

[Report 1969] / Medical Officer of Health, Ramsgate Borough.

Contributors

Ramsgate (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1969

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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

1969



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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

JUNE 1969

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

Alderman Mrs. C.I. Woodbridge

Councillor C.T. Curzon, M.A.

Councillor S.T. Groombridge

Councillor Mrs. W.M. Hayward

Councillor D.G. Long

Councillor Mrs. N.O. Merrell

Councillor R.M. Stone.

Councillor Mrs. M.R. Watson.

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)

B.G. Whitehead (e) Commenced 18.8.69.

R.A. Ward (Trainee)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S. Robertson

Miss F. Holliday

OTHERS:

G.C. Riordan - Supervisor, Public Conveniences,
Rodent Operator - part time.

W. Sales - Driver,
Rodent Operator - part time.

V.C. Barker - Rodent Operator
(Died 20.3.69)

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.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PORT HEALTH OFFICER

E.A. Boyd, M.D. (Vice), D.S.M.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E.A. Thompson, M.D., D.S.M., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

F. Brown, M.A., M.B., M.S., M.D. (a) (b)

D. Adams, A.B., M.B., M.S., M.D. (a) (b)

D.C. Whithead (a) Commenced 10/2/33

H.A. Ward (Trinidad)

CERICAL STAFF:

J.S. Robertson

Miss V. Holliday

OTHERS:

E.C. Jordan - Supervisor, Public Conveyances

Robert Operator - part time

W. Ellis - Driver

Robert Operator - part time

V.G. Barker - Robert Operator

(Died 20/3/33)

PUBLIC ANALYST:

J.H.E. Marshall, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.S.M.

Certificates of R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Joint Board

Certified Dispenser of Milk and other Foods

Certified Public Health Inspector

Certificates, Joint Board R.S.I. and S.I.

Certificates, Public Health Board

(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)
(e)

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 1969.

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	39,140
Units of accommodation	13,716
Rateable Value at 31.12.69.	£1,526,417
General Rate	14/7d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£6,145

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1968</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	252	215	467	469
Illegitimate	33	26	59	74
	285	241	526	543

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	13.4
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.9

(England and Wales - 16.3)

The illegitimate births was 11% 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 15.9.

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1968</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) was 6.0 as compared with 13.0 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:-	3	3	-	2	2	-
Under 4 weeks of age:-	3	3	-	2	2	-
Under 1 week of age:-	3	3	-	2	2	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births = 9.5
(England and Wales = 18.0)

Legitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births = 10.7

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

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1969 shows a decrease as compared with that for 1968.

TOTAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1968</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages.	330	280	610	611

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population	15.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 of population	12.0
England and Wales	11.9

The Death Rate shows a slight increase of 0.5 per 1,000 as compared with the year 1968. The Registrar General has supplied a correction factor of 0.77 and when the uncorrected Death Rate is multiplied by this factor it results in a Corrected Rate of 12.0, which eliminates any undue weighting caused by too many elderly people living in Ramsgate.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex.	All Ages.	Under 4 wks.	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.
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F,	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	5
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	30	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	9	10	5
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, Intestine	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	3
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6
Malignant neoplasm, Breast	F	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, Prostate	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Leukaemia	M	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	M	20	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	4	6	6
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	6
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Other Endocrine diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Anaemias	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningitis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-

[illegible]

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex.	All ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks & under 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 75	Over 75.
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other external causes	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

TOTAL ALL CAUSES

M 330
F 280

LUNG CANCER

This was the cause of death in 30 males and 5 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	3	2	5
1 - 5 years	3	-	3
5 -15 years	1	-	1
15 - 25 years	5	1	6
25 - 35 years	2	1	3
35 - 45 years	6	6	12
45 - 55 years	24	8	32
55 - 65 years	68	34	102
65 - 75 years	105	67	172
Over 75 years	113	161	274

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES OVER PAST 10 YEARS

Years	Total	CANCER Lung #	Cerebro- vascular disease	Heart diseases	Bronchitis and Pneumonia
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
1969	124	35 (28.2)	77	204	71

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.

TENDENCY OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
OVER LAST 10 YEARS

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA	HEART DISEASES	CIRCULATORY DISEASES	CANCER IN JUNE	TOTAL
1924	188	72	88 (21.7)	87
1925	187	78	88 (20.7)	101
1926	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1927	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1928	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1929	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1930	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1931	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1932	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1933	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1934	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1935	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1936	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1937	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1938	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1939	187	78	88 (20.7)	111
1940	187	78	88 (20.7)	111

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 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	47.0	40.3	1.88	22.0 (estimated)
February	40.2	32.9	1.41	60.0 "
March	44.0	37.5	1.97	79.0
April	52.0	41.9	1.08	217.0
May	59.6	49.1	3.29	202.1
June	62.6	53.4	1.24	255.4
July	70.0	59.4	4.39	200.5
August	67.8	59.0	5.52	190.8
September	64.9	57.4	0.33	148.0
October	62.6	53.0	0.32	119.6
November	50.5	41.4	4.39	62.2
December	41.9	36.2	2.14	14.1

Total for	Mean		
Year	51.0	27.96	1570.7
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 ambulance 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 13,367 journeys were made by all vehicles, 95,865 patients being involved, and 311,708 miles covered. In addition 1,959 emergency cases were dealt with.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

The Hospital Car Service made 2,924 journeys and conveyed 9,534 patients, the total mileage covered being 72,314.

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 number of bodies admitted to the Corporation Mortuary, which is situated in the grounds of the Police Station, was 151, all of which had a post mortem. More and more deaths are being reported to the Coroner, necessitating admission to the Mortuary and subsequent post mortem which is reflected in the increase for 1969.

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 Clinic: Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.

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

School Health Service

Minor Ailments: Wednesday 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinics: By Appointment
Ophthalmic : 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 1969:-

		<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
In-Patients:	Admissions	2389	2309
Out-Patients:	Accident and Emergency Department	6731	6351
Special Departments:	Medical	360	425
	Surgical	1132	1145
	Gynaecological	392	441
	Ophthalmic	586	631
	Paediatric	80	77
	Ear, Nose and Throat	1023	989
	Rheumatic	54	64
	Ante-Natal	535	573
	Post-Natal	111	371
	Dermatological	363	346
	Mental Illness	148	159
	Orthopaedic	1453	1289
	Dental	--	--
	Physical Medicine	177	177
	Diseases of the Chest	278	248
	Radiotherapy	86	126
	Diabetic	17	1

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

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Radiological	25239	23408
Physiotherapy	27171	32306

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

<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
20809	19323

HAIKE HOSPITAL (IN-PATIENTS)

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Infectious Diseases	104	161
Medical	415	372
Geriatric	113	147
Dermatological	119	106

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

<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
2305	2326

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 1969 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

Five persons were buried during 1969 by the Local Authority at a cost of £130, but of this £109 was recovered.

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 six 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: Clear and bright.

Odour: None

pH value: 7.4

Parts per Million

Free Chlorine	nil
Free Ammonia	0.016
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.006
Nitrite	nil
Nitrate	11.5
Chloride	70
Alkalinity (CaCO_3)	248
Total Hardness	310
Permanent Hardness	62
Sulphate	11
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.05
Total Solids	530

Microscopic examination revealed very little mineral or vegetable matter.

COASTAL WATERS

The sampling programme for coastal waters carried out in conjunction with the feasibility study of the G.L.C. to discharge sludge at a point some miles off-shore came to an end in September when their survey was postponed for the time being. This occasioned some disappointment as it was considered that the results of this survey were still indeterminate.

After some discussion it was agreed that the sampling programme for the three Thanet towns should be resumed with effect from January 1970, but with some modification. The number of sampling points has been reduced, in the case of Ramsgate from 6 to 4, and sampling is to take place on alternate fortnights, that is on two consecutive Wednesdays in the first fortnight, with no sampling during the following fortnight, repeating on two consecutive Wednesdays again and so on throughout the year. In this manner it is expected to take full account of tide changes. Samples will continue to be examined at the G.L.C. laboratories, and the Thanet authorities provided with the results of these examinations.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A scheme for the construction of a relief sewer in Stirling Way has now been approved in principle by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

A tender of £10,840 has been accepted by the Council and work will be commenced as soon as formal loan consent is received.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

All domestic and trade refuse continues to be dealt with at the controlled refuse tip on the seaward side of Sandwich Road at Ebbsfleet and during the year 25,500 tons were dealt with. Of this total 4,982 tons were domestic refuse accepted for disposal from the Margate Corporation under agreement.

Two 25 cu.yd. S and D fore and aft tipping vehicles were replaced during the year by similar vehicles, one of 25 cu.yds. and the other of 35 cu.yds. capacity.

During the year a detailed report was submitted to the East Kent Local Authorities by their Working Party on Refuse Disposal. The Report was approved by each of the constituent Councils and as a result the Thanet and District Joint Committee for Refuse Disposal was formed in September to serve the areas of the participating authorities. The Officers of the Joint Committee are negotiating for the purchase of approximately 58 acres of derelict land north of Richborough Power Station for a refuse pulverising plant.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

During 1969 the system of street sweeping by the gang system with three electrical orderly trucks in the residential areas was replaced by a second dual sweep mechanical suction sweeper/collector and six beat sweepers. The business and seafront areas continue to be dealt with by individual beat sweepers and these roads are also regularly washed during the Summer months, by vehicles fitted 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 made a total of 6,696 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	-	145	52
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
<u>Not in clearance area</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	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	<u>Number</u>
(v) Under Sects. 16(4), 17 (1), and 35 (1), Housing Act 1957.	1
(vi) Under Sects. 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	-
(vii) Parts of building closed under Sect. 18 Housing Act, 1957.	5

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT

	<u>By owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	127	-
(ix) After formal notice under:-		
(a) Public Health Acts	11	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	-	-
(x) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act	-	-

Housing Accommodation

(1) Number of new applications for housing accommodation received during the current year.	422
(2) Number of families housed from current waiting list.	324
(3) Number of Corporation tenants transferred to other accommodation within the Corporation Housing Estates.	199
(4) New properties completed during 1968/69.	250
(5) Number of properties at present under control of Corporation.	2,767

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	12
Measles	35
Whooping Cough	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Meningococcal Infection	1
Infective Jaundice	23
Dysentery	10

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 1969:-

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-inforcing</u>
Triple Antigen	272	261
Diphtheria/Tetanus	1	335
Smallpox	280	27
Tetanus	30	34
Measles	403	-
Poliomyelitis	356	524

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.

<u>Age group</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	1	-	-
5 - 15	5	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	1	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	3	-	-
TOTAL	9	5	1	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1969 was:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	82(75)	56(58)	138(133)
Non-respiratory	13(12)	13(14)	26(26)
	95(87)	69(72)	164(159)

Figures for 1968 shown in brackets.

VENEREAL DISEASE

A special clinic for the treatment of these diseases is held at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Canterbury Road, Margate:-

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 1969, a total of 67 new cases from Ramsgate were treated, i.e. 1 Syphilis, 14 Gonorrhoea and 52 other conditions.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1969

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 by M.O.H.	P.H.I.	No reported a having, or having had during voyage infectious disease on board.
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Foreign Ports	1,144	88,771	1	14	-
Coastwise	1,229	24,998	-	-	-
Total	2,373	113,769	1	14	-

SECTION III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE

<u>Passenger Traffic</u>	Number of passengers INWARDS	42
	do. OUTWARDS	22

Cargo Traffic Principal IMPORTS

Cars, Fertiliser and Wheat.

Principal EXPORTS

Cars

Principal ports from which ships arrive:-

Antwerp, Emden, Amsterdam.

SECTION XV MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

This section is applicable only to ports which are approved for the landing of aliens and applies, in this instance, to the International Hoverport, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate.

The Hoverport commenced operations on 2nd April, 1969 and conveys passengers and cars from Ramsgate to Calais, and return. No merchandise is carried.

(i) Medical Inspection of Aliens

In order to cope with the potential arrival of Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants who may require medical examination, at the request of H.M. Immigration, an arrangement with local medical practitioners was entered into whereby all incoming flights were covered on a stand-by rota, the practitioner attending the Port Medical Office only if required. All incoming flights were attended by one of four State Registered Nurses employed part-time. Both systems worked satisfactorily, and the following medical practitioners were appointed Medical Inspectors under the Aliens Order 1953 and Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962:-

BRIANT, Dr. B.A.
WATSON, Dr. A.K.I.
VALENTINE, Dr. P.
LOVELESS, Dr. J.A.
BENSON, Dr. W.G.
YEARSLEY, Dr. J.K.N.
BISSELL, Dr. S.W.
HUTTON, Dr. S.W.R.
CRAWFORD, Dr. W.A.
DAVIS, Dr. P.A.H.
CRAWFORD, Dr. K.P.E.

THOMSON, Dr. D.A.
NEDEN, Dr. D.A.J.
STUART, Dr. G.W.
REYNOLDS, Dr. R.
SHARP, Dr. J.R.
SOUTHALL, Dr. M.H.
SEMPLE, Dr. W.J.
ADAM, Dr. E.J.
CHITTENDEN, Dr. J.R.
THOMPSON, Dr. E.A.
BOYD, Dr. S.A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING ACT

CLEARANCE AREAS

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

This Order was the subject of a Public Inquiry held on 17th December, 1968, and was confirmed with some modifications in May, 1969.

The Compulsory Purchase Order included eight Clearance Areas, one consisting of one house only, and, with added lands comprised a total of 136 properties, 106 of which were dwelling houses. Ninety-five of the houses were included in the Clearance Areas, but 8 were upgraded from the unfit category. Two were considered to be not unfit in themselves, but, because of their situation dangerous or injurious to health and the other six were re-classified as fit properties. With these exceptions it was found that the Clearance Areas had been properly represented and, further, that the Compulsory Purchase Order was justified.

Negotiations for acquisition are proceeding, and occupiers are being rehoused as houses become available, without waiting for completion of purchase.

Borough of Ramsgate (Chatham Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969

This small area of 5 houses only situated on one of the main roads into the town was represented on 7th January. Although objections have been raised, there has been no Public Inquiry as yet.

Borough of Ramsgate (Picton Road) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969

This small area, represented in April contained six houses only, one of which was already the subject of a Closing Order, made principally on the grounds of instability. It was feared that the instability extended throughout the whole row. A Public Inquiry was held on 8th October, and the Order was not confirmed. The owner of one of the houses had carried out extensive repairs, and this was taken as a pointer to what could be done with the row as a whole. Work is now to proceed on works of repair and renovations, some with aid of Grant, and if necessary Section 9 action will be taken.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES
SECTION 16

One Demolition Order has been made on a detached cottage, and two Closing Orders have been made on dwelling houses which were found to be unfit but demolition was considered to be impracticable because of the situation of the houses in relation to others. Closing Orders have been made on three basements let separately as dwellings which were found to be unfit and to have insufficient light and ventilation.

The owner of a row of three houses, the subject of demolition orders, has taken advantage of Section 24 of the Act, has renovated the cottages, and provided them with the standard amenities, i.e. bathroom with bath, wash-basin and internal W.C., and a hot and cold water supply. Therefore, the demolition orders have been removed.

Four Closing Orders on dwelling houses have been removed after the owner had completed repairs and renovations, and four Closing Orders on basement dwellings were removed after the owners had carried out works of renovation, which included improvements to lighting and ventilation.

It should be stressed that the Public Health Department is concerned with the fitness of dwellings. Where, on inspection, houses are found to be unfit and in need of repair and it is considered that the houses can be made fit at reasonable cost, owners are called upon to carry out works. It is only where it is thought likely that the cost would be unreasonable that demolition or closing orders are considered, this is a matter of opinion and owners still have the opportunity of making the houses fit if they should so wish. During the year under review 127 houses have been made fit as a result of informal or formal action by the Public Health Inspectors.

HOUSING ACT, 1969
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

This Act which came into force in August, 1969, made some changes in the pattern of applications for grant aid, notably an increase in applications from owners in respect of tenanted property, these being coupled with an application for a provisional qualification certificate to enable the owner to increase the rent when the works are completed. Applications are being dealt with in the Borough Engineer's Department, but each house is inspected by a Public Health Inspector, and where defects are found a schedule is sent to the owner and the payment of grant is made conditional on the execution of repairs.

Some builders are taking advantage of the removal of restrictions on the disposal of houses after a grant has been made, and are renovating vacant houses with the aid of a grant and then offering them for sale. This has the effect of maintaining the existing housing stock and the work has been of a good standard.

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

1. Discretionary Grants

One application received - one approved.

2. Standard Grants

Sixty-six applications received - sixty-six approved.

The total amount paid in grant amounts to £9780. 2. 6d.

Discretionary Grants - £400. 0. 0.

Standard Grants - £9380. 2. 6.

IMPROVEMENT AREAS

The sections of the Act of 1964 dealing with the delineation of improvement areas have been replaced, and proposals for area improvement substituted. The immediate effect of this is that the Local Authority no longer has power to compel the installation of the standard amenities in tenanted dwellings in an Improvement Area. However, Section 19 of the 1964 Act remains. This enables tenants to apply to the Local Authority for them to exercise their powers to compel the owner to provide the standard amenities.

Six tenant applications have been received during the year. One presents some difficulty as it is within an area likely to be affected by clearance in the very near future; with two, in spite of representations made to the owners it appears likely that we shall be compelled to go to enforcement as there is some resistance; with two, applications for improvement grants and provisional qualification certificates have been made; and with the other one the work has been completed.

INSPECTIONS

A systematic house to house inspection was re-introduced towards the end of the year (vide S. 70) with the intention of bringing the houses up to a reasonable standard of repair and, where possible, ensuring the provision of standard amenities where these are lacking. So far 34 houses have been inspected under this plan, an informal approach has been made to the owners of tenanted property, both as regards repair and the provision of standard amenities. This is additional to inspections for the purpose of 'Slum Clearance'.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

It is to be expected that there will be a number of applications for qualification certificates now that landlords are to be enabled to increase the rents of controlled properties in certain circumstances. There had been no such applications up to the end of the year, this was not surprising as any increase in rent cannot take place before 1971 and in some cases January 1972.

There has been a few combined applications for improvement grant and provisional qualification certificates.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

There is one pasteurising plant operating in 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 continues 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 and which 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 and Drugs Sampling - Milk

Forty-three samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis. Three of these were found to be unsatisfactory.

Sample No. 448 - Channel Islands Milk.

Fat 4.40%. Solids not fat 8.66%. Freezing Point - 0.529°C.

This sample complies with the standards for fats and solids not fat, although the latter is rather low for this class of milk. However, the freezing point is an indication of the presence of added water. Following samples taken from this source were quite satisfactory, and a warning was given.

Sample No. 456. Pasteurised Milk

Fat 3.50%. Solids not fat 8.46%. Freezing point - 0.528°C.

The fat content for this sample is above the standard, but the solids not fat are low and the freezing point indicates the presence of added water.

Again following samples from this source were quite satisfactory and a warning was given.

Sample No. 459. U.H.T. Milk. Prepacked.

Fat 3.45%. Solids not fat 8.45%. Freezing point - 0.533°C.

U.H.T. milk is not produced in Ramsgate, and this was an informal sample. The fats content is above the standard, but again solids not fat are low, and the freezing point indicates the presence of added water. On being informed the vendor withdrew the remainder of the batch from sale, samples were taken of the fresh batches, and these were satisfactory. The producer was informed and the information passed on to the local authority concerned.

It is rather disturbing that three samples taken so close together should have shown failure in this manner after our previous good record, particularly so as no explanation has been found.

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 of fat, 4%, is fixed for Channel Islands Milk, this is an absolute standard, but there is no variation in the standard for solids not fat. This is a fair average standard, and over the years it has been found that the average for both fats and solids not fat is much higher than laid down by the presumptive standard.

The annual average over a period of the last four years is set out below:-

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Fats	4.10	4.38	4.10	4.30
Solids not fat	8.56	8.80	8.91	8.92
Total	12.66	13.18	13.01	13.22

A break-down of the figures for 1969 only gives:-

(1) Pasteurised milk average:	Fats	3.65
	Solids not fat	8.54
	Total	12.19
(2) Channel Islands Milk Average:	Fats	4.50
	Solids not fat	8.60
	Total	13.10

ICE CREAM

Forty-two 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</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
Soft Ice Cream		2	-	-	-
Other Ice Cream		37	1	2	-

Two samples fell into the lower grade III. Follow up samples were taken and these were found to be satisfactory.

Samples are invariably taken from premises. Mobile vendors are operating in the area, but do not commence trading before mid-day, and because of transport difficulties, the laboratory is 50 miles away, the sampling routine has to be completed before 11 a.m., otherwise the samples do not arrive in time.

Most of the ice cream sold from premises is pre-packed, supplied by one of the National Companies. There is a trade in soft ice cream, mainly on the sea front. This is supplied to the vendor either as a complete mix in hermetically sealed tin, which requires no more than freezing, or as a cold mix powder to which water is added.

Nine samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for analysis, one sample was found to contain less than 5% fat, but the following sample was found to be satisfactory, and a warning letter was sent.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises are inspected regularly and frequently. Ideally restaurants, cafes and snack bars should be visited at least once each month.

Routine inspections have been carried out rather less frequently than the ideal demands; because of an inadequate staff of Public Health Inspectors. However, the vacancy on the staff was filled during August and the number of visits was increased as a result. No one could claim

that conditions are perfect, but bearing in mind human fallibility, a reasonable standard is being maintained, basically because of frequent inspection by an officer who has the power to invoke and enforce the Food Hygiene Regulations.

One cannot over emphasise the importance of a high standard of hygiene in catering establishments; this assumes a much greater importance in a holiday town where a lowering of standards could have a disastrous result. This is well understood by the established traders, trouble can arise from the mushroom establishment that springs up overnight and is gone almost as quickly.

The establishment of a weekly market in the car park to the Greyhound Track has added to the responsibility of the Department. The market includes a number of stalls selling a variety of foods, and although one cannot expect the same standard as would apply in permanent premises, stall holders must comply with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Vehicles) Regulations, and have been so informed. There was some resistance in the first instance, but this resistance has been overcome. Now a regular inspection of all food stalls is made on every market day. I do not favour the sale of any type of food from stalls in an open market by travelling salesmen. It is difficult to comply with normal hygiene practices, the system is open to abuse, and if any trouble should occur it is almost impossible to trace either vendor or source of supply.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough, therefore slaughtering does not take place.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Containerised meat continues to arrive in a steady stream from the west country, being imported from Ireland. This comes into the wholesale meat depots and is distributed throughout the town. It is inspected prior to distribution at the depots and is generally found to be of high quality.

A total of 7 tons 38 lbs. of unsound meat, canned and other foods was voluntarily surrendered after inspection and destroyed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

FOOD SAMPLING.

One hundred and twenty four samples of various foods (48 formal and 76 informal) were taken and submitted for analysis, and where appropriate, these samples were examined for the presence of preservatives. All were found to comply with the Preservatives in Food Regulations.

PROSECUTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

Seventeen complaints concerning food were reported to the Health and Housing Committee for instructions, and five prosecutions were authorised.

REF. F.D. 1/69 Wasps in Canned Red Plums

This complaint concerned a 6½ lb. tin of Red Plums, supplied to a school for school meals. On opening a large number of dead wasps was found to be floating on the surface. This was a foreign product, packed in Hungary, thus the producer was outside the jurisdiction of the English Courts. Although proceedings could have been taken against the importer, it was decided to pass on the information to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who in turn wrote to the Embassy of the Country concerned. We have been informed that the parties concerned have been instructed to take strict measures to guard against any similar occurrences.

REF. F.D. 3.4.5/69. Milk

These complaints arose following routine sampling. The freezing point test indicated the presence of added water, the matter is referred to in the paragraph headed "Food and Drugs Sampling - Milk".

REF. F.D. 6/69 Mould in Pork Pies

This complaint concerned a pack of 4 mini pork pies which on being opened were found to be mouldy. These pies were purchased during the morning of Friday and the mould was not discovered until the evening of the following day. Because of the time lag between purchase and the discovery of the mould it was considered that it could not be proved that the mould was present at the time of sale, and a warning letter was sent.

REF. F.D. 7/69. Mould in Beef Pie.

This complaint concerned a small beef pie found to be mouldy within a short time of purchase. The code marking on the wrapper indicated that the pie had been in stock for several days and it was decided to prosecute. The case was defended, but the defendant was found guilty and fined £10 with costs and witnesses expenses amounting to £9.3.0d.

REF. F.D. 8/69 Canned Chopped Pork - Staining

This complaint concerned a can of chopped pork which on being opened was found to have a dark discolouration on the surface. The can and its contents were sent to the Public Analyst for examination. He reported the presence of lead in the stained portion to the extent of 1,000 p.p.m. However only the stained portion was so affected and he expressed the opinion that this would not constitute a hazard to health. In view of the Analyst's report it was decided that a warning letter would be appropriate.

REF. F.D. 9/69 Steak and Onion Pie - Mould

This complaint concerned a steak and onion pie which was found to be mouldy within a short time of purchase. This pie had been kept in a heated cabinet and was sold as a hot pie for immediate consumption, and its appearance indicated that it had been so heated more than once. A prosecution was taken, the defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £10.

REF. F.D. 10/69 Minced Beef - Sour

This complaint concerned a half pound of minced beef. On taking it home and preparing the meat for cooking, the purchaser noticed an unpleasant smell, and when brought into the Health Department it was definitely 'off'.

A prosecution was taken, the defendant admitted that the beef had been minced the day before and pleaded guilty. He was fined £15.

REF. F.D. 11/69 Wrapped Sliced Bread - Mouldy

This complaint concerned a sliced loaf of bread which was found to be mouldy the day after alleged purchase. When seen in the Health Department there was a considerable growth of pink mould on the slices. There was an element of doubt in this case and it was decided to give a warning.

REF. F.D. 12/69 Wrapped Sliced Bread - Mouldy

This complaint concerned a sliced loaf which was found to be mouldy on the day of delivery. The mould was undoubtedly of long standing and had penetrated deeply into the bread, but it was found that a loaf had been left on the door step at about 10 a.m. and was not taken in until about 11.30 a.m. The possibility of substitution could not be overlooked and a warning letter was sent.

REF. F.D. 13/69 Cream Puff - Mouldy

This complaint concerned a cream puff purchased at 8.40 a.m. and found to be mouldy at 9.40 a.m. On examination it was found that the choux pastry had patches of green mould and the filling was rancid. A prosecution was taken against the vendor, who defended the case and brought in the producer. Both were found guilty and fined £10 each with £10 costs and witnesses expenses £1.

REF. F.D. 14/69 Jellied Veal - Foreign Body

This complaint concerned a quarter pound of sliced jellied veal which was found to have a foreign body embedded in it, which was found to be a bristle from a scrubbing brush. The veal was taken from a can packed in New Zealand, and on consideration the Committee decided that

a warning would be appropriate.

REF. F.D. 15/69 Apple Turnover - Mould

This complaint concerned two apple turnovers which had been purchased with other pastries for consumption at the mid morning break at a local factory, and which were found to be mouldy. There was a great deal of uncertainty about the facts of this case, and again it was decided to send a warning letter.

REF. M.D. 1/69 Dirty Milk Bottle

This complaint concerned a dirty milk bottle. On examination a brown stain was seen on the inside, which could not be identified with any certainty. A prosecution was taken, the case was defended, the defendant was found guilty and fined £20 with costs £8 and witnesses expenses £5.10.4d.

REF. M.D. 2/69 Dirty Milk Bottle

This complaint originated within the area of another authority and concerned a bottle of school milk which was found to be dirty, but the milk had been bottled in Ramsgate. The evidence showed that this bottle had been used for water colour painting. Because of this, the dairy was warned and the Divisional Education Officer asked to ensure that milk bottles were not used for such purposes.

Other complaints have been received from members of the public, most justifiable, but often complainants are reluctant to give evidence in Court. 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 516 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. 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 Hoverport in Pegwell Bay came into operation during 1969. It was anticipated that this would bring some problems with caravans and tents as it was thought likely that there would be a demand for overnight camping. No such problem occurred during these summer months, it may well be that because this is the first season for the Hoverport, it is not yet fully established. It is still thought that provision for overnight camping will be needed in the future.

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. 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

631 premises were shown on the register at the end of the year, this showed an increase of 16 over the figure for the previous year. The actual number of new registrations is 35 and there have been 19 deletions.

Persons Employed

The total number of persons employed is shown as 3,278 (1,455 males and 1,823 females), an increase of 278 on last year's total. This increase relates in the main to offices and retail shops, there has been a small increase (22) in the number employed in catering establishments. The distribution of the labour force employed in registered premises is:-

Offices	30.5%
Retail shops	43.6%
Wholesale premises etc.	7.4%
Catering	14.9%
Male employees account for 44.4% and female 55.6%	

A number of females are employed on a part-time basis, this has the effect of increasing the number of persons employed, but not the number of hours worked. There is no indication of the number of young persons employed.

Inspections

There is little variation in the number of inspections carried out during the year, 44 general inspections as against 40 in the previous year, with 180 inspections of all kinds, as against 177 in the previous year. Once again the Department has been affected with the perennial shortage of staff. One Inspector resigned at the end of 1968, this vacancy was not filled until August, 1969.

Contraventions

Contraventions found during the year are set out below:-

Section 4.	Cleanliness	19
" 5.	Overcrowding	1
" 6.	Temperature	10
" 7.	Ventilation	7
" 8.	Lighting	4
" 9.	Sanitary convenience	4
" 10.	Washing facilities	14
" 12.	Clothing accommodation	6
" 13.	Sitting facilities	4
" 24.	First aid	17
	Other matters	45

Where contraventions are found, the occupier is informed verbally in the first instance, this is followed by a confirmatory letter. This works very well in practice, the occupier has an opportunity of discussing points that may be obscure to him, and we are able to secure excellent co-operation in the enforcement of the Act. Sometimes it is necessary to send reminder letters, but usually on re-inspection it is found that the contraventions have been rectified.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions during the year.

Inspectors

Four Inspectors are authorised under Section 52 of the Act, all are qualified and practising Public Health Inspectors. One Inspector resigned in December 1968; in spite of frequent advertising this vacancy was not filled until August 1969. With a full staff of Public Health Inspectors there is no difficulty in keeping abreast of the work, each Inspector is allocated to a district and responsible for the inspections in his particular area.

Accidents

Ten accidents were reported during the year, four to men, four to women and two to girls. None of these accidents were associated with machinery, and none were serious, but an investigation was carried out in each case. Two were in a warehouse and were concerned with dismantling or moving racking, in three cases the injury consisted of cut fingers, one was in an office where a clerk trapped her fingers while stacking papers, three were falls on stairs causing bruising or strains, one was running upstairs, where a girl fell through a door at the top and broke a glass panel, two were falls on level ground, one while pushing a trolley and the other on a polished floor. Finally one man dislocated his shoulder while carrying a quarter of beef. So far as could be ascertained these were all 'accidents' and no blame could be laid on 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 the 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 sea front 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 31.12.69, 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:</u>	
		<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written notices.</u>
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority	35	1	-
Factories not included above in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	153	45	2
Other premises	34	-	-
TOTAL	222	46	2

(ii) Defects

No. of cases in which defects were :-

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

Fourteen outworkers were registered, all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

There was some apprehension among the Cliffsend residents regarding the possible levels of noise from the Hovercraft when this came into operation. The Hovercraft is reported to be noisy, but the level of noise produced by the SRN.4 is much less than that produced by the smaller SRN.6. The hovercraft can be heard approaching from some miles away as the noise travels over the sea with no obstruction, but the noise level is much less than had been expected. A series of checks, using the noise level indicator, gave decibel readings rather less than that of passing traffic on Sandwich Road, indeed heavy traffic or a helicopter would blot it out altogether. There is, however, a different quality in this noise, it can be obtrusive, but it has not been found to interfere with speech as does happen when aircraft are passing overhead. We know that efforts are being made to reduce the volume of noise, and as time goes on it could well be that the hovercraft will be less noisy.

Complaints concerning the use of bird scarers in the adjoining rural district cropped up again in the early summer. Representations were made concerning this to the Local Authority concerned, but this noise is permitted at certain times of the day by County Council Byelaws and we can only hope for co-operation from the fruit farmers to keep the noise within reasonable limits.

CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS.

There are two cinemas and one theatre 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 and a market stall 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 1969, there were 11 registrations under this Act, four of scrap metal yards and seven persons operating from their homes.

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 and 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.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Ramsgate has always been an autonomous authority under the Diseases of Animals Act, but many of the routine duties have been carried out by the police. However, the police force, which is a County force, has intimated that it wished to be relieved of these duties under the Act, and these responsibilities have been returned to the Local Authority. The Public Health Inspectors have been authorised as inspectors under the Act, and so far the effect of this on the work of the Department is not known. There are no stock farms within the Borough, but there is some pig farming, and the incidence of rabies on the Continent gives rise to concern as there is the likelihood of dogs and cats being imported through the Hoverport.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 701. 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.

NOTICES SERVED.

Intimation notices served 227

Statutory notices served :-

Under Public Health Acts 20

Under Housing Acts 1

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 6,696 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 dwellinghouses, shops, offices, catering premises etc.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Drains	61
Drains amended	8
Other improvements to drainage system	16
Total number of internal repairs to houses	123

External repairs:

Roofs etc.	17
Eaves gutters, rain water pipes	15
Others	28

Miscellaneous items of repair or
improvements effected in dwellinghouses,
factory premises, restaurants etc. 118.

DISINFECTION.

Two rooms were disinfected following infectious disease and other conditions where occupiers made a request, and four 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 occasions, 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.

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	1	3	4	12
Fleas	8	38	54	216
Flies, beetles etc.	11	28	7	21

In addition, 26 premises were treated for wasps' nests.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Unfortunately Mr. V.C.Barker, who had been employed as a full-time Rodent Operator, died during the early part of the year. He had carried out an excellent job of work, and has not been replaced, indeed his work had been done so well that it was found possible to share his duties between the two remaining members of the staff. Both have been given training at one of the Ministry courses, and so far the experiment is working very well. But it must be borne in mind that if there should be a sudden increase in the rodent population the service could break down, and it would again become necessary to appoint a full-time operative.

Treatment is carried out in both business and domestic premises. Domestic premises are treated free of charge and a charge is made for treatment in business premises, but the occupier has a duty to keep his premises free from infestation and to notify the Local Authority when such infestation occurs, and to carry out such work of rat proofing that may be required.

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

The controlled tip at Sandwich Road showed a serious infestation in the early part of the year, this was ultimately brought under control. Intensive treatment here has been successful. Sewer treatment is carried out twice a year at six monthly intervals, and we are satisfied that the rat population in the sewers is contained.

In general, Warfarin, is being used to good effect both for rats and mice, no evidence of Warfarin resistance has been found, and since the emergence of resistant rats within the county boundary, a close watch has been kept on this situation. We do keep other poisons in reserve, i.e. arsenic and zinc phosphide and use them on those occasions when we are looking for positive results.

