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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND PORT MEDICAL OFFICER INCLUDING THE
REPORT
OF THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1968



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
JUNE 1968

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Mrs. N.E.C. Kemp

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Councillor the Reverend G.W. Loughborough

His Worship the Mayor
(Alderman J.W. Duddington, J.P.)

Alderman C. H. Barton

Alderman H. Green

Councillor R.F. Ashfield

Councillor D.A.B. Coles

Councillor C.T. Curzon, M.A.

Councillor L.A. Gray

Councillor S.T. Groombridge

Councillor Mrs. W.M. Hayward

Councillor D.G. Long

Councillor Mrs. N.O. Merrell.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PORT MEDICAL OFFICER:

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

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)

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

A.J. Longley (e) Appointed 1.7.68.
Resigned 31.12.68.

R.A. Ward (Trainee) Appointed 23.9.68.

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, ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1968.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee, and other officers of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. A. BOYD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	3,624
Registrar General's estimate of population	39,220
Units of accommodation	13,504
Rateable value at 31.12.67.	£1,496,924
General Rate	14/2d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,920

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1967</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	234	235	469	499
Illegitimate	41	33	74	57
	275	268	543	556

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	13.8
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	16.4

(England and Wales - 16.9)

The illegitimate births was 13.6% of the total live births.

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 13.4.

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1967</u>
Legitimate	-	5	5	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-	2

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) was 9.1 as compared with 14.0 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u> <u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Females</u> <u>Legit.</u>	<u>Illegit.</u>
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year of age:-	11	11	-	5	5	-
Under 4 weeks of age:-	9	9	-	4	4	-
Under 1 week of age:-	8	8	-	2	2	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births = 29.4
(England and Wales = 18.0)

Legitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate
live births = 34.1

Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate
live births = Nil.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1968 shows an increase as compared with that for 1967. Although there was an increase of only 7 deaths of infants under the age of one year, such a small increase is magnified in mortality rates in towns with populations similar to Ramsgate.

TOTAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1967</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages.	318	293	611	615

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	15.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	11.7
England and Wales	11.9

The Death Rate shows an increase of 0.4 per 1,000 of population compared with 1967. 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 11.7, which eliminates any undue weighting caused by too many elderly people living in Ramsgate.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex	AGE IN YEARS.											TOTAL.
		Under 4 wks	4 wks & udr. 1 yr.	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	Over 75yrs.	
Tuberculosis - respiratory	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Syphilis and its sequelae	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	1	11
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	6
do. do. lung, bronchus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	15	14	37
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
do. do. breast	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	3	9
do. do. uterus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	5
Leukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	5	10	25
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	10	8	28
Diabetes Mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Other endocrine diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other diseases of blood etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mental disorders	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	6
Hypertensive disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	7
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	13
Ischaemic heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	24	20	67
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	24	32	61

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex	Under 4 wks	4 wks to 1 yr.	1 yr. to 4 yrs.	4 yrs. to 15 yrs.	15 yrs. to 25 yrs.	25 yrs. to 35 yrs.	35 yrs. to 45 yrs.	45 yrs. to 55 yrs.	55 yrs. to 65 yrs.	65 yrs. to 75 yrs.	Over 75 yrs.	TOTAL
		4 wks.	1 yr.	4 yrs.	14 yrs.	24 yrs.	34 yrs.	44 yrs.	54 yrs.	64 yrs.	74 yrs.		
Other forms of heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	20	24
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	28	32
Cerebrovascular disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	16	15		37
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	18	23		44
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	5		14
	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	5		9
Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2		3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9		13
Pneumonia	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	6		15
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11		14
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	14	5		26
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3		5
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2		6
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		3
Peptic ulcer	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1		5
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		1
Appendicitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Cirrhosis of liver	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		1
Other diseases of digestive system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2		3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3		5
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		1
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1		3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1		4
Congenital anomalies	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		3
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		5
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		3

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex.	Under 4 wks 4 wks.	4 wks & udr 1 yr.	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	Over 75.	TOTAL
Motor vehicle accidents	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
All other accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	F	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	1	6
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
Other external causes	M	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TOTAL ALL CAUSES -

Males 318
Females 293

LUNG CANCER

This was the cause of death in 37 males and 3 females. The difference cannot be attributed solely to occupational hazards and I have no doubt that were investigations to be made into the habits of these people, heavy smoking over a long period would be a major factor.

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

Age Group	Males	Females	TOTAL
Under 1 year	11	5	16
1 - 5 years	1	1	2
5 - 15 years	1	1	2
15 - 25 years	4	-	4
25 - 35 years	1	1	2
35 - 45 years	2	2	4
45 - 55 years	15	11	26
55 - 65 years	69	34	103
65 - 75 years	107	84	191
Over 75 years	107	154	261

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES OVER PAST 10 YEARS

Years	CANCER		Cerebro-vascular disease	Heart diseases	Bronchitis and Pneumonia
	Total	Lung *			
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	39 (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
1967	113	34 (30.0)	74	223	70
1968	128	40 (31.2)	81	211	60

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

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, flour milling, manufacture of drugs and plastics, and other light industries situated on the outskirts of the Borough.

M E T E O R O L O G Y

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 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year, when staff is available.

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.

Owing to staffing difficulties, it was not possible to keep a complete record during the year. The following figures, however, show the rainfall and hours of sunshine as recorded at the Margate Meteorological Station:-

MONTHLY SUMMARY

<u>Month</u>	<u>Mean Temperature</u>		<u>Rainfall (inches)</u>	<u>Sunshine (hours)</u>
	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>		
January	43.9	36.9	1.71	44.1
February	40.5	36.1	2.08	68.6
March	49.5	40.3	0.43	143.2
April	53.8	43.3	0.93	208.5
May	56.5	47.1	1.27	179.3
June	64.1	53.8	1.59	188.7
July	65.4	56.4	3.10	168.5
August	65.0	58.2	2.42	120.0
September	64.7	56.0	4.31	154.7
October	60.9	53.5	2.04	80.0
November	49.6	44.6	1.01	39.2
December	42.2	36.3	1.20	24.5
<hr/>				
Total for year	Mean 51.2		22.09	1419.3
Average	51.3			

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 13,245 journeys were made by all vehicles, 94,195 patients being involved, and 302,382 miles covered. In addition 1,879 emergency cases were dealt with.

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 ground of the Police Station continues to function. The number of bodies admitted during the year was 111, 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

At Health
Centre

At Broad
Street

Infant Clinics: Monday }
Wednesday } 2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m.
Thursday " (Sale of
Food Only)

Minor Ailments: School Health Service
Dental Clinics: Wednesday 9.30 a.m.
Opthalmic: By Appointment.
" "

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 1968:-

		<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
In-Patients	Admissions	2309	2125
Out-Patients	Accident and Emergency Dept.	6351	6357
Special Departments:	Medical	425	353
	Surgical	1145	1132
	Gynaecological	441	423
	Opthalmic	631	784
	Paediatric	77	77
	Ear, Nose and Throat	989	989
	Rheumatic	64	80
	Ante-Natal	573	524
	Post-Natal	371	292
	Dermatological	346	306
	Mental Illness	159	157
	Orthopaedic	1289	1483
	Dental	--	14
	Physical Medicine	177	188
	Diseases of the Chest	248	267
	Radiotherapy	126	97
	Diabetic	1	4

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

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Radiological	23408	22618
Physiotherapy	32306	30719

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

<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
19323	15420

HAINE HOSPITAL (IN-PATIENTS)

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Infectious Diseases	161	171
Medical	372	260
Geriatric	147	95
Dermatological	106	113

The number of units of work performed in the Occupational Therapy department was:

<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
2326	8000

NURSING HOMES ACT, 1963

On the 15th May, 1963, The Nursing Homes Act, 1963, came into operation. The 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 1968 there were 2 Nursing Homes on the register with a total bed accommodation for 82 medical or elderly patients.

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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50

Six persons were buried during 1968 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 300 - 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 four Homes in the Borough for Elderly Persons, registered with the Kent County Council, accommodating some 69 persons, and a privately run Home accommodating 39 blind persons.

FAMILY PLANNING

The Family Planning Association holds a weekly clinic in Ramsgate at the Health Centre, Newington Road, by permission of the K.C.C.

The Branch was started five years ago. At first the attendances were small, but have grown since the commencement and now average 30 patients a session. There are over 500 patients on the register and weekly sessions are held on Wednesday at 6.30 p.m. A small fee is charged, but this is waived if circumstances warrant it.

The staff consists of a doctor, three nurses, working on a rota basis, and voluntary lay-workers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Thanet Water Board is responsible for the supply of water within the Borough. This has been found to be sufficient for all purposes, and there have been no changes in the sources of supply. All the houses in the Borough have a direct supply from the mains. There are no stand pipes.

Water is taken from the deep chalk strata and has a high standard of purity, but is naturally hard and there is no plumbo-solvency. The hardness is largely temporary and can be removed by boiling, which leaves the typical chalk deposits on the inside of pipes and kettles. All water is chlorinated before being passed into the public supply.

The fluorine content is low. It is advocated that fluorine should be added to the water at the chlorinating point in order to obtain a steady concentration of 1 p.p.m. to reduce the incidence of dental caries.

The Water Board maintains its own routine of sampling for bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis, and this department is kept informed of the results. However, further samples are taken by the Public Health Inspectors at monthly intervals and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examinations. These samples are taken from the Pumping Station in Whitehall Road and various premises in the town. Samples are also taken for chemical analysis and sent to the Public Analysis. One of the reports taken as typical is reprinted hereunder:-

Appearance:- Bright with a few particles.

		Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units)	
		less than 3	
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Odour	Nil
pH	7.1	Free Carbon	
		Dioxide	40
Electric Conductivity	750	Dissolved Solids	
		dried at 180°C.	520
Chlorine present as		Alkalinity as	
Chloride	65	Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness: Total	315	Carbonate	240
Nitrate Nitrogen	11	Nitrite Nitrogen	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.02	Permanganate Value	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Residual Chlorine	...
Metals Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead: absent.			
		Non-carbonate	75

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character but not excessively so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

Water from the two wells situated in commercial premises in the Town was also sampled. The results were not satisfactory but the water is not regarded as potable, and there is no suggestion of it being used for drinking or for any other process concerned with the manufacture of food or drink. Both wells were abandoned in the early part of 1969.

COASTAL WATERS

Routine sampling of coastal waters was resumed in May, 1968 and continued throughout the year. Samples for bacteriological and chemical examinations are being taken from 6 points on the coast and examined at the G.L.C. Laboratories. The sampling programme is to continue throughout the following year and perhaps even longer in an endeavour to obtain an overall picture of the quality of the sea water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A scheme has been prepared and approved by the Council for a relief sewer in Stirling Way at an estimated cost of £6,800, but the Minister of Housing and Local Government has asked that its provision be deferred in view of the national economic situation.

The plant for the control and treatment of sewage prior to its discharge into the sea outfall has been completely overhauled and is now operating in a more satisfactory manner.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The disposal of all refuse, both trade and domestic, continues to be dealt with at the Controlled Tip at Sandwich Road and 21,723 tons were dealt with during the year. In addition 6,075 tons of domestic refuse was disposed of for the Margate Corporation under an agreement between that Council and the Ramsgate Council.

During the year, valuable surveys and investigations have been carried out by the Working Party set up by the Thanet Local Authorities, together with those of Sandwich Borough Council and Eastry Rural District Council and its detailed Report will be completed and submitted in the early Spring of 1969.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year there have been no alterations in the system of street cleansing which utilises the gang system with electric orderly trucks in the residential areas and individual beat sweepers in the business and seafront areas, and in addition, all roads are swept by a mechanical suction sweeper. The Council has decided to purchase a further mechanical suction sweeper during 1969 and to replace the gang sweepers by beat sweepers when the additional vehicle has been delivered.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 5,798 visits during the year. Detailed information concerning this work is to be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which follows.

HOUSING

The following table sets out the position as reported to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. These figures are compiled from the returns made each quarter 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	3	1	1
(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)	3	8	1

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

(v) Under Sects. 16(4), 17 (1), and 35 (1), Housing Act 1957.	<u>Number</u> 6
(vi) Under Sects. 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	-
(vii) Parts of building closed under Sect. 18 Housing Act, 1957.	10

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT

	<u>By owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	125	-
(ix) After formal notice under:-		
(a) Public Health Acts	3	2
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	4	-
(x) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act	-	-

Housing Accommodation

(1) Number of new applications for housing accommodation received during the current year.	348
(2) Number of families housed from current waiting list.	127
(3) Number of Corporation tenants transferred to other accommodation within the Corporation Housing Estates	139
(4) New properties completed during 1968/69.	103
(5) Number of properties at present under control of Corporation.	2,704

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	5
Measles	37
Whooping Cough	19
Influenzal Pneumonia	6
Paratyphoid Fever	1
Meningococcal Infection	1
Infective Jaundice	50

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.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The County Medical Officer informs me that the following were carried out under County Council arrangements in 1968:-

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-inforcing</u>
Triple Antigen	546	537
Diphtheria/Tetanus	17	340
Smallpox	291	5
Tetanus	35	21
Measles	672	-
Poliomyelitis	599	677

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 was only one death from this disease during 1968.

Age group	<u>New Cases</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	3	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	1
TOTAL	2	4	-	1

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1968 was:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	75 (88)	58 (57)	133 (145)
Non-respiratory	12 (12)	14 (13)	26 (25)
	87 (100)	72 (70)	159 (170)

Figures for 1967 shown in brackets.

VENEREAL DISEASE

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 1968, a total of 86 new cases from Ramsgate were treated, i.e. 2 Syphilis, 19 Gonorrhoea and 65 other conditions.

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CLEARANCE AREAS

Borough of Ramsgate (Hardres Street, Brunswick Street, Belmont Street and Sussex Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1968

This is the large area in the centre of the town referred to in last year's report. The area includes 135 properties, 106 of which are dwelling houses, 87 of these were considered to be unfit for human habitation. For administration purposes it was necessary to delineate and declare eight separate Clearance Areas, which were then joined together by 'added lands' to form one comprehensive Compulsory Purchase Order. This was the subject of a Public Inquiry on the 17th December, 1968, and the result is awaited.

Staffordshire Street Area

All the houses in this area have been vacated and, with the exception of two houses which remain standing, the site cleared and levelled.

School Lane Area

The three houses in this area have been demolished.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

SECTION 16

Twelve houses were represented under Section 16 as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. Two were considered for demolition, one demolition order was made, and with the other the owner was granted permission to use the house for storage purposes. Ten houses are situated in terrane and it was considered that demolition was impracticable and would have a detrimental effect on adjoining property. Nine Closing Orders were made, and with one the owners gave an undertaking to carry out works, these have been completed.

SECTION 18

Four parts of buildings were closed on grounds of unfitness. In each case these consisted of rooms over shops used as living accommodation. Five basement dwellings were closed as unfit, there being disrepair, dampness and inadequate light and ventilation.

An application under Section 24 was made by the owner in respect of three houses in a terrace subject to demolition orders. Action was deferred to enable works to be carried out. The houses have been repaired and improved by the addition of bathrooms, hot and cold water and internal sanitation, and the demolition order has been removed.

Two closing orders on dwelling houses were determined after repairs had been completed, similarly two closing orders on basement dwellings (underground rooms) were determined when repair works were completed and the rooms made to comply with the Underground Room Regulations in respect of light and ventilation.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for improvement grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer, but to avoid the possibility of grants being given where the house is not likely to have the required 'life', e.g. where the house is likely to be affected by a Clearance Order, applications are referred to the Public Health Department for a report. In each case an inspection is made, housing defects are noted and remedied.

The following information concerning applications has been supplied by the Borough Engineer's Department.

1. Discretionary Grants

Four applications received - two approved.

2. Standard Grants

Sixty-five applications received - sixty-four approved.

The total amount paid in grant amounts to £14,666.4.9d.

Discretionary Grants	-	£645. 6. 6.
Standard Grants	-	£14,020.18. 3.

HOUSING ACT, 1964

Improvements in the Leonard's Avenue Area have been completed, only those houses where there has been a definite tenant refusal are now without the standard amenities.

One tenant application under Section 19 was received during the year. The Agent has been notified of the application, and has expressed willingness to comply with the tenant's requests on a voluntary basis. Therefore it has not been necessary to serve preliminary notice.

Owing to shortage of qualified staff, it has not been found possible to proceed with the declaration of improvement areas under Part II of the Act.

INSPECTION OF AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

There is one pasteurising plant operating within the Borough, this plant serves an area extending well beyond the Borough boundaries. All milk is treated by the H.T.S.T. method. Although ultra heat treated milk is on sale within the area, no processing plant is in operation here. Carton packaging containers to be used for distribution through the retail shops, milk deliveries to households and schools are in glass bottles. In spite of the care exercised at the dairy, the dirty milk bottle continues to appear at intervals. There must be some lack of vigilance here, it should not be possible for an unclean milk bottle to reach the filling point, but consumers are not always free from blame. Milk bottles tend to be used as containers for other materials which leave traces behind, these cannot always be removed.

Examination and Testing

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals at various points in the chain of distribution and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall for methylene blue and phosphatase tests. School milk is sampled as routine and the results of the examination are sent to the Education Authority. Seventy-one samples of pasteurised milk were taken, one of these failed the methylene blue test, two samples of sterilised milk and one sample of ultra heat treated milk were taken, these were satisfactory. Samples of raw, untreated, milk are not being taken, the milk is being delivered to the dairy in bulk by tanker, so that it is impossible to identify milk from an individual farm.

Food & Drugs Sampling - Milk

Forty samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Analyst, all were found to be genuine.

The presumptive standard for milk as laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations is 3% fats and 8.5% solids not fat. A rather higher standard is fixed for Channel Islands Milk, i.e. milk from cattle of the Channel Islands breeds. In this case the standard for fat being fixed at 4%, with no variation in the standard for solids not fat. This is a fair average standard, and not unduly high. Analysis of samples taken over many years in this area has shown both fats and solids not fat to be much higher than the presumptive standard allows, and Channel Islands milk shows a fat content greater than 4%.

The annual average of a period of four years is shown in the tables below:-

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
Fats	4.38	4.10	4.30	4.30
Solids not fat	8.80	8.91	8.92	8.85
Total	13.18	13.01	13.22	13.15

A break-down of the figures for 1968 only gives:-

(1) Pasteurised milk average:	Fats	3.75
	Solids not fat	8.65
	Total	12.40
(2) Channel Islands Milk average:	Fats	4.92
	Solids not fat	8.96
	Total	13.88

ICE CREAM

Thirty-nine samples of ice cream were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and grading. Results are as set out below:-

	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
Soft Ice Cream	1	5	-	-
Other Ice Cream	27	4	1	1

Two samples fell into the lower grades, III and IV, follow up samples were taken, these were found to be satisfactory.

Most of the ice cream sold from premises such as shops is prepacked, supplied by one of the National Companies, there is, however, a considerable trade in soft ice cream. This is supplied to the vendor either as a 'complete mix' in a hermetically sealed tin, which requires no further attention other than freezing in their machine, or as a cold mix powder to which water is added. Mobile vendors escape sampling, but not inspection. We are so great a distance from the laboratory that sampling must be completed by mid morning if they are to reach the laboratory in time. Mobile vendors do not start rounds until after the time by which samples must be despatched, and samples cannot be taken a day in advance as this would make the sample void.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises are inspected frequently in an endeavour to maintain as high a standard as possible. Ideally restaurants, cafes and snack-bars should be visited at least once a month, more frequently if occasion demands, but because of inadequate staff, it has been impossible to carry out this policy. However, routine inspections are carried out, and where complaints are made by the general public an investigation forthwith. The importance of a high standard of hygiene in catering establishments cannot be over emphasised, this is the more apparent in a holiday resort, where a lowering of standards can have disastrous results. On the whole food traders are co-operative and willing to act on advice given, and prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations are rare.

A plea is being made for the registration of all food premises with the local authority. At present registration is confined to premises defined in Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, i.e. premises used for the manufacture, storage, or sale of ice cream, and premises used for the manufacture or preparation of sausages or preserved foods, and dealers and distributors of milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations. Thus we are in the rather ludicrous position of having to register premises for the sale of such items as pre-packed ice cream and milk in bottles, while catering premises where the need is greater do not have to be registered at all. These premises can spring up overnight, then they have to be found and brought into line with the Food Hygiene Regulations. It would be preferable if registration (or licensing) were all embracing and subject to renewal at stated intervals.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

No slaughtering is carried on within the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The importation of containerised meat and bacon is a feature that has developed of late. Fresh meat from Ireland is arriving at the West Country ports in refrigerated and sealed containers, this is not being inspected at the port of arrival, and after Customs clearance, is being placed on road transport for delivery to its final destination. Consignments of this nature are arriving at the Meat Depots in Ramsgate each week, and all are subject to inspection on arrival. Bacon from a continental country is being imported in a similar manner through the Port of London Authority, this too is subject to inspection on arrival in Ramsgate.

A quantity of canned food was seized under the provisions of Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act from a stall in a covered market, a total of 195 tins of various foods was involved. Some other offences were found at the same time, and a prosecution is pending.

A total of 6 tons 18 cwts. 12 lbs, of unsound meat and various tinned goods etc. was surrendered.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 ADULTERATION

One hundred and two samples (43 formal, 59 informal) were taken and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst:-

	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>
Milk	30	5
Pork Sausage Meat	3	-
Dried Onions		1
Prunes		1
Custard Powder		1
Fruit Salad		1
Sauerkraut		2
Pickle		1
Evap. Tinned Milk		1
Tinned Pudding		2
" Custard		1
Cream		2
Jams, Spreads etc.		6
Sauces		4
Drinking Chocolate		1
Pork Sausages		1
Pastes		1
Cooking Oil		1
Hamburgers		1
Veg. Juice		2
Ice Cream		3
Bread		1
Salad Cream		1
Mixed Peel		1
Desserts		1
Scampi	1	
Lentils		1
Black Currant Syrup		1
Ready Gravy		3
Cockles		1
Sandwich		1
Marzipan		2
Pees		1
Mushroom Soup		1
Whisky	9	
Dried Pees		1
Glace Cherries		1
Tea		1
Potatoes		1
Corned Beef		1
Macaroni		1

PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD REGULATIONS

Wherever appropriate the Public Analyst examines food samples for the presence of preservative. One sample of sausage meat was found to contain undeclared preservative to the extent of 120 p.p.m. S.O.². This appeared to be a misunderstanding on the part of the butcher. The Regulations were explained to him and a warning given. (Ref. F.D. 8/68)

PROSECUTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

Six prosecutions have been taken during the year, two concerning dirty milk bottles.

Ref. M.D. 1/68

This complaint concerned a bottle of school milk, which had a greyish brown deposit on the inside of the bottle extending to about 2½ inches upwards from the base. Proceedings were taken against the dairy, who were found guilty and fined £20 with £6.6.0. costs.

Ref. M.D. 2/68

This complaint concerned a 1 pint bottle of milk which was found to have a layer of dark grey material in the bottom of the bottle. This was found to be a mixture of cement and sand. Proceedings were taken against the dairy; the defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £25 with £5.5.0. costs.

Ref. F.D. 2/68

This complaint concerned a large piece of glass in a one pint bottle of milk. Proceedings were taken against the dairy under Section 2. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £30 with £5.5.0. costs.

Ref. F.D. 3/68

This complaint concerned some foreign material found in a loaf of bread, which, later was found to be a plastic foam swab used for greasing bread tins. Proceedings were taken against the Bakers under Section 2. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £20 with £5.5.0. costs.

Ref. F.D. 10/68

This concerned 195 cans of unsound food which were seized from a stall in a market under Section 9 of the Act and taken before a magistrate to be condemned. Although the offence was committed in the latter part of 1968, the case was not heard until April, 1969. Information could have been laid on each of the 195 cans, but five only were taken under Section 8, and one under Section 2, this was an unlabelled can purporting to contain minced steak, but when opened was

found to contain soup, one information was laid under the Labelling of Food Order 1953, a can (one among many) offered for sale without a label, therefore without a statement of ingredients or without the name and address of packer or producer, and one under the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Vehicles) Regulations 1966, the stall holder having failed to display his name and address on the stall. The defendants pleaded guilty and were found £20 on each of the unsound food offences, £10 on each of the other offences, making a total of £130 with £25 costs.

Ref. M.D. 3/68

This complaint concerned a dirty milk bottle which was referred from the Borough of Deal where the offence was discovered. The milk was bottled in Ramsgate, therefore the prosecution had to be taken before the Ramsgate magistrates, see Milk and Dairies General Regulations, Article 27. The defendants pleaded guilty and were found £25 with £5.5.0. costs.

Other Complaints not resulting in Prosecution

Ref. F.D. 1/68

Complaint of mould in meat pie. This matter was reported to the Committee, and as the evidence was inconclusive, it was decided that a warning letter be sent to the vendor.

Ref. F.D. 4/68

Complaint of mould in a loaf of bread. This was reported to the Committee, there was conflicting evidence, and it was decided that a warning letter be sent to the vendor.

Ref. F.D. 5/68

A sample of scampi was purchased following a complaint that some other fish was being sold under that name. The Analyst reported that this was in fact 'prawn' and not 'scampi'. This is principally a difference in species, and it was decided by the Committee that a warning letter should be sent.

Ref. F.D. 6/68

This was a sample of blackcurrant syrup which was found not to comply with the requirements of the B.P.C., in that there was rather more sugar than specified and no vitamin C. This was an imported product, manufactured in Poland. The matter was taken up with the importers, and we were informed that importation had ceased, therefore no further action was taken.

Ref. F.D. 7/68

A sample of ready gravy, which was satisfactory chemically, but there was a labelling offence, in that the list of ingredients was by no means conspicuous, being printed in black on brown. In this case the

packers attention was directed to the labelling fault.

Ref. F.D. 8/68

A sample of pork sausage meat which was found to contain undeclared preservative to the extent of 120 p.p.m. S.O.₂. Otherwise this was an excellent product. It was found there had been a misunderstanding on the part of the butcher, and the Committee decided that a warning letter be sent.

Ref. F.D. 9/68

This was a sample of pre-packed cockles in which the statement of ingredients was incorrect and the label did not bear the packers name and address. This matter was taken up with the packers following the Committee decision.

Certain other complaints have been received from members of the general public, some are justifiable, but so often complainants are unwilling to appear in Court as witnesses, in these cases complaints are dealt with on an informal basis, and usually satisfaction is obtained.

SHELLFISH

The sale of shellfish from stalls in the Pier Yard continues. Mussels, cockles, whelks and jellied eels are offered for sale, served on small plates and eaten on the spot. Washing facilities with a hot and cold water supply to a deep sink and a wash-hand basin are provided in a nearby kiosk for the exclusive use of the stall-holders, additionally a bowl of fresh water is maintained on each stall.

The prohibition on taking cockles from Pegwell Bay for sale for human consumption, unless they have been subject to steam sterilization, remains in force. Therefore, all cockles offered for sale are imported from other districts under guarantee. Local supplies of mussels and whelks are not reliable, and most of these are also brought in from other areas.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

There is no heavy industry in the area, therefore very little problem from industrial smoke, and atmospheric pollution is not a real problem. Smoke from domestic premises is declining as more and more premises are converted to central heating with the emphasis away from coal as a direct source of heat. On new installations for space heating, there appears to be a bias towards oil firing. Here chimney heights have to be calculated carefully to ensure that pollution will not occur from S.O.₂ and other invisible products of combustion.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There are ten licensed caravan sites within the area, giving a total of 506 spaces. These are licensed for the holiday period only, that is from 1st. April to 30th October in any year, but one of them, has a licence limited to the period from 1st. July to 30th September, this site has 130 spaces to accommodate tents as well as caravans. One small site for 25 caravans is licensed for the whole year, this is for holiday or transitory purposes only. There are no residential sites within the area. On most sites caravans remain throughout the year, but are not being used during the winter period. However, a few spaces are left for touring caravans. These sites are provided with amenities to the standard laid down in the model conditions, and two of the sites are provided with swimming pools for the use of patrons.

A site in Nethercourt Park is maintained by the Council for 70 tents, and is open from Easter onwards to accommodate holiday traffic. This site too is provided with standard amenities, including shower baths. At the height of the holiday season the site becomes filled and provision for overflow is available at King George VI Memorial Park.

The advent of the Hoverport in Pegwell Bay in 1969, with the introduction of frequent cross-channel passenger services, is likely to raise problems relative to camping and caravanning, and it may well be that the provision of a transit site for overnight camping will need to be given serious consideration.

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 open during the summer months. The pool is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season and is operated on the continuous circulation and filtration principle and chlorination takes place during circulation.

Tests for residual chlorine and pH values are taken daily and samples of the water for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at weekly intervals.

Other pools in the area are not available to the general public; two are confined to school use, two are part of the recreational facilities at two caravan sites and one indoor pool has been installed in an hotel. These are subject to the same control as the public swimming pool at the Marina.

Two slipper baths are available at Charlotte Court, one for men and one for women, and four shower baths are provided for men in the Pier Yard conveniences. Twelve shower baths are provided at the Western Undercliff, six for men and six for women; these are available only during the summer months.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registered Premises

605 premises were shown on the register at the end of 1968, giving an increase of 13 over the number registered during 1967.

Persons Employed

The total number of persons employed is shown as 3,200; (1429 males, 1771 females) a small increase on last year's number. The increase relates to employment in offices, shops and warehouses, there has been a decrease in the number of persons employed in the catering industry. It is worthy of note that 46% of the labour force engaged in premises registered under the Act is employed in the retail trade, 30% in offices and 14% in the catering industry. There is no indication of the number of young persons employed, no doubt this forms an appreciable part of the total.

Inspections

There has been a decline in the number of inspections during the year. General inspections were only 40 as against 137 in the previous year, and inspections of all kinds 177 as against 423. This is accounted for by a shortage of staff, and existing staff has been pre-occupied by other matters.

Contraventions

The contraventions found during the year are set out below:-

Section 4	Cleanliness	6
" 6	Temperature	12
" 7	Ventilation	6
" 8	Lighting	2
" 9	Sanitary conveniences	4
" 10	Washing facilities	12
" 12	Clothing accommodation	2
" 24	First aid	111
	Other matters	21

Where contraventions are found it is customary to give verbal notice to the occupier where possible. This is followed by a confirmatory letter, with a reminder if necessary. In practice this has worked out very well, but is not always successful.

Prosecutions

One prosecution has been taken during the year, the first of its kind by this Authority. This was taken on two counts, one in respect of Section 6, failure to provide a thermometer, and the other in respect of Section 10, failure to provide a supply of hot water to a wash hand basin. The case was defended, but the defendant was found guilty and fined £8 and costs.

Inspectors

Four Inspectors are authorised under Section 52 of the Act, all are qualified and practising Public Health Inspectors. This is one less than in previous years. One Inspector resigned in October, 1967, this vacancy was not filled until the Trainee Inspector passed his qualifying examination in June 1968. He had already been authorised to carry out the duties of inspection, so that this meant no change in the number of available Inspectors.

Accidents

Ten accidents were reported during the year, six occurred to males and four to females. No young persons were involved.

Four of these accidents were associated with use of edged tools, two men severed fingers when copping frozen meat, one man cut his fingers while boning sirloins, and one young woman sustained cut fingers while cleaning a slicing machine. She had removed a guard and did not notice the knife in motion when she cleaned under-neath. One woman of 50 broke a wrist when she slipped on the stockroom stairs, carrying a turkey for a customer, another, aged 60, strained her back when lifting a box of cakes onto the counter, and another (54) burned her arm when taking a tray of pies out of the oven. One man injured his back on falling from the tail board of a lorry when a hinge broke, another while unloading from one vehicle stepped aside to allow another to pass and was crushed, and sustained a fractured clavicle, finally a man sustained injury to his toe when he pulled a cash drawer out rather too vigorously and it fell on to his foot.

None of these accidents could be considered really serious, and investigation failed to indicate any negligence on the part of the employer.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The administration of the Shops Act 1950 remains with the Public Health Department. Observations are kept in the evenings and on Sundays, contraventions are rare, a verbal intimation is usually sufficient to put matters right. The late day opening on Friday evenings by the multiple food shops is very popular with the shoppers. These shops do not keep open beyond 8 p.m., even during the holiday period when closing hours are extended. Many of the shops are operating a five day trading week, closing for one full day, usually Monday, and in others although the half day closing only is observed, assistants working hours are geared to a five day week.

The Council has given shop keepers the full benefit of the concessions permitted in holiday resorts. During the months 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 each week is waived. Furthermore, the sale of articles associated with the holiday traffic and all articles of food, with the exception of butchers meat, may be sold on Sundays up to 10 p.m. Although the concessions apply to the whole of the area, only those shops adjacent to the seafront take advantage of all of them, but it is often necessary to remind some shop keepers to return to normal closing hours, especially on Sundays, when the holiday season is over.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following tables show the number on the register at 31.12.68, together with the number of inspections and notices, and the position concerning defects.

(i) <u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Premises</u>	<u>Number of: Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority.	35	4	1
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	153	23	2
Other premises	34	1	-
TOTAL	222	28	3

(ii) Defects

No. of cases in which defects were:-

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>Referred: By H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
Unsuitable	-	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	2	2	-	-	-

Twenty-four outworkers were registered, fourteen were engaged in the making of wearing apparel and ten on toy making.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Complaints were received during the early summer concerning noise from bird scarers. This consisted of intermittent explosions coupled with horrific noises from a record player transitted by some amplifying device. The noise commenced in the early morning, soon after dawn and continued until dusk. The complaints referred tin particular to early morning noises when there was very little background noise to mask the sounds. It was found that the owner of a cherry orchard was using these bird scaring devices when the cherries repined and as soon as picking was completed, the noises ceased. The orchard concerned is within the district of another authority, therefore the complaints were referred to them. In this case the former was permitted to use these devices within certain hours, and provided he kept within those times, he was not committing an offence. I do not know how effective these devices are in warding off the depredations of birds, but the noise is very annoying and can be a nuisance to the light sleeper.

CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS

There are now two cinemas and two thre tres 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.

PET ANIMALS ACT

Two 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.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

At the end of 1968, there were 11 registrations under this Act, four of scrap metal yards and seven persons operating from their homes. Two of the yards are also registered under The Offensive Trades Provision contained in the Public Health Act, 1936.

COMPLAINTS

The number of complaints from all sources was 629. 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 169

Statutory notices served -

under Public Health Acts 13

under Housing Acts 5

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 5,798 visits during the year. These were to all types of premises and for a variety of reasons. Some were as a result of complaints made to the Department, others at the request of builders, but most were routine visits to dwelling houses, shops, offices, catering premises etc.

IMPROVEMENTS

Drains 63

Drains amended 5

Other improvements to drainage systems 11

Total number of Internal Repairs to Houses: 199

External Repairs:

Roofs etc. 32

Eaves gutters, rain water pipes etc. 18

Others 35

Miscellaneous items of repair or improvements effected in dwelling houses, factory premises, restaurants etc: 138

DISINFECTION

Two rooms were disinfected following infectious disease and other conditions where occupiers had made a request and 9 sets of bedding were destroyed.

PEST CONTROL

The Public Health Inspectors are frequently called upon for assistance and advice where insect infestations occur, sometimes these are found during the course of inspection or for other purposes. Fleas occur from time to time, and bug infestations have become a rarity; these insects only become a problem where there is insufficient attention to personal and household cleanliness, but they can be introduced by accident. Complaints of other forms of infestation are received on occasion, and sometimes we are asked to identify some unusual insect. In these cases, if we are at a loss, we have found the staff of the Natural History Museum to be very helpful, they have never failed to identify any specimens sent to them and to advise on feeding habits and method of control.

Treatment is carried out by liquid or powder insecticides as the case demands, and is usually effective. I must stress that although we in this Department are willing to help in these matters, the individual is primarily responsible for keeping himself free from pests.

The following table shows the number of premises treated together with the type of infestation:-

	Council Property:		Other Property:	
	Premises	Rooms	Premises	Rooms
Bugs	3	5	-	-
Fleas	10	48	30	123
Flies, beetles, insects etc.	13	32	10	29

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 infestation, and treatments are carried out in both domestic and business premises. A charge is made for treatments at business premises, domestic premises are treated free of charge. In all cases the occupier is responsible for keeping his premises free from rats and mice.

The Council provide a service and will help, but the occupier has a duty not only to keep his premises free from infestation, but also to notify the Council when infestation occurs, and to carry out such work of rat proofing as may be required.

When investigating complaints, it is customary to survey adjoining premises to ascertain the extent of the infestation, as it is unlikely that rats would confine their activities to one house alone. The few agricultural holdings in the area are visited from time to time, mainly to ensure that treatment is being carried out. Farmers usually carry out their own treatments and do not need our assistance.

The controlled tip at Sandwich Road has caused some concern during the year. The amount of refuse deposited has been increased because of some intake from Margate, and covering material has not always been available. It has been necessary to carry out treatments rather more frequently than in previous years, even so there are signs that the rat population is showing signs of increase. The problem is aggravated by the fact that the Rodent Operator has been absent from duty because of illness for the last few weeks of the year.

In general Warfarin is being used to good effect, no evidence of Warfarin resistance has been found, therefore there has been no reason to try any of the newer materials now on the market. We do on occasion, use other poisons such as arsenic and zinc phosphate where we are looking for positive results, as, for example, on the refuse tip.

Sewer treatments are carried out at six monthly intervals. This is well worth while, as with the refuse tip, sewers could become heavily infested if left alone; and, although we can never hope to reach the more inaccessible places, this regular sewer treatment keeps the rats well under control.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1968

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.
Chief Public Health Inspector - C.H. Weller, A.R.S.H.; M.A.P.H.I.

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 disease on board.
			by M.O.H.	P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports	1,061	90,500	3	25	-
Coastwise	1,358	21,000	-	3	-
TOTAL	2,419	111,500	3	28	-

SECTION III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE

<u>Passenger Traffic</u>	Number of passengers INWARDS	41
	do. OUTWARDS	31

Cargo Traffic Principal IMPORTS

Cars
Steel
Fertilizer
Timber
Wheat

Principal EXPORTS

Cars

Principal ports from which ships arrive:-

Emden
Scheldte Ports
Channel Ports

CROSS CHANNEL - HOVERCRAFT SERVICE

Cross channel passenger traffic from the small Hovercraft station at the Ramsgate Harbour was discontinued in 1967.

Plans for an International Hoverport situated at Pegwell Bay were under consideration for the greater part of the year, and it was not until autumn that the Minister of Housing and Local Government gave his consent. Work on the project started immediately, and it was anticipated that the Hoverport would commence operations by Easter 1969.

The large type of Hovercraft will be used to convey passengers and cars to and from Calais, and the Public Health Department will be responsible for all aspects of port health control. With this in mind, plans have been submitted to Hoverlloyd for a Health Control Unit to be provided in the administrative buildings at a suitable point within easy access for both port health and immigration requirements.

The Department will also be responsible for medical and nursing coverage, and negotiations to comply with these requirements were in hand at the end of the year.

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 and crew.

