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ACQUISITION ROCHESTER

CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

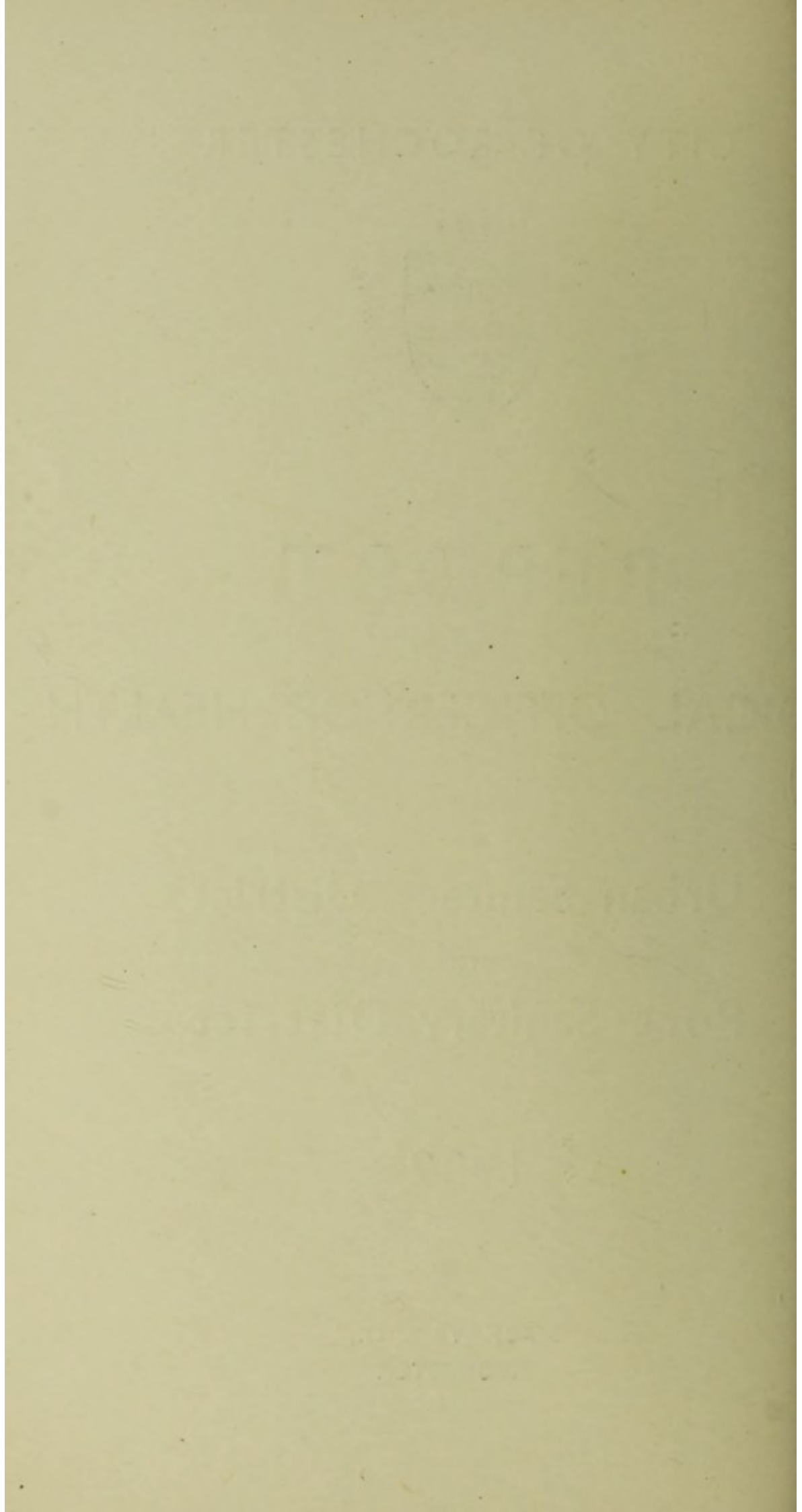
Urban Sanitary District

and

Port Sanitary District

1932

MACKAYS LTD.,
ROCHESTER



CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Urban Sanitary District

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MACKAYS LTD.,
ROCHESTER

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER	Census, 1931.	Estimated (middle of 1932)
POPULATION	31,196	30,980
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (END OF 1932), ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS		
RATEABLE VALUE		£182,314
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE		£721

Social Conditions.

The prosperity of Rochester, as heretofore, depends mostly on its river trade on the cement industry, on agriculture (in connection with which there is a cattle market), on engineering works, and on the proximity of the Royal Dockyard at Chatham. In the first four of these, the conditions prevailing at the present time are far from satisfactory, and there is much bad trade and lack of employment.

Many visitors are attracted to the City by its historical buildings, including the Castle, the Cathedral, and the Guildhall, and also by its numerous Dickens associations.

There is no evidence of any occupational influence on the health of inhabitants.

The population is both residential and working class, the latter greatly dominating.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	452	231	221	} BIRTH RATE 15·4
	{ Illegitimate	25	14	11	
STILLBIRTHS	{ Legitimate	22	10	12	} RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL (live still) BIRTHS, 44·0
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—	
DEATHS		354	183	171	DEATH RATE, 11·4
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:					RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL (live still) BIRTHS, 2·0
	PUERPERAL SEPSIS	1			
	OTHER PUERPERAL CAUSES	0			
	Total	1			

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause during the year.

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths appears at the end of the Report on page 29.

The following Table shows a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1932 :—

	Rates per 1,000 of the population.		Deaths under one per 1,000 registered Live Births.
	Live Births.	Deaths.	
England and Wales	15·3	12	65
118 County Boroughs and great towns, including London	15·4	11·8	69
126 smaller towns, populations from 25,000 to 50,000	15·4	10·8	58
London	14·2	12·3	66
Rochester	15·4	11·4	35·6

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1932 AND FIVE PREVIOUS YEARS.

Name of District—ROCHESTER.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Net. Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non- Residents Registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age. Number.	Rate per 1,000 net Births.	At all Ages. Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1927	{30860* {30760†	507	514	16.6	529	17.1	217	57	22	42.8	369	11.9
1928	{31760* {31280†	458	485	15.2	508	16.2	208	65	21	43.2	365	11.6
1929	31400	469	488	15.5	609	19.3	257	59	32	65.5	411	13
1930	{31900* {31400†	456	482	15.1	478	15.2	213	66	26	53.9	331	10.5
1931	30200	419	423	14.0	520	17.2	281	150	15	35.4	389	12.8
1932	30980	453	477	15.4	487	15.7	228	95	17	35.6	354	11.4

* For Birth Rate.

† For Death Rate.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

A list of these is given on page 3.

2. Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL.

The arrangements for this were set forth in the Report for 1928 and undergone no change.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No nursing in the homes is provided by the Health Authority.

3. Laboratory Facilities.

CHEMICAL.

So far as regards food and drugs, analyses are carried out by the City Analyst and the results for the year appear on page 18.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL.

The work under this heading is carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition, a quarterly chemical and bacteriological analysis of Strood water is made by Dr. Spitta of St. George's Hospital, London.

The various results appear in other parts of the Report.

4. Legislation in Force.

There has been no addition to the list printed in the Report for 1930.

5. Hospitals.

(a) FEVER.

St. William's Isolation Hospital, situated in the district and serving Rochester and Chatham (the agreement for taking Gillingham patients having come to an end), provides about 100 beds, and admits cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. The accommodation has proved sufficient throughout the year. This hospital is controlled by the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.

(b) SMALLPOX.

There is a hospital of 24 beds, capable of extension, in the district, for the joint use of Rochester and Chatham. This hospital is also controlled by the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board. At the time of writing a scheme had been formulated by the County Medical Officer of Health, and is under consideration, for closing all the smaller smallpox hospitals in the county, including this hospital, and for providing accommodation at several larger hospitals, conveniently situated.

(c) OTHER.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER.

This is a Voluntary General Hospital, situated in the district, and serves a large area with a population of over 200,000. Particulars as to its services are given in last year's Report.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council, and suitable cases from this district are admitted to their sanatoria as occasion demands. There is no sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the district.

MEDWAY INSTITUTION, CHATHAM.

This Institution, which serves part of the City of Rochester, has the following number of beds:—Tuberculosis, 38; children (including 12 maternity cots), 24; maternity, 12; general, 409—total, 483.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION, STROOD.

This Institution serves a large district. It has 126 beds, four of which are for maternity cases and eight for Tuberculosis patients.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is no change in these.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no change in these.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

1. There are six midwives practising in the area. These midwives are under the control of the County Council.

2. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No special arrangements have been made for the investigation of maternal deaths and of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia other than that in such cases information is sought from the doctors and midwives concerned, and the Medical Officer of Health prepares a full Report, a copy of which is sent to the Ministry of Health. One Report was prepared and forwarded during the year.

3. HEALTH VISITING.

Some visiting of children, between the ages of one and five years, by the Health Visitors, takes place, and an account of these visits appears in the Health Visitors' Annual Report on page 25.

This service appears to be reasonably adequate.

4. CHILDREN ACT, 1908.

A register is kept of persons who take children under this Act, and periodical regular visits are paid by the Health Visitors.

5. ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

There is a special department for this at St. Bartholomew's General Hospital, situated in the district.

6. UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

There is no institutional provision for any of these, except such as is afforded by the Public Assistance Authorities.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are two of these in the district, one on each side of the river. They are required to observe the Bye-laws and to keep accurate records of their patients. They are visited from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and at regular intervals by the Health Visitors. There have been no applications for registration during the year or any orders cancelling registration.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of Rochester is in two portions, one for each side of the river. On the north side the supply is from a shallow well in the chalk and is the property of the Corporation. The water is satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and is subjected to a monthly bacteriological analysis by the County Council's Bacteriologist and to a quarterly bacteriological and chemical analysis by Dr. Spitta, St.

George's Hospital, London. The crude water is treated by "Chloros" and subsequent filtration through charcoal and sand. The result is a water nearly sterile in which the bacillus coli is never found.

The water before treatment is liable to a varying degree of invasion of micro-organisms, but the bacillus coli is not found in large numbers, while the chemical analysis rarely gives evidence of any considerable contamination.

The water on the south side of the river is from the wells of the Chatham and District Water Company. These wells are in the chalk and greensand. Frequent bacteriological and chemical analyses are made with unvarying good results.

The pumping station at Nashenden and the reservoir at Borstal, referred to in last year's Report, are now in operation, and an additional storage of 2,000 gallons has been provided.

The supplies in both instances are constant and sufficient.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year, registered at Strood Waterworks, was 18.68 inches as compared with 22.01 inches in 1931; 26.38 in 1930; 21.03 in 1929; 27.29 in 1928, and 31.84 in 1927.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

Progress in the abolition of cesspools and the connecting up of house drains to the new sewerage scheme continued during 1932, and at the end of the year there were 4,955 houses so connected, being an increase of 848 on the total at the end of the previous year. There are still about 2,800 premises to connect up to the new sewers.

Rivers and Streams.

No special action has been taken during the year to check the pollution of the River Medway, which is the only river in the district. The pollution, however, is automatically undergoing diminution as premises which formerly discharged crude sewage into the river are connected with the system of main drainage.

The pollution from the shipping, both Admiralty and Mercantile, which enters the river, is not likely to grow less.

There are no streams in the district.

Closest Accommodation.

With very few exceptions, all the houses in the city area are now provided with waterclosets fitted with proper flushing apparatus. During the past year 44 privies were abolished and replaced by waterclosets drained to the sewer. From a public health point of view it is a matter for satisfaction that such insanitary closet accommodation as privies, of which there were at one time over 1,000, are now all but non-existent in the city.

Public Cleansing.

The removal of household refuse is carried out by the City Surveyor's Department, and the procedure, described in the Report for 1929, continues, with the exception that towards the end of the year tipping ceased at Cuxton Road and was diverted to an extension of the old tip on the Temple Farm Estate.

There is still practically no improvement in the receptacles used for the storage of domestic refuse, only a comparatively small percentage of the houses in the district being provided with dustbins of sanitary pattern.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to submit my 25th Annual Report on the various branches of work connected with the sanitary inspection of the city.

7,960 visits and inspections were made to secure due recognition of health legislation and bye-laws, and the former are classified in the Summary at the conclusion of this Report.

Housing Act Inspections.

In addition to the inspection of 406 premises under other legislation, 48 premises were formally inspected and reported upon under the Housing Acts, 1925 and 1930. They were situated as follows:—

Bill Street Road	...	...	...	...	6
Borstal Street	...	...	...	...	8
Burritt Street	...	...	...	...	1
Cuxton Road	...	...	...	...	1
Five Bells Lane	...	...	...	...	5
Frindsbury Road	...	...	...	...	1
Glanville Road	...	...	...	...	1
High Street, Strood	...	...	...	...	1
Hoopers Place	...	...	...	...	1
King Street	...	...	...	...	1
Laura Place, Borstal	...	...	...	...	1
North Street	...	...	...	...	16
Pleasant Row	...	...	...	...	2
Maidstone Road	...	...	...	...	2
Sidney Road	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					48
					—

Demolition Orders were made with respect to the following 19 houses:—125, 133a, 135, 135a and 137, Borstal Street; 1 Church Path; Toll Gate Cottage, Cuxton Road; 10, 11 and 12, Dunnings Lane; 81, Frindsbury Road; 70, King Street; 22 and 24, North Street; 1, Pump Yard; 11, 12 and 13, Strood Square.

Consequent on demolition orders, the following 15 houses were demolished during the year:—No. 81, Frindsbury Road; 11, 12 and 13, Garden Row; 32, 33 and 36, London Road; 1, 3 and 5, Miles Place; 1 and 2, Nyes Cottages, River Street; 11, 12 and 13, Strood Square.

At the end of the year there were 29 other houses awaiting demolition, which were being delayed by the fact that 17 tenants were still in possession. One of the obstacles to demolition has been that some tenants of three-roomed dwellings can neither need nor can afford the rent of four or five-roomed dwellings, and in fact cannot guarantee the rent of any self-contained house equipped on the lines of a modern Council house. Some other tenants in condemned houses are for other reasons equally unacceptable to Councils or private property owners, and the inclination of either to render such families homeless by eviction procedure considerably retards demolition action.

The Strood Square Improvement Scheme made comparatively slow progress during the year, and this was largely due to the difficulty in finding suitable alternative accommodation for tenants who had to be displaced. A number were housed in Council dwellings, but others who desired smaller and cheaper accommodation had to be given considerable time to find suitable cottages. Originally the whole block consisted of three shops with dwellings over, and 35 cottages. Thirteen

houses have been demolished and the demolition of two more has been held up one being occupied. All the open space created by demolitions will become part of the curtilages of the remaining houses. The eight houses in Albion Place have been completely renovated, but the greatest improvement in connection with these houses has been the demolition of Nos. 1 to 10, Strood Square, which previously obstructed light and air. The demolition of Nos. 11, 12 and 13, Strood Square and the groups of wash-houses and ranges of trough closets in the centre of the Square has created an open space which will permit adequate light and free air movement for the Church Path property, and when No. 1, Pump Yard and No. 1, Church Path, have been demolished the North Street property near them will similarly benefit. The improvement scheme also includes the conversion of four back-to-back dwellings into two "through" dwellings.

Although the table given at the beginning of this part of my Report would seem to indicate that only 48 houses were formally dealt with under the Housing Act during the year, this is somewhat misleading. Many of the inspections made in 1931 were done late in the year, and the greater part of the associated work—preparation of formal records and schedules of repairs, interviews with owners and builders, and supervision of work—formed part of the work of the past year. It should be stated that Housing Act activities considerably increase clerical and other indoor work of the Department, and not a little of what was accomplished during 1932 was due to evening and Sunday work.

Complaints.

241 complaints were received from householders and others during the year. These were given prompt attention and necessary action was taken to secure abatement of nuisances.

Sanitary Improvements.

During the year 3,477 insanitary conditions or housing defects were remedied by the direction and under the supervision of the Council's Sanitary Inspector. Working in conjunction with the Drainage Department, a considerable amount of time was given to supervision of the re-drainage of houses which were to be connected to the new sewerage scheme. In all such cases, necessary renewals or repairs to W.C.'s, soilpipes, vent-shafts and sinks were dealt with at the same time. In addition, drainage work, etc., of 279 houses was daily supervised whilst in progress, and involved the application of 1,250 water tests and 202 smoke tests. Twenty-five new W.C. apartments were erected, 253 water closets were fitted with new pedestal pans and traps, and in 190 instances flushing apparatus was renewed or repaired. 101 new sinks were provided and fixed, and 190 sinks were fitted with new trap wastepipes.

The abolition of 44 privies—pits containing rotting sewage with open-top seats over—practically clears the city of this extremely offensive type of close accommodation. Not many years ago there were hundreds of such privies, the liquid contents of which soaked into and below scullery walls, and the advent of the main drainage made it possible to deal with a considerable number which had remained until then, because the subsoil water level made it impossible to provide cesspool accommodation.

In 406 other houses, defects or unsatisfactory conditions of a miscellaneous character were remedied and details of these are given in the Summary to this Report. The totals indicate that some owners are appreciably neglectful of their duty to maintain their property in reasonable good condition, and illustrate the usefulness of this Department in securing better conditions of housing for tenants.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Drainage and Sanitary Fittings.

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
New ventilated soilpipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New vent-shafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
W.C.s provided with pans and traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New urinals constructed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	1250	
Smoke tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	202	

Miscellaneous.

Number of houses subjected to demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Yards repaved	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New wash-houses built	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Lighting of staircases improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	413
							3477

It is beyond question that if more time could be given to housing inspection much more benefit in this direction would result, with the added advantage that the various crafts of the building trade would be provided with increased employment.

Verminous Dwellings.

This subject again calls for special comment this year. During 1932, disinfection by spraying and fumigation was carried out in 180 rooms in 61 houses. Of the latter 44 were Council houses, but this does not mean that the percentage of such dwellings infested with bugs is higher than those of privately-owned houses. It does mean that bugs have been conveyed in or with furniture from the latter to the former. To emphasise the desirability of reducing the number of infested houses in the city, it need only be mentioned that bugs in appreciable numbers make their presence known by the discharges from their "stink glands," and that they exist solely by sucking the blood of the inmates of the houses they infest. Disinfection of houses is carried out at a charge of 2s. 6d. per room in cases where tenants can afford to pay this sum, and in other cases free. Vermin trouble in Council houses is common all over the country, but having regard to the cost of disinfecting such houses after removal of tenants, some Councils are wisely disinfecting furniture, etc., prior to entry.

Cesspool and Privy Emptying.

3,756 loads of sewage were pumped from cesspools during the past year, compared with 6,211 loads in 1931. This is a very marked diminution, and consequent on the increase of the number of houses connected to the sewerage system. The whole of the day-emptying is now done by one tractor and vacuum tank, and there is barely enough work to keep this plant fully occupied. By far the greater number of cesspools emptied were those being put into disuse because of sewer connections.

601 loads of sewage sludge were removed from cesspools and privy pits by night as compared with 1,066 loads the previous year. This again is due to the reduction of the men to one gang with one pair of wagons, the work for which now promises to become irregular. As long, however, as the work of connecting drains to the sewers continues, it will be necessary to maintain some provision for pumping and sludging out cesspools as they are put into disuse.

Food Inspection.

1,299 visits were made to various premises used for the production, preparation, storage or sale of food intended for human consumption. Visits to slaughter-houses while carcasses, etc., were being prepared for sale made the heaviest demands on time, but the list of condemned food given below indicates the importance of maintaining close inspection of all meat intended for human food:—

4 carcasses, etc., of cows	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
2 carcasses, etc., of heifers	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
1 carcass, etc., of steer	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
1 carcass, etc., of calf	...	...	...	Injuries.
1 forequarter of cow	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
1 forequarter of heifer	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
37 carcasses, etc., of pigs	...	...	...	30 Tuberculosis ; 4 Dropsy and Emaciation ; 1 Appendicitis and Dropsy ; 1 Pyæmia ; 1 Multiple Abscesses.

carcasses, etc., of sheep and lambs	...	...	...	...	19 Dropsy and Emaciation ; 12 Injuries and Mutilation ; 1 Decomposition ; 1 Ill-bleeding and Putrefaction.
ox heads and tongues	...	...	...	...	17 Tuberculosis ; 1 Actinomycosis.
ox livers	...	...	...	...	7 Tuberculosis ; 22 Flukes ; 3 Abscesses ; 1 Melanosis ; 1 Cavernous Angioma.
ox hearts	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
ox tongue	...	...	...	...	Actinomycosis.
calf's head and tongue	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
pigs' heads and tongues	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
pigs' livers	...	...	...	...	96 Cirrhosis ; 4 Cysts ; 4 Tuberculosis ; 2 Fatty Infiltration ; 1 Congestion.
pigs' plucks	...	...	...	...	9 Tuberculosis ; 2 Congestion.
sheep livers	...	...	...	...	78 Flukes ; 17 Cysts.
lambs' heads and tongues	...	...	...	...	Injuries and Mutilation.
side of lamb	...	...	...	...	Injuries and Mutilation.
leg of lamb	...	...	...	...	Injuries and Mutilation.
shoulder of lamb	...	...	...	...	Injuries and Mutilation.
forequarter and loin of lamb	...	...	...	...	Injuries and Mutilation.
forequarter of imported beef	...	...	...	...	Unsound.
lbs. of imported beef, mutton and pork...	...	...	...	...	Unsound.
lbs. of bacon	...	...	...	...	Putrefaction.
rabbits	...	...	...	...	Unsound.
stones of cod	...	...	...	...	Unsound.

Other information as to the results of inspection of various food premises has been supplied to the Medical Officer of Health for inclusion, and will be found under the headings laid down by the Ministry Memorandum relating to his Annual Report.

Disinfection.

96 rooms were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of Infectious Disease. Of these 25 were after removal or death of cases of Phthisis.

Summary of Inspections and Office Work.

Ordinary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	716
Use to house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Advances inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1328
Sanitary surveys, and visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3116
Visits to factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1033
Visits to other premises for food inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Visits to cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Visits to offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Visits to stables and mews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Visits for food sampling and testing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Visits to common lodging houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Visits for water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	838
									<u>7960</u>

Office work :

Letters received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Complaints received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Intimation notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Notices sent to Schools re infectious disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It has not been necessary during the year to take any action in this matter.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.**Bakehouses.**

There are 18 bakehouses in the city, and these were subjected to the usual periodic inspection during the year. Satisfactory conditions as to cleanliness were found to have been maintained. The interior of one old bakehouse was completely renovated, including the provision of a new floor and the reconditioning of the walls and ceiling.

Factories and Workshops.

Homework, wearing apparel—Lists received, 7.

Outworkers, workmen, 12.

Workshops on Register at end of year :—

Workshops, 63 ; domestic workshops, 32 ; bakehouses, 18.

Matters notified by H.M. Inspector, 1 ; remedied, 0.

(For Inspections and Defects—see Table II., opposite.)

Lodging Houses.

The two common lodging houses in the city were inspected from time to time during the year, and it was found that due observance was being given to the Bye-laws.

Offensive Trades—Fried Fish Shops.

There are 16 on the Register. Very satisfactory conditions were maintained in most of the premises, but in two or three instances requests had to be made for closer attention to cleanliness of equipment. On the whole, however, there is commendable care taken to ensure that the fried fish sold in the city is a wholesome food.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These are referred to on page 17 under the heading of "Inspection and Supervision of Food."

Slaughter-Houses.

The three "registered" and two "licensed" slaughter-houses in the city received constant attention during the year, and details as to inspections and unsound meat are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

No action has been necessary under these Acts during the year.

Schools.

The sanitary circumstances of the elementary schools in the city remain unchanged from those described in last year's Report, but it should again be emphasised that the trough closets which still exist at five of the schools should be abolished and replaced by pedestal water closets as early as possible.

Health Education.

The journal, "Better Health," continues to be distributed under the same conditions as described in last year's Report. There appears to be no doubt that it does good work amongst the people.

HOUSING.

The housing shortage is being gradually eased, and the continued erection of houses on the Temple Farm Estate by the Council and by the Economic Housing Association, Limited, should add materially to the progress that has been made. There are still a large number of families living in rooms or in conditions which are not favourable for continued building of new houses, particularly of the two-bedroomed type. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in securing accommodation for some of the families living in houses subjected to demolition orders, and for whom a three-bedroomed house is unnecessarily large and too highly rented for their limited means. Further reference to this subject is made in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report under the heading "Housing Act Inspections."

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 1 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | |

Note :—(1) includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers

Note :—Includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) by owners | |
| (b) by local authority in default of owners | |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	0
(b) by local authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	15
(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made... ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
(e) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices became operative requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	0
(b) by local authority in default of owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0
(f) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders became operative	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0

During the year 92 new Council houses were completed and 115 were built private enterprise. The Council also had in course of erection 82 houses on Temple Farm Estate. There is still a very considerable shortage of small flings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A. Milk Supply.

There are seven registered cowsheds and 17 dairies in the city. Seven dairy- with premises outside the city are registered as milk retailers within the area. persons are registered as retailers of milk in sealed receptacles, and with one or exceptions the latter deal only in sterilised milk ; three companies with prem- in London are registered as wholesale purveyors of milk in the city. There

has been no material change in the conditions associated with the local milk trade mentioned in last year's Report, but two dairymen were negotiating for pasteurising plant at the end of the year.

B. Meat and Other Foods.

Systematic inspection of meat and other foods was maintained during the year, and details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 11.

C. Adulteration, etc.

The following samples were analysed under the Food and Drugs Acts and Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations :—

Article.	Number.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	44	36	8
Cream	4	4	0
Butter	4	4	0
Coffee	4	4	0
Lard	4	4	0
Sausages	6	6	0
Vinegar	4	4	0
	—	—	—
	70	62	8
	—	—	—

Although the Public Analyst returned eight milk samples as "adulterated" in three instances "appeal to the cow" proved that the milk was naturally deficient in fat. In another instance the retailer was cleared of the responsibility for adding water. There were three prosecutions. In one case the defendant was fined 10s. plus 15s. costs, for deficiency in fat, and in the other two the defendant, for adding water, was fined 10s. in each case and a total of £2 5s. costs.

In addition to the samples of milk sent to the Public Analyst, 41 samples of milk were "Gerber" tested by the Chief Sanitary Inspector to detect cows which were giving milk abnormally low in fat content, or to check suspicions of dairymen that milk being supplied to them was deficient in fat.

D. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Chemical analysis of food is done by the Public Analyst, whose laboratory is at Canterbury. Particulars of the foods sent to him are given under the heading "Adulteration."

The only food sent for bacteriological examination was milk, and all samples are dealt with by the Bacteriologist at the County Laboratory, Maidstone. Seventeen samples of "Certified" and one sample of "Pasteurised" milk were submitted during the year; four of the former were not up to the standard laid down by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, but the cause of this was discovered and rectified by the producer.

E. Nutrition.

The journal "Better Health," before referred to, is the means of giving people much information on the above subject.

VALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Cases during the year 1932.

Scarlet Fever.

Notifications—48. Removed to hospital—43. Deaths—0.
The average number of notifications for the preceding five years was 80.
The type of disease was again, on the whole, very mild, and patients are not in hospital more than four weeks unless there are complications.
There were no undoubted "Return Cases."
The "Dick" test of susceptibility was not used.

Diphtheria.

Notifications—15. Removed to hospital—10. Deaths—1.
The average number of notifications for the preceding five years was 63·2.
The "Schick" test was not used, but all probationer nurses and domestic nts are artificially immunised on entering the service of St. William's Hospital.
83 examinations of swabs, for the purpose of diagnosis, were made during the with 75 negative and 8 positive results. There was no undoubted "Return "

Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is issued free of cost and is available day and night. During the year there were 16 applications for this Serum, and 194,000 units issued at a cost to the Corporation of £8 15s. 2d. The cost was in 1931 £3 7d. ; in 1930, £8 10s. 10d. ; in 1929, £10 9s. 8d., and in 1928, £43 6s. 7d.

Enteric Fever.

Notifications—4. Removed to hospital—2. Deaths—1.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Notifications—3. Removed to hospital—0. Deaths—1.

Puerperal Septicæmia.

No case was notified.

Pneumonia (all forms).

Notifications—16. Deaths—18.

Erysipelas.

Notifications—7. Deaths—0.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

No case was notified.

Polioencephalitis.

No case was notified.

Smallpox.

No case was notified during 1932. No vaccination or re-vaccination has undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified

NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1932.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.													Total Number of Cases removed to Hospital.		Total Deaths.		
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.																
		Under 1 year	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.	South.	North.			
Scarlet Fever ...	48			2	1	12	19	7	7						42	6	43	
Diphtheria ...	15					3	1	2	6	1	2				11	4	10	1
Pneumonia ...	16								2	2					9	7		
Erysipelas ...	7	1								1					5	2		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3														1	2		
Enteric Fever ...	4						1	2							3	1	2	1
Ophthalmia ...																		
Neonatorum ...	1	1																

The above Table includes 1 case of Scarlet Fever which was imported from Woolwich, the patient having arrived in this District one day previous to her removal to hospital, 1 case of Diphtheria which was wrongly diagnosed, and 4 cases of Diphtheria occurring in inmates of H.M. Borstal Institution. One case of Enteric Fever was wrongly diagnosed.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shows the number of Deaths from Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases year by year since 1923 :—

Disease.	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
Measles ...	2	2	0	8	0	0	9	1	0	3
Whooping Cough ...	0	1	1	3	0	2	3	5	0	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	2	0	1	6	4	3	4	2	5	2

Measles.

The mortality from this disease continues to remain low, but may be expected to reach a higher figure in the near future.

Whooping Cough.

There was no death.

Diarrhœa (under two years).

The figures for this disease, although two more than in 1931, are well below average, and are a potent factor in keeping down the infant death rate.

Influenza.

There was a good deal of influenza in the district, but it was of a mild type comparatively non-fatal, as the figures show.

OTHER INFORMATION.

School Intimations.

Every Head Teacher is supplied with a book of forms for the purpose of sending a daily statement to the Medical Officer of Health of children absent from school by reason of non-notifiable infectious disease. In this way the department is informed to some extent as to the prevalence of these diseases.

Bacteriological Work.

All specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Maidstone. The following statement of bacteriological work done during the year :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Sputum for Tubercle ...	41	118	159
Swabs for Diphtheria ...	8	75	83
Blood for Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	49	194	243
	—	—	—

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Disinfection of rooms and their contents is carried out by means of formaldehyde fumigation, after which the free use of soap and water, and of fresh air, are advised.

Occasionally, soft articles are steam disinfected at St. William's Hospital. Steps have been taken during the year with regard to disinfestation of persons, especially in cases which arise amongst schoolchildren, and which are described in the School Medical Officer's Report. Disinfestation of houses is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 12.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Total number of rats destroyed during 1932 ...	5743
Total number of poison baits laid during 1932 ...	8517
Average yearly number of rats destroyed in last 5 years ...	5024
Number of applications for the Rat Catcher's assistance ...	64

By far the greatest number of rats killed continues to be at the Corporation's refuse dump in Cuxton Road.

Cancer.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Cancer, male female, together with the incidence rate per 1,000 of the population, year by year for the last ten years :—

Year	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate of Incidence
1932	19	21	40	1.3
1931	21	25	46	1.5
1930	27	17	44	1.3
1929	22	22	44	1.3
1928	19	25	44	1.3
1927	27	25	52	1.6
1926	24	29	53	1.6
1925	19	27	46	1.4
1924	20	25	45	1.3
1923	19	29	48	1.4

No special enquiry has been made, during the year, with regard to Cancer.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken during the year except such as arises at the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Venereal Diseases.

Information as to the place and times when Venereal Diseases Clinics are is freely made known throughout the district by means of posters, and by printed in the issues of "Better Health."

The administration of the Clinic is in the hands of the County Council, and conducted locally by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S., at 36, New Road, Rochester.

The following are the figures for treatment during the last ten years, so far as Rochester is concerned :—

Year.	New Cases.	Attendance
1932	88	4203
1931	55	3888
1930	56	2624
1929	103	1849
1928	50	600
1927	32	982
1926	61	1830
1925	52	493
1924	53	642
1923	42	593

It will be observed that there is a considerable increase in the number of cases and attendances. This is probably a sign that the Clinic is becoming increasingly popular, rather than that Venereal Disease is increasing in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
No action under these Regulations was necessary.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.
No action under this Section was necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1932

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1932.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	1		1				1	
		1	2	1				
	4	2	3		2	1		
	1	3				5		
	4	4		1		5	1	
	2	3	1		4	4		
	5		1		3			
and upwards	2							
Totals ...	19	13	8	4	9*	15	2†	‡

* The Registrar-General's figure for this is 8.

† The Registrar-General's figure for this is 3.

‡ The Registrar-General's figure for this is 3.

The notifications were divided as follows —

	South.	North.	Totals.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	12	32
Non-pulmonary ditto	3	9	12
Totals	23	21	44

The above return includes one female death from Phthisis which was not previously notified.

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis for the preceding five years are as follows :—

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
Average for 5 years	32.6	25	12.2	2.6
1932	32	23 (R.G.)	12	6 (R.G.)

One hundred and fifty-nine specimens of sputum were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination, with 41 positive and 118 negative results. The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the District Tuberculosis Officer for this district :—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended 31st December, 1932 :—

Number of new cases	124
Total number of attendances	687
Number sent to Institutions	33

Diagnosis—New Patients :

	Excluding School- children.	School- children (5-14).
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	—
Surgical Tuberculosis	5	8
Other Diseases (including Tonsils and Adenoids)	2	7
Apparently Healthy	46	23
Observation	5	—
	<u>86</u>	<u>38</u>

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1932 :—

Lenham Sanatorium	15
Keycol Hill Sanatorium	3
Grosvenor Sanatorium	1
Swanley (Alexander Hospital)	1
Margate (Victoria Home)	—
Ditto (Royal Sea Bathing Hospital)	1
Sevenoaks Hip Hospital	1
Ditto, Isolation Hospital	2
Medway Hospital	2
Preston Hall	2
Eversfield Chest Hospital	1
King Edward VII Sanatorium, Bramshott	1
Broadstairs (Old Manor House)	1
Dover Isolation Hospital	1
City of London Hospital	1
Total	<u>33</u>

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1932 :—

Infant Mortality.

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age, Roche district :

TABLE V.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Premature Birth	5		1	3	9	1				
Injury at Birth										
Marasmus										
Congenital Heart Disease								1		
Pneumonia									1	
Bronchitis										
Other Causes		3			3		2	1		
Total	5	3	1	3	12	1	2	2	1	18

Net Births registered during the calendar year } Legitimate, 452
 } Illegitimate, 25.

Net Deaths registered during the calendar year } Legitimate, 16
 } Illegitimate, 1.

Birth rate, 15·4. Infant Mortality rate, 35·6 (R.G.).

There are discrepancies between the Registrar-General's figures and those given by ourselves. The various "rates" are calculated on the figures of the Registrar-General.

HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1932.

During the year 477 births were registered in the district, of which 25 were stillborn. The total was made up as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
South	149	138	287
North	96	94	190
	—	—	—
	245	232	477
	—	—	—

Notification of Births Act.

During the year 477 births were registered in the district and 438 were notified under the Act. Twenty-two stillbirths were notified. The notifications were made up as follows:—

Doctors.	Midwives.	Parents.
158	279	1

Four hundred and sixty-seven infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 3,048 visits, or an average of 6·5 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—
Infants visited during 1932, total number 467.

	Totals.	Percentages.
Mode of Feeding :		
1. Entirely breast-fed	256	54·8
2. Hand and breast-fed	43	9·2
3. Entirely hand-fed	168	35·9
Kind of Food (when hand-fed) :		
1. Fresh cows' milk and water	17	3·6
2. Dried milk	157	33·6
3. Patent foods	2	·4
4. Condensed milk	33	7·0
5. Biscuits, Groats, etc.	2	·4
Method of Feeding :		
1. Boat-shaped bottle	209	44·7
2. Spoon	2	·4
Condition of House :		
1. Clean	378	80·9
2. Fairly clean	78	16·7
3. Dirty	8	1·7
4. Very dirty	3	·6

Overcrowded Houses.

More than two persons per bedroom—total, 191 ; percentage, 40·8.

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the way at or about the age of six months.

There were seven pairs of twins.

Sixty-five cases not notified under the Act were visited and are included in the above figures.

In three instances the Nurses were refused admission.

Classification of Visits paid during 1932.

Notified births visited	467
Notified births re-visited	2,581
Notified infectious diseases	7
Notified stillbirths	9
Notified infants' deaths enquired into	10
Infant life protection—visits paid	51
Registered Nursing Homes	6
Ante-natal visits	147
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years	3,270
Miscellaneous and ineffectual visits	888
Total	7,436

Attendances at Milk Distributing Centre in 1932.

Children under one year	1,007
Children over one year	190
Infant life protection	9
Ante-natal	17
Miscellaneous	127
Total	1,350

Eleven hospital tickets were given.

REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1932.

The arrangement by which patients were received from the Borough of Gillingham came to an end on March 31st, since when none has entered the hospital from that district.

198 patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shows the total admissions from each district in the past ten years :—

Year.	Rochester.	Chatham.	Gillingham.	Neighbouring Authorities.	Totals.
1926	103	279	175	0 ...	557
1927	78	295	139	11 ...	523
1928	155	263	246	35 ...	699
1929	132	128	202	15 ...	477
1930	119	108	84	16 ...	327
1931	104	70	54	4 ...	232
1932	55	131	11	1 ...	198

The average yearly number for the 10 years preceding 1926 was 256·8.

The average yearly number for the last seven years, including 1932, is 430·4.

The following Table shows the total admissions in 1932 :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Totals.
Rochester ...	41	11	3	0 ...	55
Chatham ...	105	11	14	1 ...	131
Gillingham ...	10	1	0	0 ...	11
Neighbouring Authorities ...	0	1	0	0 ...	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	156	24	17	1	198
	—	—	—	—	—

The case mortality was as follows (percentages) :—

	In 1932.	1931.	1930.	1929.	1928.	1927.	1926.
Scarlet Fever ...	·6	1·2	·8	·8	·7	·9	1·0
Diphtheria ...	5·5	2·8	2·1	8·6	8·2	5·9	7·7
Typhoid Fever ...	5·8	No death.	No death.	No death.	No death.	No death.	No death.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	No death.	No death.	No case.	100	No case.	No case.	No case.

The operation of Tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was not performed during the year.

Wrong Diagnoses.

5·5 per cent. of all the cases sent in were wrongly diagnosed. The figures for the preceding five years are as follows:—

1931, 7·3% ; 1930, 7·3% ; 1929, 4·1% ; 1928, 4·5% ; 1927, 5·3%.

Accommodation.

The accommodation of the Hospital has been more than sufficient during the year, with the exception that in December it was found necessary to slightly limit the number of Scarlet Fever cases admitted. This is a matter of very little importance, as, nowadays, the great majority of Scarlet Fever cases are so mild that they can be very well dealt with in their own homes, and, in fact, prefer, as do the parents, to be so treated.

During the year a suitable room was fully equipped and furnished as an Operating Theatre. It will, in future, be possible to deal with cases needing major surgical operations on the premises, instead of having to send them to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as has been done in the past, a practice with obvious disadvantages.

The Staff.

At the time of writing, the staff of Nurses is smaller by two than what is considered the normal number.

There is still no Night Superintendent of Nursing.

Three Nurses and one Domestic Servant developed Scarlet Fever during the year. All were uncomplicated cases and made good recoveries.

There was no case of cross-infection amongst the patients.

Members of the Staff are now immunised against Diphtheria.

Number of days detained in Hospital.

Averages.

				In 1932.	In 1931.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	36·1	36·6
Diphtheria	...	...	...	25·0	29·0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	63·8	No case

Cases considered wrongly diagnosed and cases terminating in death are included in these averages.

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SAYE HOUSE,
ROCHESTER

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY
AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1932.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1932.

Table A.

	Number.	Tonnage.	No Inspected		Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels which defects were remedied.	
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspectors.			
Foreign	Steamers	217	201474	39	212	80	79
	Motor	98	13931	15	95	12	11
	Sailing	3	110	1	3	0	0
	Fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FOREIGN ...	318	215515	55	310	92	90	
Coastwise	Steamers	509	213471	25	485	80	79
	Motor	156	16881	10	150	30	30
	Sailing	92	7625	2	90	20	20
	Fishing	25	0	0	20	0	0
TOTAL COASTWISE	782	237977	37	745	130	129	
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	1100	453492	92	1055	222	219	

Number of vessels reported as having had during the voyage infectious disease on board—
All notices were informal.

Estuarial Traffic, 950. These figures represent inspections only, as record is obtained of the number of Barges, Lighters, etc., trading between place on this river and the London river. Total inspections of all craft, 2,114.

2. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

Table B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during 1932.

Number of Passengers:		1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class	Trans-migrant
Inwards	... ..	0	0	0	21
Outwards	... ..	0	0	0	—

Cargo Traffic :—

Principal Imports :—Bricks, timber, wood pulp, coal, china clay, flour, stone, de oil, petrol, fertilizer, tarred slag, potatoes, corn, grain, various seeds and nels for making cattle cake and oil, plaster stone, pitch and phosphates.

Principal Exports :—Cement, cattle cake, oil, paper, fruit boxes and crates. nent is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct or via London, thampton or Liverpool.

Countries with which the Port principally trades :—

Import trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, Ger- n, Portuguese and Baltic Ports in Europe, and with American, West Indian and st African Ports.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are the Tyne, Tees, derland, Blythe, Goole, most of the Scottish east coast Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, iff, Swansea, Barry, Harwich, Ipswich and London.

Number and Nationality of Vessels.

British 898, Dutch 77, Norwegian 38, Danish 31, Swedish 31, Finnish 14, honian 5, German 3, Belgian 1, Latvian 1, Italian 1—total, 1,100.

3. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

For the Port :—

There are two sources of supply. The south side of the river is supplied by Chatham and District Water Company, and the north side by the Strood terworks, the property of the Corporation of Rochester.

For shipping :—

The supply is from the same sources.

Water boat :—

One water boat is used for supplying the shipping, and this boat has been pected eight times during the year, and its tanks cemented four times. In ition to the routine inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors the er boat has been visited, and the water in its tanks examined by the Port ical Officer of Health.

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The arrangements for dealing with infectious disease were fully described in Report for 1927, and have undergone no change.

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Disease landed from vessels.

Disease.	No. of cases during 1932.		Average no. of cases for previ-ous 5 years.	No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
— ...	0	0	.2	1

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on Vessels during the voyage disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease.	No. of cases during 1932.		Average no. of cases for previous 5 years.	No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
— ...	0	0	0	0

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus Fever, and Plague-infected Rats were found in 1932.

5. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. The steps taken for the detection of rodent plague in ships in the Port, in warehouses, wharves, quays, etc., in the vicinity, are the same as those described in the Report for 1929.

The owners and persons in charge of the various warehouses are fully aware of the damage caused, and the possibility of disease being spread by rats, and in addition to the services of the rat catcher at intervals, wage a constant war against the rats by various means. Owners of grain and flour warehouses keep a number of cats on the premises, this procedure being usually more effective than that of traps and poisons. Small subterranean passages and fissures from the wharf faces to the warehouses render fumigation in some cases of little use, as the rats escape through the open on the first suspicion of gas. The fact that these fissures are numerous and open out on to the soft mud of the river-banks, makes any attempt at catching the rats as they emerge impracticable.

A method adopted in some grain warehouses with considerable success is to spread an open sack in the way of the rat runs when moving sacks of grain, etc. When being disturbed, the rats in their efforts to escape run into the open mouth of the sack, and are finally collected and disposed of. The use of a virus which causes rats to crawl about in a semi-unconscious state is effective when carried out on a large scale, and a watch kept for the presence of such rats, when, owing to this condition, they may be easily killed.

Where grain and flour warehouses are concerned, however, the use of cats and the capture of the live rats is favoured in preference to poisons, which are apt to result in dead rats lying about contaminating the contents of the warehouses.

2. No measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore except where circumstances point to the presence of plague-infected rats to be suspected, as in the case of a vessel from an infected or suspected port, or a vessel that has loaded cargo direct from a ship from such a port.

3. Methods of deratization are as previously reported, sulphur dioxide, and the services of the rat catcher.

4. The measures taken for detecting rat prevalence both on ships and on shore were described in the Report for 1929.

5. Rat Proofing.

Where ships have rat proofing in a state of disrepair, this is treated as a defect in the ordinary way. Deratization and exemption certificates are examined during the course of ship inspection.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1932.

Table E.

On Vessels :—

About 55 rats were killed by cats, traps and cargo workers. There was no suspicion of Plague.

In some cases the rats thus killed are not seen by the Inspector, the number being calculated by enquiry amongst the people concerned, and there is little doubt that the actual number killed in this way is greatly in excess of the amount shown.

Everyone concerned with shipping is made aware of the significance of the presence of the bodies of rats that have obviously died and have not been crushed or killed in traps, etc., and where this occurs the bodies of the rats are kept for identification.

Table F.

In Docks, Quays and Warehouses :—

During the year 1,270 rats were killed by the owners of the principal warehouses by means of trapping, cats, etc. This does not include 803 rats killed by a rat catcher in riverside buildings and other premises.

Persons in charge of warehouses are made aware of the importance of reporting the finding of dead rats. No rats were submitted for bacteriological examinations during the year.

Table G.

Particulars of Plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels arriving in the Port during 1932 are given under "General Sanitary Work of the Port."

Table H.

Vessels (other than those included in Table G) submitted to measures of rat destruction during 1932.

No certificates were issued.

Table I.

No certificates were issued.

6. HYGIENE OF CREW SPACE.

Table J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	No. inspected during 1932.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	898	2	79	201
Other Nations	202	1	25	103
Tugs	950	4	18	59

With the exception of one statutory and one intimation notice, all notices were verbal and were complied with.

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Cargoes of flour, potatoes, wheat, meal, oats, linseed, sugar, barley, sp and maize to the number of 107, and winkles, mussels and clams to the extent of 51 bushels were examined.
2. Shell Fish :—See remarks under "General Sanitary Work."
3. It was not found necessary to submit any article of food for either bacteriological or chemical examination.

8. OTHER INFORMATION.

1. Report as to the Execution of the Canal Boats Acts for the Year 1932

Name and address of Inspector :—

H. Evans, 61, Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.

Remuneration, £4 per annum.

Number of boats detained during the year	0
Number of new boats registered	0
Number of boats re-registered owing to structural alterations	0
Number of boats re-registered for other reasons	0
Number of boats on register on December 31st, 1932	10
Number of boats inspected	21
Number of boats with one or more infringements	16
Number of infringements remedied	15
Number of women on boats inspected	0
Number of children under 5 years	0
Number of boats on register	10

Classified List of Infringements.

Masters without certificates	5
Boats not properly marked	4
Cabins not in cleanly condition	4
Defective bulkhead	1
Leaky decks causing wet cabins	1
Dilapidated cabin	1

2. General Sanitary Work of the Port.

(a) The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Senior Sanitary Inspector and one Assistant Sanitary Inspector, the latter being fully qualified.

(b) A motor launch is provided.

(c) The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons, but in cases of need the Disinfecting Station at the Medway Infirmary will be available.

(d) There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem to be necessary at present.

(e) In addition to the cargo traffic of the Port, there are seven large day passenger steamers, five operating between the Kentish and Essex seaside resorts and Rochester, and two between Rochester and France. These vessels are inspected from time to time, and during the year it has not been necessary to adopt any special measures meriting further comment.

(f) As the Port Sanitary District, which consists of some sixteen miles of waterway, embraces many creeks which extend far inland, and can only be reached by launch at high tide, these outlying places are visited from time to time by the launch or cycle.

g) There are several vessels on the river used as dwellings. Following the discovery, during the course of inspection, of a case of overcrowding on one of the smaller craft, a census was taken of the vessels used as dwellings in the district. Most of these craft were found to be seagoing yachts occupied during the summer months, and in a few instances during the whole year, by people of independent means. Conditions were satisfactory, and no further comment is necessary regarding these vessels.

A special Sub-Committee, however, was appointed to report upon several of the smaller houseboats. Various improvements were suggested in one or two instances; these were carried out and the occupiers allowed to remain in residence. In the case of the overcrowded craft, which also was unsatisfactory for other reasons, notice to quit was served on the occupier, who was also the owner. The order was complied with.

h) With respect to Plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels, it has not been necessary to take any special action during the year. Several oil tankers came from tropical ports, and these vessels are discharged in mid-stream near the mouth of the river. This fact simplifies the question of quarantine measures and the necessity arise. Two parrots were destroyed on one of these vessels during 1932.

i) A point worthy of note is the fact that a large paper factory on the river has installed an additional mill, which is said to be the largest in the world. This is expected to result in a considerable increase in the number of vessels bringing raw material in the shape of woodpulp from Scandinavian and Canadian ports, and china clay from Cornish ports.

j) No shell fish grown in the river came under suspicion during the year as to their suitability and safety for human consumption.

Cases of Sickness.

Sixty-three cases of sickness were treated by private doctors. All of these were non-infectious, and there were no deaths.

General.

Otterham Quay, Halstow and Whitewall were visited from time to time, and no matter for comment.

Riverside wharves and factories have been periodically visited and the Port Regulations duly posted.

Twelve dead dogs found on the foreshore or afloat were disinfected and buried.

Complete List of Vessels Inspected in 1932.

Ships	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,055
Barges	...	...	...	...	...	...	950
Canal boats	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Lighters	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Water boat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
House boats	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
							<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,114
							<hr/>

The following are the figures for the preceding ten years :—

1931	...	2,192	1926	...	2,075
1930	...	2,245	1925	...	1,753
1929	...	2,209	1924	...	1,830
1928	...	2,180	1923	...	1,931
1927	...	2,194	1922	...	2,018

Reference to Table A will show a decrease in the number of foreign and coastwise arrivals. In view of the present world-wide depression in shipping, this fall is not to be deplored to the same extent as it would be if shipping were normal, in that case it would suggest the decline of Rochester as a port. As things are, the figures simply reflect the effect on this Port in common with most other Ports, the general scarcity of foreign shipping business.

The installation of the new paper mill previously referred to provides a most hopeful prospect for 1933, as it should result in a considerable increase in foreign arrivals, even if the present depression still exists.

As far as the sanitary work is affected by the falling-off in foreign and coastwise traffic, it simply means that more time is available for the inspection of estuarine craft, and various other matters that, in a district covering a large area, are always in need of attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Port Medical Officer of Health.