ice cream from shops selling other goods is discouraged. There is a flourishing trade in soft ice cream which is sold direct from the freezer, and this has extended to the mobile trader.

## FOOD PREMISES

These are subject to frequent inspection by the Public Health Inspectors, and formal action is taken should it become necessary. Complaints made by the general public are investigated forthwith and suitable recommendations made to improve conditions.

Seven bakehouses, six of which are combined with retail shops, were operating at the end of the year.

Sixty one premises are registered under Section 16(1)(b) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the preparation of various types of preserved and manufactured foods, as under :-

Preparation of sausages, cooked and pickled meats	39
Preparation of cooked meats only	8
Bacon and ham curing	1
Fish curing and smoking	2
Cooking and preparation of shellfish	2
Manufacture of pickles	2
Manufacture of sugar confectionery	7

Seventeen 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 5 tons 17 cwt. 39 lbs. of unsound meat and various tinned goods etc. was surrendered.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955. ADULTERATION.

One hundred and twenty four samples (51 formal and 73 informal) were taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst :-

	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>
Sausage meat	2	-
Milk	48	-
Chocolate drink	-	2
Jam	-	1
Cheese	-	4
Yoghurt	-	1
Suet	-	1



	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>
Custard powder		1
Milk bread	1	1
Tinned crab	-	1
Soup	-	2
Sultanas	-	1
Ice pops	-	1
Tinned stew	-	1
Crackers	-	1
Batter mixture	-	1
Pease pudding	-	1
Sauce	-	5
Corn relish	-	1
Margarine	-	1
Egg rusks	-	1
Vitamin tablets	-	1
Meat balls	-	1
Tonic water	-	1
Chicken spread	-	3
Seasoning	-	2
Brussel sprouts	-	1
Peaches	-	1
Goulash	-	2
Veal curry	-	1
Ice cream	-	4
Powdered milk	-	5
Cream	-	1
Cola	-	2
Cake mixture	-	1
Meat tenderiser	-	1
Jelly	-	1
Rice pudding	-	1
Baby food	-	1
Baked beans	-	3
Crisps	-	1
Tea	-	1
Chow mein	-	1
Pork pie	-	1
Ravioli	-	1
Braised kidneys	-	1
Shrimps	-	1
Sausages	-	1
U.H.T. milk	-	1
Marzipan	-	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.

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 in the Borough and cockles are not being collected from the Bay for sale. 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 vendors own premises. Usually it is necessary to augment local supplies by importation from other areas.



PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1966

Part of the annual report submitted to the Ministry of Health is set out below:-

SECTION I. STAFF TABLE A

Medical Officer of Health - S.A. Boyd, M.D. (Vienna)., D.P.H.

From - 25th September, 1966.

SECTION II AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING  
DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

Ships From:	Number.	Tonnage.	No. inspected		No. reported as having, or having had during voyage, infectious dis- ease on board.
			by M.O.H.	P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports	993	104,000	1	11	-
" (Hovercraft)	354	-	-	-	-
Coastwise	1,250	106,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,597	210,000	1	11	-

SECTION III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE

<u>Passenger Traffic</u>	Number of passengers	INWARDS	25,947
	do.	OUTWARDS	42,155

Cargo traffic Principal Imports

Motor vehicles

Principal Exports

Motor vehicles.

Principal ports from which ships arrive:

Emden, Antwerp - cargo vessels.  
Calais - hovercraft  
Ostend, Calais  
& Dunkirk - yachts.

#### CROSS CHANNEL - HOVERCRAFT SERVICE

The plans outlined in 1965 to use Ramsgate as a Hoverport came into operation in early spring 1966, and buildings were provided to accommodate the various services required, i.e. H.M. Immigration, Customs and Health Control. The M.O.H. and Deputy M.O.H. together with three medical practitioners were appointed as Medical Inspectors of Aliens and Commonwealth Citizens. A medical examination room was provided and equipped.

The passenger traffic, however, was mainly confined to cross channel passengers who did not require medical examination, and the Immigration Offices did not refer any for such examination.

#### 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.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1966.

There have been some changes in staff. The most far reaching was the retirement of Dr. Brocklehurst, the Medical Officer of Health. We had learned to respect him and valued his judgement. He was succeeded by Dr. S.A. Boyd, who took up the appointment in September. Mr. Mansell a district Public Health Inspector resigned early in the year to take up an appointment in industry, and after a period of a few months, while the post remained unfilled, Mr. R.J. Money a young Inspector with Diploma qualification, was appointed as from 31st May. Mr. Longley the Pupil Inspector entered his third year of training, and is now able to play a useful part in the work of the Department.

I have to express my appreciation of the work of the Inspectorial and Clerical Staff, whose work is complementary one to the other, and which is so important to the proper functioning of the Department. Dr. Boyd in his short time with us has made a great impact and we shall benefit from his new ideas. I must also thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee for their support during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. Weller,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## HOUSING.

### Clearance Areas.

No new areas were declared during the year. The position regarding Orders made in previous years is as follows :-

#### Hertford Street Area.

Difficulties have been encountered in the acquisition of properties, some still remained in the hands of private owners. Re-housing has proceeded as far as possible, and some demolition has taken place.

#### Meeting Street Areas Nos. 1 and 2.

Purchase of properties is proceeding and some tenants have been re-housed. Clearance has not yet commenced.

#### Staffordshire Street Area.

Most of the houses have been vacated, negotiations for purchase are proceeding, and clearance has not yet commenced.

#### Truro Road.

This site has been cleared.

#### School Lane.

These houses were still occupied.

### INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Five Demolition Orders were made but the houses had not been demolished by the end of the year. Two Closing Orders were made on houses where demolition was impracticable because of the right of support, and Closing Orders were made on two basement dwellings where the rooms constituted Underground Rooms and were found to be unfit.

Five houses have been demolished following Orders made in previous years.

In one case an undertaking was accepted from an owner who agreed to carry out works to make the property fit. This work, although in hand, had not been completed.

### RENT ACT, 1957.

No applications were received during the year.



## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for improvement grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer, but in order to avoid the possibility of grants being given in cases where the property is likely to be included in a Clearance Area, applications are referred to the Public Health Department for a report. The following information regarding applications has been supplied by the Borough Engineer's Department:-

### Discretionary Grants

Six applications have been received for discretionary grants, each in respect of tenanted property. These have been granted but improvements were completed in four properties only.

### Standard Grants

Sixty-eight applications have been made and sixty-seven granted. Sixty-one of the applications were made by owner occupiers, and seven in respect of tenanted property.

### Housing Act 1964

Four notices have been served by tenants under Section 19 of the Act. With three of these, the owners have given undertakings to carry out the improvement works. With the other property, there was considerable disrepair, and notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957 was served for repair works to be carried out, the owner has not complied with this notice and the Council is taking action in default. Improvement works cannot be carried out until the house is in good repair.

One small area has been surveyed as an Improvement Area. There are 20 houses to be improved to the full standard. Preliminary negotiations with the owners have been carried out and it seems likely that these will be successful without having to use the formal procedure laid down by the Act. Some of the tenants have raised objections, these are mainly on the grounds of old age and infirmity with an unwillingness to face the upheaval that would occur while work is proceeding. There is also some apprehension about the effects of an increase in rent on a limited income.



## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Regular and frequent inspections of food premises are made in an endeavour to maintain as high a standard as possible. Frequent visits mean that faults can be detected and corrected at the outset before they become serious. If this policy is to succeed, there must be full co-operation from the food trader, usually this is forthcoming, and this year it has not been found necessary to take any proceedings under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### Prosecutions and Complaints

#### Prosecutions:

Proceedings were taken in the case of doughnuts contaminated with bird droppings, referred to in the 1965 Report. The vendor entered a guilty plea and was fined £30 with costs.

#### Complaints etc:

1. Foreign object in sliced bread.

On examination the 'object' was found to be a linen backed paper tag, normally attached to a sack of flour, which had been mixed into the dough, baked into the bread and subsequently sliced. On consideration the Committee decided that a warning letter should be sent to the bakery.

2. Pork Sausage Meat - Preservative.

This sample of pork sausage meat was found to contain undeclared preservative, i.e. S.O<sub>2</sub> to the extent of 340 parts per million. The vendor was warned that when preservative is used, its presence must be declared.

3. Milk Bread.

This sample of milk bread was found to be wrongly described, as it did not contain any milk fat. On consideration of the facts the Committee decided to send a warning letter.

4. Dirty Milk Bottle

This complaint concerned a quantity of dirt adhering to the inside of a bottle of milk. Proceedings were taken against the dairy under the Milk and Dairies Regulations. A guilty plea was entered, the defendant was fined £10 and costs.

5. Sale of reconstituted milk as "fresh milk".

In this case the Sampling Officer asked for two glasses of milk and was served from a container marked "Cool Fresh Milk". The Analyst's report showed a deficiency in solids not fat, and it was found that the liquid was actually reconstituted from dried skimmed milk powder with non milk fat. The vendor was prosecuted and fined £20 plus costs.



The instruction leaflet put out with this powder was rather ambiguous, and the manufacturers were asked to make it clear that any liquid reconstituted from this powder must not be sold as fresh milk.

6. Channel Islands Milk - Deficient in Fat

A sample of this milk, on analysis, was found to contain 3.80% fats, that is a deficiency of 5%. A check sample taken at a later date showed 4.50% fats, and as this appeared to be an isolated instance over which the dairy had no control, the Committee decided not to prosecute.

7. Mouldy Pie

This complaint concerned meat pie alleged to be purchased on Saturday and said to be mouldy on Sunday. There was some unsatisfactory features about this case and the Committee decided that a warning letter should be 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 jellied eels are offered for sale, served on small plates and eaten on the spot. Washing facilities with hot and cold water with a deep sink and a wash-hand basin are provided in a nearby kiosk for the exclusive use of the stallholders. Although the washing facilities are used and the stallholders keep themselves clean, the site becomes fouled by the customers throwing the inedible parts on to the ground, where it gets trodden in. This method of selling open food for immediate consumption is open to many objections, and it would be preferable if this trade was carried on in a manner more compatible with present ideas of food hygiene.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

There is no problem here with atmospheric pollution, we have no heavy industry and such smoke as there is, is almost entirely domestic. Individual premises, where steam raising and heating is required, have gone over to oil and with proper control this does not produce visible smoke. Smutting problems have been eliminated by the use of cladding to chimney stacks, which has given sufficient insulation to prevent the rapid cooling of fine gases. So far as domestic smoke is concerned, there is an increasing emphasis on central heating installations, this alone does much to reduce the emission of smoke.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There are eight licensed caravan camping sites within the area, giving a total of 363 spaces, these licences are valid for the period 1st April to 31st October in each year, but one site, a small one, accommodating 25 caravans has a licence for all the year use for holiday purposes only. In addition there is a site for 130 spaces, tents or caravans, with a limited licence for the period 1st. July to 30th September.



There are no residential sites within the Borough. On most sites caravans stay all the year round, but are not in use during the winter period, a few spaces are left for touring caravans, but these sites do not provide for tents.

The Council maintain a site for tented camping in Nethercourt Park (70 spaces), and provision is made for overflow in the peak period at King George VI Memorial Park.

In spite of this, unauthorised camping on roadside verges and vacant land still occurs. This seems an almost inevitable feature of coastal towns, and is most difficult to control.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950

The administration of the Shops Act remains with the Public Health Department. Observations have been kept in the evenings and on Sundays. The late day opening on Friday by the multiple food shops is very popular. These shops cannot keep open beyond 8 p.m., and there has been no tendency to go beyond this hour. Many of the shops are operating a five day trading week, closing for one full day, usually Monday. I think this practice is likely to spread.

The Council has given shop keepers the full benefit of the concessions permitted in holiday resorts, these during the month of June, July, August and September, the peak holiday season. All shops may keep open until 10 p.m., and the obligation to close on one half day in each week is waived. Furthermore, the sale of commodities associated with the holiday traffic and all classes of food stuff with the exception of butchers meat is permitted on Sundays up to 10 p.m. It is usually found necessary to remind some shop keepers to return to normal closing hours when the holiday season is over.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

##### Registered Premises

A total of 546 premises were on the register at the end of the year, an increase of eight over the 1965 figure, but there have been 21 new registrations and a number of deletions. We are not convinced that all registrations have been made, these are being picked up as inspection proceeds.



### Inspections

A total of 259 visits of all kinds were made during the year, and 67 premises received a general inspection. Contravention of various sections of the Act have been found during the course of inspection, these are as set out below.

Section 4	Cleanliness	13
" 5	Overcrowding	2
" 6	Temperature	22
" 7	Ventilation	10
" 8	Lighting	14
" 9	Sanitary Conveniences	7
" 10	Washing facilities	14
" 12	Clothing Accommodation	2
" 16	Floors, passages and stairs	16
" 17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	1
" 24	First Aid. General Provisions	22

The total number of contraventions being 123. In each case occupiers were notified by letter and so far all have been co-operative. In some cases there has been delay because the contraventions referred to have required some structural works. It has not been found necessary to institute any proceedings in the Courts.

### Inspectors

It is not considered practicable to employ a full time officer on the work of inspection. The Public Health Inspectors carry out general and other inspections as part of their statutory duties, this works very well, but obviously in times of stress the work of inspection is slowed down to make way for more pressing duties.

### Heating

During the colder weather it was noted that some shops had failed to maintain the correct temperature. This was mainly due to the inadequacy of the heating appliances used, here the provision of extra heating was called for, and matters were rectified. The question of heating in certain trades, where excess heat is likely to cause deterioration of goods, has raised some difficulties, we have had to be satisfied with a place where workers can warm themselves, but still remain to be convinced that a temperature of 60.8° F. does cause as much deterioration as is claimed. It is considered that perishable goods which are likely to be adversely affected should be kept in refrigerators, and display should be under refrigeration only.



## Ventilation

In general there is a reliance on natural ventilation - effective probably in the smaller establishment, but there are occasions when mechanical aids are needed. Extractor fans are used, they are not always sited to the best advantage, and it is considered that some official guidance on this would be an advantage.

## Lighting

We have continued to use the I.E.S. code as a standard in assessing lighting requirements, and would be very disappointed if any regulations that may be made were to impose a lesser standard. Gradually we are bringing premises up to a general standard of 30 lumens per square foot in the working areas, but we do not consider there has been a contravention unless the standard of illumination is considerably less than this figure.

## Exemptions

No applications for exemption from any part of the Act have been received.

## Accidents

Five accidents only were reported. These were all in retail shops. Four were concerned with falls, only one warranted investigation. In this case a young woman had fallen down stairs and had received some serious injury. There was no apparent reason for the fall, the young woman had slipped while hurrying to keep a dental appointment.

## NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Three complaints of noise were investigated. It was not found necessary to institute proceedings, in each case the nuisance was cleared up as a result of informal approaches to the offenders.

## 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 505. 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 Shops Act and Food Hygiene Regulations, notice is taken of the marking of produce as required by the Merchandise Marks Act. Usually it is found that produce is marked with the country of origin; there does not appear to be any deliberate attempt to deceive the customer. It has not been found necessary to institute any proceedings under the Act.

## NOTICES SERVED

Intimation notices served	233
Statutory notices served -	
under Public Health Acts	14
under Housing Acts	10

## INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The Public Health Inspectors paid a total of 5,533 during the year, to all types of property and for a variety of reasons. Some were as the result of complaints made to the Department, others at the request of builders but the majority were made as a routine measure to dwelling houses, shops, offices, catering premises etc.

## IMPROVEMENTS

Drains cleared	61
Drains amended	21
Other improvements to drainage systems	25
Total number of Internal Repairs to Houses:	342
External Repairs:	
Roofs etc.	42
Eaves gutters, rain water pipes etc.	31
Others	96
Miscellaneous items of repair or improvements effected in dwellinghouses, factory premises, restaurants etc:	173

## DISINFECTION

Nine rooms were disinfected following infectious disease and other conditions where occupiers had made a request and 30 sets of bedding were destroyed.

The Disinfecting Station in Broad Street was closed during 1966 and the arrangements made with the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee to use the disinfector at Haine Hospital were continued.

## PEST CONTROL

The Public Health Inspectors are frequently called upon for assistance and advice where insect infestations occur, indeed infestations are sometimes found during the course of other inspections. The incidence of fleas and bugs is reducing; this type of infestation can be controlled, and only becomes a problem where there is insufficient attention to personal and household cleanliness, but there are occasions when these pests are introduced by accident.

Complaints of other forms of infestation are received from time to time and occasionally we are called upon to identify some unusual form. The staff of the Natural History Museum are very helpful in this respect and have never failed to identify any specimens sent to them and to advise on the feeding habits and methods of control.

There are the ubiquitous cockroaches, frequently associated with some form of structural defects, which can be very difficult when they get into a central heating system, where there are inaccessible pipe ducts. The Department is always willing to help, but really it is the responsibility of the occupier to keep this creature under control. Each case is treated on its merits. Liquid or powder insecticides are used as circumstances demand, and these incorporate one or other of the residual insecticides, i.e. D.D.T. or B.H.C., and so far there has been no evidence 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	-	-	3	5
Fleas	9	48	21	142
Flies, beetles, insects etc.	13	24	12	49

In addition 15 premises were treated for wasps' nests.



## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

One full time 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 must be repeated that the occupier is responsible for keeping his premises free from rats and mice, the Council is willing to help but the occupier has a duty to notify the Council and to carry out such work of proofing as may be necessary.

In investigating complaints it is usual to survey the adjoining property as it is unlikely that the rat would confine its activities to one house only. The few agricultural holdings in the area are surveyed from time to time, mainly to ensure that treatments are being carried out. Farmers usually carry out their own treatments and do not often need our assistance.

The controlled tip on Sandwich Road is kept under observation, any signs of infestation are quickly noted and dealt with. Treatments are usually carried out by Warfarin and in general excellent results are achieved, there has been no indication of Warfarin resistance.

Sewer treatments are carried out at six monthly intervals, the first treatment of the year is preceded by test baiting which sets the pattern for both treatments. Sewer treatment is an important part of rodent control, unfortunately we seem unable to clear the sewers completely because there are parts of the sewer that are completely inaccessible, but we have secured a good measure of control. Because of this inaccessibility we do not consider we should get any better results by the use of more virulent poisons.





