

[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Ramsgate Borough.

Contributors

Ramsgate (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1972

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/v5exqzrt>

License and attribution

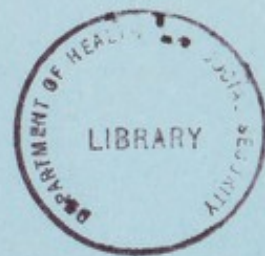
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



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

1972

C O N T E N T S

Health and Housing Committee	-	June 1972
Staff	-	1972
Introduction	-	Page 1
Summary of Statistics	-	Page 2
Natural and Social conditions	-	Page 8
Meteorology	-	Page 8
General Provision of Health Services	-	Page 9
Sanitary circumstances	-	Page 13
Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease	-	Page 16
Port Health Administration	-	Page 18
Annual Report of Chief Public Health Inspector	-	Page 21



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30029314>

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

JUNE 1972

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman Mrs. N.E.C. Kamp

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Councillor the Reverend G.W. Loughborough

His Worship the Mayor
(Alderman L.T.J. Corbitt)

Alderman C.H. Barton

Alderman Miss L.C. Chamberlain

Councillor M.J. Armstrong

Councillor L.J.A. Bishop

Councillor T.G. Cole

Councillor Mrs. M.W. Davies

Councillor G.J. Franklin

Councillor S.T. Groombridge

Councillor B. McEvelly

Councillor P.J.A. Wood

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) for the year 1972.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

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

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

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

B.G. Whitehead, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (e) (f)

R.A. Ward (Trainee)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S. Robertson

Miss F. Holliday

OTHERS:

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

W. Liddle - Driver

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.
- (f) R.S.H. Diploma in Air Pollution Control.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1972.

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
and Port Medical Officer.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	3,624
Registrar General's estimate of population	40,070
Units of accommodation	14,230
Rateable Value at 31.12.72.	£1,593,783

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1971</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	228	242	470	455
Illegitimate	33	20	53	62
	261	262	523	517

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	13.1
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.6

(England and Wales - 14.8)

The illegitimate births was 10.0% 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 15.6.

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1971</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) was 9.0 as compared with 12.0 for England and Wales.

DEATHS OF INFANTS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Under 1 year of age - Total	4	2	6
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Under 4 weeks of age - Total	3	-	3
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Under 1 week of age - Total	3	-	3
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births
(England and Wales = 17.0) = 11.0

Legitimate Infant deaths per 1,000
legitimate live births = 11.0

Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1,000
illegitimate live births = 19.0

TOTAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1971</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages -	310	317	627	618

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population 15.6

Corrected rate per 1,000 of population 11.2

England and Wales 12.1

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All ages	Under 1	1 to 4	4 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 75	Over 75
			1 yr.	4	14	24	34	44	54	64	75	
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	1	1									
	F	-										
T.B. of respiratory system	M	-										
	F	2								1		1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	M	-										
	F	3								1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	1									1	
	F	4								1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	6								1	3	2
	F	13					1			1	4	7
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	M	5							2		3	
	F	10						1	1	1	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus	M	28							1	5	16	6
	F	5										
Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	9					1		1	4	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	3						1		1		1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	7									2	5
Leukaemia	M	2						1				1
	F	-										
Other malignant neoplasms	M	16							2	2	8	4
	F	24					1	1	2	4	5	11
Diabetes Mellitus	M	6								2		4
	F	3									1	2
Other endocrine diseases	M	1										1
	F	1							1			
Anaemias	M	1									1	
	F	-										
Mental disorders	M	-										
	F	1										1
Meningitis	M	-										
	F	1							1			
Other diseases of nervous system	M	1				1						
	F	4						1		2		1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	2									2	
	F	5					1			1	1	2

[illegible]

6.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All ages	Under 1	Age groups								Over 75
				1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	
Congenital anomalies	M	-										
	F	1		1								
Birth injury, etc.	M	3	3									
	F	-										
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	M	1										1
	F	4										4
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1							1			
	F	1						1				
All other accidents	M	2									1	1
	F	3									1	2
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	M	1							1		1	1
	F	2										
All other external causes	M	3								1	1	1
	F	1									1	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	310	3	1		1	1	2	17	47	118	1208
	F	317		2	1	1	4	5	10	34	74	1868

**TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS**

Year	Total	CANCER Lung +	Cerebro- vascular disease	Heart Diseases	Bronchitis and Pneumonia
1963	112	30(26.7)	59	223	72
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
1970	92	22(23.6)	75	203	64
1971	144	49(33.0)	98	178	70
1972	136	33(41.2)	85	203	84

(+ The figures in brackets show the percentage of cancer deaths due to cancer of the lung).

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The geographical situation of the Borough is 72 miles from London and 17 from Canterbury. It enjoys favourable weather conditions, low rainfall and high sunshine rate, with prevailing westerly winds.

There is a wide expanse of sand on either side of the harbour, whilst the latter is utilised to capacity in the import and export of motor vehicles without detracting from the holiday amenities of the port.

Employment is provided by catering for the holiday trade, shops, offices and small manufacturing firms on the outskirts of the Borough.

METEOROLOGY (as recorded at Margate)

MONTHLY SUMMARY

<u>Month</u>	<u>RAINFALL</u> (mms.)	<u>SUNSHINE</u> (hours)
JANUARY	49.4	39.4
FEBRUARY	29.8	45.5
MARCH	38.5	172.9
APRIL	33.0	148.1
MAY	25.7	221.9
JUNE	33.0	210.4
JULY	51.4	167.1
AUGUST	21.7	219.3
SEPTEMBER	43.7	117.4
OCTOBER	9.2	109.0
NOVEMBER	46.1	68.5
DECEMBER	48.4	63.1

429.9

1582.6

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.

Examination of pathological specimens are also carried out at the laboratories of Ramsgate and Margate Wings of the Isle of Thanet Hospital for medical practitioners.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

A total of 11 radio controlled ambulances and 12 vehicles are based at the Ambulance Station in Haine Road. In all, 97,552 patients were carried by these ambulances during the year, the vehicles covering 346,060 miles. In addition 2,332 emergency cases were dealt with.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

The hospital car service conveyed 12,564 patients, the total mileage covered being 88,300.

MEDICAL COMFORTS

Medical comforts, i.e. bath chairs, bed rests etc. can be hired from the St. John Ambulance Corps, 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 arrangement made with the neighbouring authorities of Sandwich Borough and Eastry R.D.C. still remains in operation. Persons dying in these areas on whom the Coroner has ordered a post mortem are removed to the mortuary in Ramsgate and a charge is levied.

The number of bodies admitted to the mortuary during 1972 was 160, all of which had a post mortem.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are the responsibility of the Kent County Council and are accommodated at the Health Centre, Newington Road, and at the premises in Broad Street.

Infant Clinics are held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and other clinics are attended by appointment.

HOSPITALS.

Mr. R.A.G.White, Secretary of the Ramsgate Wing, Isle of Thanet District Hospital, informs me that the following patients were dealt with at the Ramsgate Wing during 1972 :-

		<u>1972.</u>	<u>1971.</u>
In-patients	Admissions	2973	2728
Out-patients	Accident and emergency dept	7251	7100

Special Departments:

Medical	321	331
Surgical	1059	1024
Gynaecological	410	418
Ophthalmic	618	620
Ear, Nose & Throat	787	966
Rheumatic	-	49
Ante-natal	498	491
Post-natal	106	110
Dermatological	450	420
Mental illness	130	117
Orthopaedic	1547	1611
Physical medicine	206	206
Diseases of the chest	223	251
Radiotherapy	96	95
Diabetic	1	2
Nuclear medicine	23	-

Units of work performed :-

Radiological	25851	26568
Physiotherapy	9980	21274

HAINE HOSPITAL (IN PATIENTS)

	1972	1971
Infectious Diseases	21	50
Medical	329	325
Geriatric	147	134
Dermatological	153	143

NURSING HOMES ACT 1963.

This Act, which came into operation in 1963, repealed Section 192 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with exemption from registration, and also empowers the Department of Health and Social Security to make Regulations as to the conduct of Nursing Homes. At the end of 1972 there were three nursing homes on the register with a total bed accommodation for 93 medical or elderly patients.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, Sect. 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951.

These Acts give authority to secure necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, are aged, infirm and living in insanitary conditions, and are also unable to devote to themselves proper care and attention. No cases were referred to the Department during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECT. 50.

Section 50 of this Act gives powers to Local Authorities to be responsible for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or has been found dead and no arrangements have been made for burial, or the deceased has no relatives.

During 1972, four burials were arranged under the provisions of this Act.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service is administered by the Kent County Council. During 1972, approximately 350 cases of sick and aged persons received help each week. 56 Helps were employed.

In addition the following help was also provided during the year :-

Family care service	-	2 cases
Evening service	-	12 "
Night attendance	-	6 "

HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

These services, also provided by the Kent County Council, employed seven District Nurses and two Midwives in the Borough.

OTHER HOMES.

There are five Homes in the Borough for Elderly persons, registered with the Kent County Council, accommodating some 78 persons, and a privately run home accommodating 39 blind persons, which is exempt from registration.

FAMILY PLANNING.

The Family Planning Association holds a weekly clinic at Ramsgate Health Centre. The attendances have grown since the commencement of this clinic some nine years ago and there are now over 500 patients on the register. Weekly sessions are held and the staff consists of one doctor three nurses and voluntary lay workers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER 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 within the Borough have a direct supply from the mains; there are no stand pipes.

The water is taken from adits in the deep chalk strata, has a high standard of purity and there is no plumbo-solvency. The hardness is mainly temporary and is removed by boiling. All water is chlorinated before being passed into the public supply.

The Water Board maintain its own routine of sampling for bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis, and this Department is kept informed of the results. Samples are also taken by the Public Health Inspectors for bacteriological examination at monthly intervals, these are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone. In addition samples are taken for chemical analysis quarterly, and sent to the Public Analyst at Canterbury. One of these reports, taken as typical is reproduced herewith:-

Appearance: Clear and bright

Odour: Faintly chlorinous

pH value: 7.2

	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Free Chlorine	0.15
Free Ammonia	0.008
Albuminoid Ammonia	nil
Nitrite	nil
Nitrate	19.5
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	0.05
Chloride	102
Alkalinity (CaCO_3)	255
Total hardness	348
Permanent hardness	93
Sulphate	24
Total solids	560

Microscopic examination revealed the presence of some mineral and vegetable fragments.

There is excellent co-operation between the officers of the Water Board and the Public Health Department, and no effort is spared to ensure that the public is given a pure and wholesome supply of water.

COASTAL WATERS

In conjunction with the neighbouring towns, the sampling programme of coastal waters was continued during the year. Examination of the samples obtained was carried out in the Science Department of the Thanet Technical College, under the direction of Dr. R. Knight.

Also in conjunction with the neighbouring towns, a firm of Consulting Engineers carried out a complete survey of the method of sewage disposal to the sea, and will make recommendations for any improvements or changes to this method that may appear desirable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The major proportion of the Borough is served by main drainage, and the majority of properties which remain on cesspool drainage are concentrated in the Haine area. A scheme is at present in preparation for the extension of the sewerage system to include the Haine area, and trial borings have recently been carried out to ascertain the soil conditions in the area so that a start in accordance with the Council's Capital Programme can be achieved.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sir Frederick Snow and Partners have recently presented their report on the Thanet Sea Outfalls to the Joint Committee, and approval is now being sought for them to proceed with Phase II of their investigations into a common sea outfall.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The implementation of the paper sack system of refuse collection is proceeding well, and approximately half the properties in the Borough are now using the new system. The scheme is readily accepted by the public and there have been few complaints concerning the change over.

Disposal is still taking place at Sandwich Road tip and with the completion of the sea wall works, the tip should have sufficient capacity to last for a further two years.

On completion of the filling of the Sandwich Road tip, Ramsgate will utilise the refuse pulverisation plant which is at present under construction at Richborough by the Thanet Refuse Disposal Committee. This plant should be in operation by mid Summer 1973.

The total volume of refuse collected during 1972 was 203,682 cubic yards.

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 7190 visits during the year. Detailed information concerning this work is to be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which follows.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNITY

The County Medical Officer informs me that the following were carried out under County Council arrangements in 1935:

	Primary	Re-immunisation
Triple Antigen	411	14
Diphtheria/Tetanus	18	370
Tetanus	18	303
Scarlet	243	-
Polio-vaccine	443	783
Measles	318	-

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

New cases by age are shown below:

How Cases by Age Group

Non-vaccinated

0	1
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1
10	1
11	1
12	1
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
17	1
18	1
19	1
20	1
21	1
22	1
23	1
24	1
25	1
26	1
27	1
28	1
29	1
30	1
31	1
32	1
33	1
34	1
35	1
36	1
37	1
38	1
39	1
40	1
41	1
42	1
43	1
44	1
45	1
46	1
47	1
48	1
49	1
50	1
51	1
52	1
53	1
54	1
55	1
56	1
57	1
58	1
59	1
60	1
61	1
62	1
63	1
64	1
65	1
66	1
67	1
68	1
69	1
70	1
71	1
72	1
73	1
74	1
75	1
76	1
77	1
78	1
79	1
80	1
81	1
82	1
83	1
84	1
85	1
86	1
87	1
88	1
89	1
90	1
91	1
92	1
93	1
94	1
95	1
96	1
97	1
98	1
99	1
100	1

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	2
Measles	94
Malaria	1
Dysentery	1
Acute Meningitis	1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The County Medical Officer informs me that the following were carried out under County Council arrangements in 1972:-

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-inforcing</u>
Triple Antigen	411	49
Diphtheria/Tetanus	19	370
Tetanus	16	303
Measles	343	-
Poliomyelitis	443	763
Rubella	318	-

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 are shown below:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 - 5	1	1	-	-
5 - 15	-	2	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	1	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-
55 -- 65	2	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	4	1	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1972 was:-

	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
On Register 1.1.72	67	47	10	8	132
New Cases notified:	7	5	1	-	13
Cases restored to register:	-	-	-	-	-
Other additions to register (transfers in etc)	-	1	-	-	1
Cases removed from register:	3	8	-	-	11
Remaining on register 31.12.72:	71	45	11	8	135

VENEREAL DISEASE

Special clinics for the treatment of these diseases are held at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, and at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.

Sessions at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital are held as follows:-

Mondays	9.30 - 11 a.m.	Females
Fridays	9.30 - 11 a.m.	Males

The Medical Officer in charge of the clinics informs me that during the year, a total of 123 cases from Ramsgate were treated at the clinics, 23 for Gonorrhoea and 100 for other conditions.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1972

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 as having, or having had during voyage, infectious disease on board.
Foreign Ports	447	131,834	-	19	-
Coastwise	115	10,929	-	3	-
Total	562	142,763	-	22	-

SECTION III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE

<u>Passenger Traffic</u>	Number of passengers INWARDS	309)	Mainly
	do. OUTWARDS	386)	yachts

Cargo Traffic Principal IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Vehicles.

Principal ports from which ships arrive:-

Antwerp and Emden.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

TABLE F - De-ratting and De-ratting Exemption Certificates Issued

Number of De-ratting Exemption Certificates issued - 1.

In accordance with Article 17 of the International Health Regulations, the Secretary of State approved and designated the Port for the issue of De-ratting Exemption Certificates as from 1st April, 1971.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCE - TABLE G.

<u>Nature and number of inspections</u>	<u>Notices served:</u>		<u>Result</u>
	<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Other</u>	
Routine inspections by P.H. Inspectors			
- 22.	-	-	-

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations have been in operation since December, 1925. These Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles taken from a prescribed area in Pegwell Bay until they have been subjected to sterilisation by steam under pressure for at least six minutes, the sterilisation must be carried out by the Local Authority or in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS AND COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

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.

Nature and amount of Aliens Traffic

The following is a summary of the passenger traffic using the Hoverport during 1972:-

Total passengers:-	Inwards	329,044
	Outwards	332,401

Number of arriving hovercraft carrying Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants - 2,528.

Number of passengers subject to Control:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>No. medically examined</u>	<u>Not permitted to land or refused entry</u>	<u>Number landed conditionally</u>
Aliens	109,045	8	1	N/A
Commonwealth Immigrants	7,290	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

There are no arrangements in operation for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease. Should such an eventuality arise, all arrangements would be carried out by the Local Authority under the personal supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING ACT, 1957

CLEARANCE AREAS

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

The acquisition of the properties in this area is completed, all the houses are vacated, but demolition had not started at the end of the year.

Upper Dumpton Park Road Area

No decision had been made about the future of this area at the end of the year.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

SECTION 16

Four Demolition Orders have been made during the year; one house only has been vacated and demolition is in hand. An application for deferment of Demolition Orders in respect of two adjoining houses under Section 24 has been granted. The proposal is to convert the two into one living unit and provide the standard amenities.

Closing Orders have been made on two dwelling houses which were found to be unfit and not capable of being made fit at reasonable cost, and where demolition was considered to be impracticable, and a Closing Order was made on the upper part of a building, i.e. living accommodation over a shop, which also was found to be unfit.

One house, the subject of a Demolition Order, has been made fit after deferment under Section 24. The cottage was restored and provided with the standard amenities.

The following table sets out the position as reported to the Department of the Environment in the Quarterly return:-

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	-	-	-
(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)	-	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

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

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	218	-
(ix) After formal notice under:-		
(a) Public Health Acts	1	-
(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. | 394 |
| (2) | Number of families housed from current waiting list. | 97 |
| (3) | Number of Corporation tenants transferred to other accommodation within the Corporation Housing Estates. | 146 |
| (4) | New properties completed during 1971/72. | Nil. |
| (5) | Number of properties at present under control of Corporation. | 2,908 |

HOUSING ACT 1964SECTION 19

Five tenant applications have been received under the provisions of Section 19, three such applications are outstanding from previous years, but in each case the owners have agreed to carry out work.

With the five new applications, four owners have agreed to carry out work and grant applications have been made. The tenant of the remaining property is negotiating purchase, and will improve the house when purchase is completed.

Seeing that local authorities are left with no other powers of enforcing improvements, the powers given by this Section are very useful where tenants are really wanting the standard amenities. The procedure is rather slow, but it does achieve results. If more tenants could be made aware of this, it is probable that a higher rate of improvement would be accomplished. The standard amenities are, of course, a bath or shower in a bathroom, a wash-hand basin, internal W.C. and a supply of hot and cold water to bath, wash-hand basin and sink.

HOUSING ACT, 1969Improvement Grants

Application for improvement grants are being dealt with in the Borough Engineer's Department, but each application is referred to the Public Health Department for a report on condition as to repair and the estimated life of the property.

Each house is inspected, where defects are found a schedule is prepared and sent to the owner. Payment of grant is made conditional upon repairs being carried out. The procedure is cumbersome, but it does ensure that repairs are being carried out at the same time as improvements. It would be preferable if the work were contained in one Department, and the Public Health Department is the obvious choice. The acquisition of vacant houses by development companies or builders is becoming a regular practice.

These houses are improved with the aid of grant; the larger houses are converted into flats. This has the merit of improving the existing housing stock and, with conversion into flats, increasing the available units of accommodation.

However, with the acute housing shortage in this area, there is a danger of exploitation.

Information concerning applications for improvement grant has been supplied by the Borough Engineer's Department and is set out below:-

Type of Grant	Applications:		Amount Approved
	Received	Approved	
Standard	71	53	£7,558
Discretionary	150	93	£73,531

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

There has been a number of applications for qualification certificates where landlords wish to apply for a regulated rent. These applications do not come into the Department directly, but are referred from the Town Clerk's department. An inspection is carried out in each case to check the landlord's statements. Houses are not always in 'good repair' and the landlord is notified accordingly. Usually there is no difficulty in securing the execution of repairs in these circumstances. Surprisingly it is sometimes found that houses are lacking in some of the standard amenities, one would expect a landlord to know that his houses were without, say, a hot water supply or internal sanitation. In these cases the procedure is rather different, landlords are advised to apply for a standard grant to make good the deficiencies and to combine this with an application for a qualification certificate.

The Housing Finance Act 1972 came into force during the year. Part III of the Act re-enacts the provisions concerning the conversion of controlled tenancies, and it is not anticipated that there will be any change in the procedure outlined above.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

No action has been taken to implement the provision of Part II of the Housing Act 1969, which provides for general improvement areas. A survey was carried out in a small area of the Town, which included the proposed Clearance Area in Upper Dumpton Park Road, and some discussions were held with officers of the Department of the Environment. They did not look upon the proposal with favour, principally because the area was bisected by a heavily trafficked main road, and that improvements were being carried out or proposed without the declaration of a General Improvement Area. It was thought preferable to consider the Conservation Area with a view to improvement of the scale envisaged by the Act.

This is a matter which does require very careful consideration. The basic principal is to bring the dwelling houses into a state of good repair and to secure the provision of the standard amenities where these are lacking. The repair of dwellings can be accomplished by the use of the appropriate sections of the Housing Act, 1957, but there is no power to enforce the provision of the standard amenities, one can only try power of persuasion, except that tenants can make representation under Section 19 of the 1964 Act, which will confer powers of enforcement on the local authority. All these matters come within the scope of the Public Health Department.

A General Improvement Area means something more than the repair and improvement of dwellings. The 'life' of the dwellings is being deliberately extended, at the same time the area must be made more attractive to live in. Attention must be given to planning and the provision of area amenities, improvements in street lighting, the exclusion of through traffic, play spaces, paved or grassed area, tree planting, parking spaces and garages. These are matters for departments other than the Public Health Department and without their involvement a general improvement area is not likely to succeed.

Inspection of District

The systematic inspection of district, as required by Section 70 of the Housing Act 1969, is proceeding but slowly. This task is being carried out by the District Public Health Inspectors who have many other duties to perform, which means that this work, important though it is, cannot be given priority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

There is one pasteurising plant operating within the Borough, this serves an area extending well beyond the Borough boundaries. All milk is treated by the H.T.S.T. process. There is no processing plant for ultra heat treated milk. The dairy is subject to frequent inspection, and is working satisfactorily. There have been no complaints concerning dirty milk bottles during this year, indeed this dairy now has a commendable record.

Examination and Testing

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals from 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 results of the examinations sent to the Education Authority. Seventy-six samples of pasteurised milk were taken, of which seven failed the methylene blue test, but all passed the phosphatase test. The failures were pasteurised outside the area and the matter was taken up with the Local Authorities concerned.

Samples of raw untreated milk are not taken, therefore there has been no examination for brucellosis. All milk is delivered to the dairy for processing bulked in tankers, therefore, it is not possible to identify the source of supply with certainty.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

Milk

Thirty-nine samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis, all were found to be satisfactory.

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 standards.

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

	1972	1971	1970	1969
Fats	4.05	4.13	4.05	4.10
Solids not fat	8.56	8.75	8.55	8.56
Total	12.61	12.88	12.60	12.66

A break-down of the figures for 1972 only gives:-

(1) Pasteurised milk average:	Fats	3.75
	Solids not fat	8.75
	Total	12.50
(2) Channel Islands Milk Average:	Fats	4.60
	Solids not fat	8.93
	Total	13.53

ICE CREAM

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

	GRADE	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice Cream		6	4	5	5
Other Ice Cream		5	4	1	1

Samples are invariably taken from premises. Mobile vendors are operating in the town, but do not commence trading until mid-day. This is much too late for sampling, the distance to the laboratory is such that samples taken after mid-day would not arrive in time.

Most of the ice-cream sold is the pre-packed product supplied by the National Companies, there are two local producers, and there is a trade in soft ice-cream, served directly from the freezer.

FOOD PREMISES

There are known to be 516 premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 apply, and there are several stalls at the Dumpton weekly market to which the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Vehicles) Regulations apply. The breakdown is shown hereunder:-

Food Retailers, Grocery and Provisions, Butchers, Fishmongers, Greengrocers, Bakers and Confectioners, etc.	-	220
Hotels and Boarding Houses	-	90
Licensed Houses - Inns	-	73
Licensed and Registered Clubs	-	24
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and Fishfryers	-	76
School Kitchens (L.E.A. and Private)	-	5
Commercial and Industrial Canteens	-	3
Food Factories and Bakehouses	-	12
Wholesale Warehouses	-	13
		<u>516</u>
		====

These figures have been compiled from available records. Food premises do not have to be registered as such unless they are engaged in one of the activities set out in Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955, that is, the manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream, or, the preparation or manufacture of sausages or cooked meats, therefore the figures given must be regarded as an approximation. There are strong arguments in favour of registration or licensing of all premises where food is manufactured, stored or sold, with power to refuse or withdraw registration where premises are not satisfactory. In the present state of the law, only catering premises can be subjected to the sanction of closing where the premises are unsatisfactory, and then penalty can be exacted only by the courts.

The Public Health Department is well aware of the importance of frequent visits to food premises, and food traders know they can expect a visit from an Inspector at any time. Premises are checked for compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, usually it is found that the management is co-operative and appreciative of advice given, and by this procedure faults can be corrected at their onset.

Difficulties arise on occasion, mainly from those whose trade is confined to the holiday season, and where inexperienced staff is employed from the seasonal trade. This emphasises the need for a vigilant inspectorate.

Contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been noted and were dealt with informally, it has not been necessary to take proceedings against anyone during the year.

MARKET STALLS

The food stalls at the Dumpton Market are kept under observation. There are some 36 of these engaged in the sale of butchers meat, fish and shellfish, general groceries, greengrocery and so on. I do not like the situation where the more perishable foods, such as meat and fish, can be sold from open stalls in this manner, but it is permitted by Regulation, and we must ensure that the foods are sold under the most hygienic conditions possible.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Containerised meat continues to arrive from the west coast ports in a steady stream. The meat is imported from Ireland, and is not being inspected at the port of arrival, having customs clearance only. It is dispatched to the wholesale meat traders and from there is distributed to the retail trade. The expected time of arrival is known, and inspection is carried out at the depots before distribution takes place. It is not unusual for the meat to have been inspected before the notice of pending arrival is received from the importing authority. This meat is found to be high quality, it is rare for there to be any evidence of disease or other forms of unfitness.

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968

During the year a trade in containerised traffic was started through the Harbour. Considerable structural work was carried out to provide berthing facilities for the container ships and facilities were provided for customs examination.

In the first instance it was arranged that all containers would be T.I.R. and would proceed direct to an inland depot for customs and other examination. In practice this did not happen and examination had to take place within the Harbour. Facilities for such examinations were sparse and we had cause to be grateful for the co-operative and assistance given by the officers of H.M. Customs.

The Public Health Inspectors have the responsibility of securing compliance with the Imported Food Regulations, and had to accept this added duty even though it did place a further burden on their already heavy work load.

A rota was arranged and each of the three Inspectors took a seven day spell when they were "on call", followed by two weeks "off call".

We were told to expect fruit and vegetables, meat and meat products and other foods of continental origin, but there was no certainty either of what would arrive or when it would arrive and a daily check had to be made. Actually the principal food cargoes were dried milk powder, glucose and tea.

The first ship berthed in September, but by the end of November the Shipping Company pulled out and there have been no further imports of this nature since.

I have to compliment the Public Health Inspectors on the manner in which they accomplished this additional task which entailed work outside normal office hours and for which they received no recompense. Had this traffic continued in the manner expected there is no doubt that it would have been necessary to appoint additional qualified staff.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD SAMPLING

A total of one hundred and twenty samples of various foods (37 formal and 83 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

Six complaints were reported to the Health and Housing Committee and five prosecutions were authorised. Other complaints have been received, many quite justified, but these complainants whilst willing to air their complaint in the Department, want something to be done about it, do not wish to cause trouble, and refuse to give evidence in the courts. Completely illogical I know, but it does happen. These complaints are always taken up with both retailer and manufacturer, and brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Prosecutions:

FD 1/72 - Potato Crisps - Mouldy

This complaint concerned a packet of cheese and onion flavoured packet of potato crisps purchased with three other packets on 15th March, 1972 at 8.30 p.m. These were found to have an unpleasant flavour and on examination by the purchaser were found to be mouldy that same evening.

On investigations it was found that the crisps were old stock, having been manufactured in November the previous year, but the probable cause of the mould formation was a larger piece of potato weighing 5 grammes which had retained some moisture.

Proceedings were taken against the vendors, who joined with the manufacturers. The vendors pleaded not guilty, relying on a Section 113 defence, while the manufacturers pleaded guilty. The vendors were found not guilty. The manufacturer was fined £50 with £15 costs awarded to the Corporation and £75 costs to the vendors.

FD 2/72 Sliced Wrapped Loaf - Mouldy

This complaint concerned a sliced wrapped loaf, delivered to the consumer by a roundsman at 7.30 p.m. on 28th June, 1972 and which was found to be mouldy on being opened half an hour later. The code marking on the wrapper indicated that the loaf had been baked on the 19th June, some nine days earlier. Proceedings were taken against the Baker, who pleaded guilty and was fined £50 with £10 costs.

FD 3/72 Sausage Rolls - Mouldy

This complaint concerned two sausage rolls purchased from a beach kiosk on Sunday, 23rd July, 1972, one of which was found to be mouldy when bitten into. The complaint was made to the office on the following day. Proceedings were taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £20 with £10 costs.

FD 4/72 Steak and Kidney Pies - Mouldy

This complaint concerned two steak and kidney pies purchased at about 12 noon on 24th July and found to be mouldy at about 1.30 p.m. the same day. The complaint was made to this office at about 3 p.m. On investigation it was found that the pies had been manufactured on 18th July, were delivered to the vendor (a restaurant) on 21st July and were kept in a refrigerator, but put on display in a heated cabinet. These pies are given a recommended shelf life of 48 hours only, and at the time of sale had already exceeded this life by one day. Furthermore, valid criticism can be levelled against the method of storage and display.

Proceedings were taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £25 with £10 costs.

FD 5/72 College Puddings - Unfit for Human Consumption

Action in this case was taken under Section 8 and 9 Food and Drugs Act 1955. During the course of inspection at a restaurant under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, a quantity (14) of individual College Puddings were found inside a gas oven. These were considered to be unfit for human consumption, the smell was unpleasant, sour and fermenting, and some showed a growth of mould on the surface.

The puddings were seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation, and an order authorising destruction was made. The facts were reported to the Health and Housing Committee, a prosecution was taken.

The restaurant proprietor pleaded guilty and was fined £25 with £10 costs.

A successful prosecution had been taken against this restaurant last year for offences against the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. The proprietors were disqualified under the provisions of Section 14 of the Act; this disqualification was removed after the lapse of six months.

FD 6/72 Chicken and Ham Pies - Mouldy

This complaint concerned four chicken and ham pies purchased at about 11 a.m. on Friday, 22nd September, which, on being examined at about 11.30 a.m. on Saturday 23rd September, were found to be mouldy. Complaint was made to the office on Monday, when the presence of mould was confirmed.

The facts were reported to the Health and Housing Committee and in view of the fact that 24 hours had elapsed between purchase and the discovery of the mould, and further that the management of the firm concerned had already refunded the cost of the pies, it was decided that a warning letter would suffice.

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 stallholders, additionally a bowl of fresh water is maintained on each stall.

Twelve samples of shellfish have been taken from the stallholders for bacteriological examination. The results indicated that no pathogenic organisms were present.

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 and 1968

There is no heavy industry in the area, we do not suffer from industrial smoke, so that atmospheric pollution is not a real problem. Smoke from domestic premises is declining as more and more premises are converted to central heating with a reliance on fuels other than coal as a direct source of heat.

On large scale installations for space heating, such as commercial and business premises, there appears to be a bias towards oil firing. Reports indicate that the sulphur content of gas oil has been reduced over the last few years; this should mean a corresponding reduction in SO₂ emissions into the atmosphere. However, no measurements or monitoring have taken place at any time, and this cannot be verified.

A few applications for approval of the height of chimneys under Section 6 of the 1968 Act have been received. In each case the installation has been much less than 1,250,000 BTH/hour, and the Section requiring approval to be given did not apply.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There are ten licensed caravan sites within the area, giving a total of 556 spaces. With one exception, all are licensed for the holiday period only, in this context, that is 1st March to 31st October. The exception is a small site for 25 caravans, which has a licence for the whole year, but restricted to holiday or transitory use only. There are no residential sites within the area, and no gipsy encampments. The Caravan Club has two certificated sites within the area, these are not subject to licence requirements and are limited to five caravans at any one time and to be used only by Caravan Club members.

On most licensed sites caravans are allowed to remain throughout the year, but during the winter months they are not used, this being merely "winter storage". On one site where there is a mixed licence for caravans and tents, there is a planning requirement that the site shall be cleared at the end of the holiday season; it being intended that this site shall be used for tourists only. These sites are provided with amenities to the standard laid down in the model conditions; indeed most are provided with facilities in excess of the minimum standards.

Provisions are made for recreational facilities on site, and two operators have provided swimming pools.

Long term planning permission has led some development as static holiday caravan sites, with larger and more luxuriously appointed caravans, each connected to the drainage system, having its own water supply and bathroom, so that there is no need for the use of communal facilities. These are not for those who prefer to tour with a trailer caravan for a few short weeks in the year.

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 amenities to the model standard, including showers and baths. At the peak holiday season this becomes filled to capacity and provision for overflow is made at King George VI Memorial Park.

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.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The care and maintenance of the Public Conveniences is under the control of the Public Health Department. There are 26 of these, and this includes the baths and showers referred to above. Those conveniences which are intended primarily to serve the holiday trade are closed during the winter months, opening approximately from Easter to September.

A permanent staff of six cleaners (three men and three women) is employed under the control of a supervisor. Temporary staff is taken on during the holiday period to deal with the increased traffic, at the peak season. Twenty persons are employed.

Cleaning of the more scattered conveniences is carried out by a mobile team consisting of one man and one woman, who are provided with a small van in which they carry necessary cleaning equipment and supplies. The aim is that each convenience shall be cleaned thoroughly at least once in every day, and twice whenever possible.

With the operation of the five day week, a relief team is employed for the two rest days as a seven day service must be maintained. The larger conveniences in the Town are staffed by a more static personnel.

The Department has also undertaken the cleaning of the facilities at the Council's camping site during the holiday season.

No charges are made for the use of public conveniences, except that a charge is made for the use of towels and for baths.

The members of the staff are loyal and conscientious and do their work well. They have much to contend with; the public is notoriously careless in their use of these facilities, and, which is much more serious, there is the ever present problem of senseless vandalism. Broken glass and fittings, damage to buildings and paintwork, destruction for destructions sake. All must be repaired and made good quickly, any failure in maintenance leads to increased vandalism. Glass is being replaced with translucent plastic sheet which is resistant to breakage. Though more costly in the first instance, this has shown a saving because of the reduction in breakage. We have yet to find a solution to other forms of wanton damage.

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.

Once again there has been a contravention of the Sunday Trading provisions of the Act. This concerned a furniture warehouse which advertised opening for retail sales on each day of the week, including Sunday. This was reported to the Health and Housing Committee, but acting on the instructions given, no action was taken.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1972 ON THE OFFICES, SHOPS
AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registered Premises

At the end of the year, 667 premises were shown on the register. There were 22 new registrations and 11 deletions, giving a net increase of 11 over the previous year's figure of 656.

Persons Employed

The total number of persons employed was given as 3,631, an increase of 164 over last year's total; 1,651 were male (45.47%) and 1,980 were female (55.53%). The distribution of the labour force in registered premises is as follows:-

Offices	1,177
Retail Shops	1,618
Wholesale Departments	312
Catering Establishments	512
Fuel Storage and Canteens	12

These figures must be regarded as an approximation only. Employers are not required to show variations in staffs as they occur. Changes are noted when inspections are made. Nor is there any differentiation between young persons and adults. A higher percentage of females are employed in this class of work, many are employed part-time, particularly so in the retail shops. This has the effect of increasing the number of persons employed without altering the number of hours actually worked.

Inspections

A total of two hundred and twenty-two inspections have been made, one hundred and thirty-eight general inspections and eighty-four other inspections.

Contraventions

It is inevitable that during the course of inspection contraventions of various sections of the Act are found. The usual procedure is to direct the attention of the occupier to faults at the time of inspection; this is followed by a confirmatory letter. It is expected that this matter will have been attended to on re-inspection; where structural works are involved it may take rather longer. It has not been found necessary to recommend any prosecutions this year.

The contraventions found during the year are summarised below:-

Section 4	Cleanliness	10
" 6	Temperature	25
" 7	Ventilation	17
" 8	Lighting	6
" 9	Sanitary Conveniences	12
" 10	Washing Facilities	7
" 12	Clothing Accomodation	6
" 16	Floors, passages and stairs	24
" 24	First-Aid	8
	Hoists and Lifts	1
	Other Matters	25

No exemptions have been applied for, therefore none have been granted..

Inspectors

Four Inspectors are authorised under Section 52 of the Act; all are qualified and practising Public Health Inspectors. There has been no change in the staffing position.

Accidents

Five accidents only have been reported during the year, none were fatal, and these were minor in character. Two were associated with the delivery of goods, one occasioned by slipping on a wet floor, one struck by a falling object and finally one by striking a loaded trolley. In no case was the management found to be at fault.

At this point it should be recorded that a fatality associated with a coin operated dry-cleaning machine did occur, but this was not required to be reported under the provisions of the Act.

An investigation was carried out and the facts were as follows:-

The dry cleaning machine is part of the installation at a coin-operated laundrette which is attended part-time only. On this particular evening a customer was using the dry cleaning machine to clean some loose chair covers, and had removed the covers from the machine, found them to be still wet from the solvent, and had spread them around to air them. At this stage a customer entered the premises to use a washing machine, and after loading the machine, complained of the solvent fumes and went outside where she collapsed onto the pavement. An ambulance was sent for, she was taken to hospital and died after admission.

A detailed investigation was carried out, and there was full co-operation from the owners of the laundrette, the manufacturers of the solvent (1.1.2 trichlorethane 1.2.2 trifluoroethane) and the manufacturers of the machine. The department was very grateful for the assistance given during this investigation by Mr. Jordan and Mr. Sirby, both of H.M. Factory Inspectorate. We were unable to find anything but very minor faults in the machine; it had been in almost constant use since 1967, and we had expected to find more. Test runs were made, even to the extent of gross overloading, but there was a failure to re-produce conditions as they were reported to exist at the time of the fatality.

On the postmortem examination of the deceased only minute traces of the solvent were found, not sufficient to cause death, but there was an undetected heart condition. At the inquest the Coroner gave a verdict of death from natural causes precipitated by conditions at the laundrette.

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

The following tables show the number on the register at 31st December 1972, together with the number of inspections and notices served :-

(i) Inspections	No. of premises	No. of: Inspections.	Written notices.
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority	25	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	136	34	1
Outworkers premises	46	-	-
	207	34	1

(11) Defects.

No. of cases in which defects were :-

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

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960.

No complaints of noise nuisance were received in the Department during the year. One District Public Health Inspector attended a course on noise control during the year.

CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS.

There are two cinemas and one theatre in the Borough, these, together with halls 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 music and/or dancing in the Borough is 89, and conditions in general are satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT.

Seven premises were 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 1972 there were 11 registrations under this Act, four of scrap metal yards and seven persons operating from their homes.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT 1950.

The Public Health Inspectors are responsible for the operation of this Act and the relative Orders, and have been appointed as Inspectors. There have been occasions when passengers on the Hovercraft have brought animals, such as dogs or cats, with them on entering the country, and have been without import licences and with no arrangements for quarantine. This seems to occur more frequently on the last flight of the day. The Regulations controlling the importation of dogs and cats and mammals must be strictly enforced. Rabies is widespread in the European countries, the danger of infection is very real, and these Regulations are designed to keep this country free from the disease, and recent experience has emphasised the need for strict enforcement.

The animals are detained in the Customs area at the Hoverport. Where the owner is able to arrange for an import licence at short notice and obtain a place at quarantine kennels for the animal, it is allowed into the country. The alternative is for the animal to be sent back by the first available flight. When these fail, it has to be destroyed.

Cargo ships arriving in the harbour frequently have a ship's pet on board. This has to be kept on the ship under restraint if necessary whenever the ship is in port and a notice to this effect is served on the master.

Farming in the area is mainly arable, there are no cattle or sheep but there are a few pig farmers. Pig farms are visited and movement records checked. There is one licensed establishment for processing waste food, this is kept under frequent observation.

Although we are not directly concerned with the export of animals, there is an export trade through Manston airport just outside the Borough boundary. Lairage accommodation for these animals however is within the Borough, and this has to be kept under surveillance.

A close contact is maintained with the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Animals Health Division), and we have always found them to be helpful and co-operative.

COMPLAINTS

The number of complaints from all sources was 745. These are attended to as quickly as possible, and the bona fide complainant can be sure of receiving sympathetic consideration.

NOTICES SERVED.

Intimation notices served 463

Statutory notices served:

Under Public Health Acts	9
Under Housing Acts	15

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 7,190 visits during the year. These were to all types of premises and for a variety of reasons, but most were routine visits to dwellinghouses, shops, offices, catering premises etc.

PEST CONTROL.

The Department is often called upon for assistance where insect infestations occur, sometimes these are found during the course of inspection for other purposes. Treatment for the more common domestic pests, such as fleas, is carried out as soon as possible. Wasps usually become troublesome in the late summer and autumn, and we are expected to deal with these also.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

One trained Rodent Operator is employed on this work. The incidence of rodent infestation has been reduced to a point where he is able to combine this with other essential work, and so far he has been able to cope with complaints as they arrive. The preventive side of the work is not overlooked, sewers are treated at six monthly intervals and infestation is kept at a very low level. We are well aware that any relaxation could lead to a build-up of the rat population which could spread away from the sewers. The controlled tip on Sandwich Road, another focus of infestation, is subject to regular inspection and here too the rats are being kept under control.

Close contact is kept with the Pests Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. We are kept informed of the latest developments through the Area Liaison Committee. This is important, particularly in view of the spread of warfarin resistance among rats into Kent. We have not encountered any trouble with warfarin resistance in rats as yet but this has been found among mice which has necessitated a change in method.

