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CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT
of
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Urban Sanitary District
and
Port Sanitary District

1933

ROCHESTER :
BALLARD & SON, PRINTERS, 336 HIGH STREET



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CITY OF ROCHESTER



Report as to Urban District

SAYE HOUSE
2 CASTLE HILL
ROCHESTER

21st May, 1934

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1933.

This Report is an "Ordinary Report" and is drawn up in the form and sequence required by the Ministry of Health, and gives information on all matters which have been dealt with, or come under observation, during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

* S. PRITCHETT, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Eng. Conj.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector

* THOMAS TOPPING, F.R.SAN. I., C.R.S.I., C.M.I., C.L.S.I.B.,
Medallist Final Honours Hygiene.

Sanitary Inspectors

* E. W. BARTON, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

* A. H. W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I.

Veterinary Inspector (part time)

ELMER EBBETTS, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors

**§||††*Miss H. G. TOD

††**§||§†*Miss C. J. GEELEHER

Clerk

Miss W. JONES

* Indicates officials to whose salaries contributions are made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

† Also District Nursing Certificate.

†† Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

§ Four years General Training, S.R.N.

|| Royal Sanitary Institute, Certificate for Health Visitors.

||† Sanitary Inspectors.

* Infectious Diseases Certificate.

† Hygiene Diploma and Tropical Nursing.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER	...	...	...	...	2.9
	CENSUS 1931	ESTIMATED (Middle of 1933)	R.		
POPULATION	31196	...	...	...	30.7
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1933)	...	...	...	...	7.9
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£188.0
SUM REPRESENTING A PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	£7

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The prosperity of Rochester continues to depend mostly on its River Trade (now shewing signs of improvement), on the Cement Industry, on Agriculture (in connection with which there is a Cattle Market), on various Industrial Works and on the proximity of the Royal Dockyard at Chatham. The conditions generally prevailing have improved since last year's Report and shew signs of still further improvement.

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

The population is both Residential and Working Class, the latter greatly predominating.

VITAL STATISTICS

		TOTAL	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ LEGITIMATE	379	188	191	} BIRTH RATE 12.4
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	17	8	9	
STILL BIRTHS	{ LEGITIMATE	18	12	6	} RATE per 1000 TOT (LIVE & STILL-BIRTHS) 45.7
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	1	1		
DEATHS		383	226	157	DEATH RATE 11.8
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.			{ PUERPERAL SEPSIS	...	
			{ OTHER PUERPERAL CAUSES	...	
			TOTAL	...	...

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

ALL INFANTS PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	...	...
LEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1000 LEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	...	...
ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	...	...
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (ALL AGES)	...	...	...	...
" " WHOOPING COUGH (ALL AGES)	...	...	...	...
" " DIARRHŒA (UNDER TWO 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 10.

The following Table shews a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1933.

			Rate per 1000 Resident Population Live Births	Deaths per 1000 Registered Live Births	Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Registered Live Births
England and Wales	...	...	14.4	12.3	64
118 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	...	...	14.4	12.2	67
132 Smaller Towns. Populations from 25,000 to 50,000	...	...	14.3	10.9	56
London	...	...	13.1	12.3	59
Rochester	...	...	12.8	12.4	35.3

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1933 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		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett. Number	Rate	Number	Rate	of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age	At all Ages.	Rate		
								Number	Number	Rate		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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	13.0
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 ^{EC}	477	15.4	487	15.7	228	95	17	35.6	354	11.4
1933	30700	370	396	12.8	509	16.5	212	86	14	35.3	383	12.4

* For Birth Rate

† For Death Rate.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

A list of these is given on page 3.

2. (a.) LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are unchanged. The various results appear in other parts of the Report.

(b.) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

These are unchanged and continue to be satisfactory.

(c.) NURSING IN THE HOME

The arrangements for this are unchanged.

(d.) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

These are unchanged.

(e.) HOSPITALS

There is no change in these except that cases of Small Pox arising in the District may now be sent to the Hospital of the London County Council at Joyce Green.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There are no changes except that the Corporation will now pay the Midwives in cases which have run out of Maternity Benefit and are otherwise in poor circumstances, and will pay for "Home Helps" in necessitous cases.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

There are two of these in the District. They are visited from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and by the Health Visitors. They are on no ground for further comment.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

Information as to the sources of supply was given in last year's Report, and the quality and quantity continued to be satisfactory during 1933. The monthly chemical and bacteriological tests of the supply from the Corporation Waterworks at Strood were maintained, as well as the quarterly control analysis by Dr. Spitta. The test in all cases revealed that the water as supplied from the works was almost sterile. B. Coli was never present.

RAINFALL

The Rainfall for the year, registered at Strood Waterworks, was 18.60 inches compared with 18.68 inches in 1932, 22.01 in 1931, 26.38 in 1930, 21.03 in 1929, 27.29 in 1928 and 31.84 inches in 1927.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Progress in the abolition of cesspools in the city, and the connection of house drains to the new sewerage system continued during 1933, and the total number of houses in the City connected up at the end of the year was 5790. This work has been going on for the past 6 years, and the immense sanitary improvement so effected has not been confined solely to the abolition of the thousands of soak-away cesspools which formerly existed. Throughout there has been co-operation between the Corporation Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector with the result that all defective house drains and insanitary fittings have been dealt with at the same time as the sewer connections.

... makes it possible to say that the house drainage and general sanitation of the ... are now in a more perfect condition than they have previously been at any time in ... history. Pressure is being exerted to secure the connecting up of the remaining ... cesspools.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The pollution of the River Medway is undergoing some automatic diminution as ... houses become connected with the system of main drainage.

Pollution from shipping, both Admiralty and Mercantile, is not likely to grow ... There are no streams in the District.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Prior to the new sewerage system, persistent and successful efforts had been made ... secure the substitution of water closets for a large number of the privies which then ... ted, and since the sewers have been available this work of conversion has been all but ... pleted. The closet accommodation in general is of the pedestal wash-down type with ... ing apparatus and water supply, only a small percentage of the houses having box ... enclosures.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Scavenging and house refuse collection and disposal are carried out under the ... ction of the City Surveyor, and there has been no change of procedure during the ... year.

In this, my last Annual Report before retirement as Medical Officer of Health, ... ish once more to emphasise the insanitary and generally unsatisfactory methods of ... estic house refuse storage. For 20 years I have called attention at least annually ... his, but although the Council have a commendably progressive record in all other ... itary matters, there has been continuous hesitation in making the decision that every ... se in the City must be provided with a suitable sanitary dustbin. In 1928 I made ... subject one for special Report, and although it was well discussed no formal ... olution as to definite action was passed. In the case of individual houses under ... ice for sanitary defects, a requirement for the provision of sanitary dustbins is ... ays included, but naturally owners resist this because all around are other ... erties where the tenants are using old pails, boxes, etc. As my final word on the ... ject I cannot do better than quote from my Annual Report of 20 years ago, "This ... matter which stands in urgent need of attention."

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my 26th Annual Report on the various branches of work in con- ... ction with the sanitary inspection of the City.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

In addition to 495 other premises dealt with for sanitary defects or unsatisfactory ... ditions, 102 houses were formally inspected and reported upon under the Housing ... s, 1925 and 1930. They were situated as follows:—

Alma Place	...	14	Northgate	...	7
Bill Street Road	...	4	Princes Street,	...	1
Borstal Street	...	1	Roach Street	...	3
Corporation Street	...	4	Rochester Avenue		1
Edward Street	...	6	Roebuck Road	...	1
Five Bells Lane	...	20	Rose Street	...	1
Friary Place	...	3	Ross's Alley, High Street		2
Gun Lane	...	1	Ship Lane	...	10
Hoopers Place	...	1	South Eastern Road		1
John Street	...	2	Star Hill	...	6
King Street and Kettles Court		6	Station Road	...	1
Marsh Street	...	6			
			Total		102

Of the above-mentioned properties, the following 27 houses were subjected Demolition Orders:—Nos. 2, 4, 6, 6a, 32, 34, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 Five Bells Lane, Nos. 41, 41a, 41b and 41c Corporation Street; Nos. 68, 114, 116 and 118 King Street; Nos. 3 and 4 Kettles Court, King Street, and Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 7a and 9 Star Hill. 12 others in the above list, Nos. 1 to 10 Ship Lane, and Nos. 8 and 8a Five Bells Lane were under consideration as to Demolition Order procedure at the end of the year.

In addition, 4 houses were permanently closed as dwellings by formal undertakings of the owners under Sec. 19 of the Housing Act, 1930. These were No. 1 Blue Bell Lane, No. 26 Roebuck Road, and Nos. 2 and 3 Ross's Alley, High Street. One house, No. 2 Windmill Cottages, Frindsbury, was voluntarily closed by the owner as a sequel to representation as to serious and extensive dampness.

15 houses were demolished during the year, viz.: Nos. 4, 5 and 6, Ruby Cottage; Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, Benster's Court, King Street, Nos. 68 and 70 King Street, No. 1, Pump Yard, No. 1, Church Path, Nos. 11 and 12, Dunnings Lane, No. 20, Edward Street, and Cottage, Ross's Alley. With the exception of the 2 last mentioned, all were under Housing Act Demolition Orders. The said two were demolished after informal representation to the owners as to their condition. The cottage in Ross's Alley has not been occupied as a dwelling for a long time past.

At the close of the year 25 houses under Demolition Orders were still standing owing to 21 of them being tenanted. The decision of the Council to build houses on the sites of the tenanted to be displaced will undoubtedly quicken the vacating and demolition of condemned dwellings.

The Strood Square improvement continued during the year after the removal of the tenants had made possible the demolition of No. 1, Pump Yard and No. 1, Church Path. The four back-to-back dwellings in North Street and Pump Yard were converted into two through-ventilated dwellings, and all the space formerly occupied by the 15 demolished houses and outbuildings has been thoroughly cleared of all rubbish and foundations and converted into gardens for the remaining houses. The interior work in Nos. 2 to 9, Church Path will next be done.

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, much time has been given to the properties in worst condition and to negotiations with their owners. The total number of Demolition Orders made under the new Act up to the end of 1933 was 75, and I am pleased to be able to record that in no instance has there been a dispute or appeal. In all cases owners are supplied with full details as to the condition of properties before the latter are made the subject of report for Demolition Order procedure, and preliminary discussions have had the satisfactory result above mentioned.

Systematic house-to-house inspections under the Housing Acts have been restricted by attention to houses calling for demolition and by the demand of other branches of work, but as soon as circumstances permit, more exercise will be given to the Repairs Section of the Housing Act, 1930. There are a number of streets in the City where systematic inspection of all the houses is desirable.

COMPLAINTS.

333 complaints were received as to matters calling for Health Department attention and were attended to without delay. The number given is an increase of 92 over that for the previous year, and indicates either that tenants of houses are less willing than formerly to submit to conditions for which the law provides a remedy, or that the department is becoming increasingly recognised as the municipal help against unhealthy conditions.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

During the past year 5018 insanitary conditions and housing defects were remedied as the result of action by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors. In only 51 of the premises dealt with during the year was it necessary to proceed by report to the Council. The many calls for considerable expenditure by property owners are always met in the first instance in the form of letter communications, with accompanying lists of defects, etc. For many years this procedure has been sufficient to secure required remedies in nearly all cases, but there was a noticeable tendency on the part of some owners during the past year to disregard such informal intimations, and delay executing work until further pressure. The owners concerned have been advised that continuance of such attitude will lead to the abandonment of informal communications.

The following tabulated list of nuisances abated and improvements effected indicates to some extent the time given to this section of the Public Health Department work as, in addition to the initial action, supervision of work during progress was necessary.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS

Houses re-drained	...	...	118
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	31
Defective drains repaired	...	...	10
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	159
New ventilated soilpipes fixed	...	...	14
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	48
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	11
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	7
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	14
W.C.'s provided with pans and traps	...	...	160
Flushing apparatus & water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	...	36
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	132
New sinks fixed	...	...	80
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	164
New lavatory basins and baths fixed	...	...	21
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	13
New urinals constructed or improved	...	...	5
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	9
Water Tests applied	...	841	
Smoke Tests applied	...	126	

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses subjected to demolition orders	...	...	27
No. of houses demolished	...	...	15
Obstructive buildings demolished	...	...	2
Dangerous walls re-constructed and underpinned	...	...	13
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	14
Roofs repaired	...	...	185
Defective brickwork and pointing of	...	...
brickwork repaired	...	...	238
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	120
Damp walls remedied	...	...	199
Yards re-paved	...	...	23

MISCELLANEOUS—*continued*

Yard paving repaired	...	...	88
New wash-houses built	...	...	6
Concrete floors provided to cellars	...	...	15
Defective floors repaired	...	...	177
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	406
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	467
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	388
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	153
Defective windows repaired	...	...	125
Lighting and Ventilation of rooms improved	...	...	47
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	...	...	17
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	50
Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	48
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	76
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	66
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	3
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	...	7
Number of rooms disinfested	...	...	255
Dirty condition of caravans	...	...	4
Insanitary stables abolished	...	...	2
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	5
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	24
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	763
		Total	5018

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS

82 houses and a total of 255 rooms were treated for vermin infestation during past year. 19 of the houses were Council property. The last mentioned figures show a satisfactory reduction of the corresponding figures for the previous year, when Council houses had to be disinfested. The increase in verminous privately-owned houses from 17 to 63 not only shows that tenants are desirous of having their homes cleared of bugs, but also indicates that the Council is undertaking this work through the Health Department at the nominal charge of 2/6 per room, (done where the householder is unemployed), are meeting a hygienic need. The Ministry of Health and local authorities all over the country are giving increasing consideration to the problem of verminous pests in dwellings, but Rochester was amongst the first where practical assistance was provided for tenants of infested houses. At least as far as Council houses are concerned, it is desirable that the infestation should be prevented and that would involve treatment of tenants' furniture and bedding before removal from an infested house.

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING

3463 loads of sewage were pumped from cesspools during the year, as compared with 3756 in 1932. The cesspools now requiring periodic attention are mostly those in outlying parts of the City area that are not sewered. One exception is a large works but at the time of writing this report, drainage of considerable sections of the sanitation accommodation to the sewer had been commenced.

577 loads of sewage sludge were removed from cesspools by the night gang, compared with 601 loads the previous year. The work now is barely sufficient to keep the night gang regularly employed.

FOOD INSPECTION

There are 156 premises in the City which are on the various registers as being under legislative control with respect to the production, preparation, storage or sale of food and a total of 1428 visits were made in the course of the year. Visits to slaughter-houses accounted for the greater part of that total. The number of carcasses, etc., of animals examined at the time of slaughter was 7594, and the following list of food condemned records the results of systematic inspections:-

2 carcasses, etc., of cows	(Tuberculosis)
2 do. steers	do.
2 do. heifers	do.
Forequarters and offal of 3 steers	do.
1 carcass, etc., of a calf	do.
32 carcasses, etc., of pigs	(24 Tuberculosis, 2 Dropsy & Emaciation, 1 Jaundice, 1 Peritonitis, 1 Heat Apoplexy, 1 Uræmia, 1 Fevered, 1 Tuberculosis and Dropsy)
41 carcasses, etc., of sheep and lambs	(35 Dropsy and Emaciation, 3 Decomposition, 1 Peritonitis and Dropsy, 1 Anæmia, 1 Abscesses)
21 ox heads and tongues	(20 Tuberculosis, 1 Actinomycosis)
65 ox livers	(44 Flukes, 10 Tuberculosis, 4 Abscesses, 3 Cavernous Angioma, 2 Necrosis, 2 Cirrhosis)
3 ox kidneys	(2 Nephritis, 1 Abscesses)
1 calf's liver	(Unsound)
105 pigs' heads and tongues	(Tuberculosis)
19 pigs' livers	(89 Cirrhosis, 19 Fatty Infiltration, 6 Cysts, 3 Tuberculosis, 2 Necrosis)
7 pigs' plucks	(4 Tuberculosis, 2 Congestion, 1 Pneumonia)
57 sheep livers	(115 Flukes, 39 Other Parasites, 3 Cirrhosis)
50 lbs. of forequarter of beef	(Tuberculosis)
6 forequarters of mutton	(Unsound)
5½ lbs. of loin of mutton	do.
½ leg of pork	(Bruising)
8½ lbs. of tinned ham	(Unsound)
56 lbs. of butter and lard	do.
20 lbs. margarine	do.
12 lbs. cheese	do.
3 boxes smoked fish	do.

Other information as to inspections of food premises and their results are included in the Medical Officer's statements under the heading "Inspection and Supervision of Food."

DISINFECTION

202 rooms were disinfected after infectious disease, including 41 rooms after removal of deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND OFFICE WORK

Inspections :—

Primary inspections	597
House to house inspections ...	102
Caravans inspected ...	71
Re-inspections	1951
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	2506
Visits to factories and workshops	147
„ bakehouses ...	37
„ slaughter houses ...	1178
„ other premises for food inspection	78
„ cowsheds and dairies ...	73
„ offensive trades ...	62
„ stables and mews ...	82
Visits for food sampling and testing	79
„ to cases of infectious disease	228
Visits to common lodging houses	8
„ for water sampling ...	13
Miscellaneous visits ...	1055
	8,267

Office Work :—

Letters received and dealt with	465
Complaints received and dealt with	333
Letters written ...	757
Intimation notices served ...	598
Notices sent to schools re infectious disease	158

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.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary circumstances of the elementary schools in the District remain unchanged, and once again attention must be drawn to the trough closets still existing in some of the schools. These are insanitary and should be replaced by pedestal closets.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The issue of the magazine "Better Health" has been discontinued and "Empire Marketing" Boards are now used for the display of posters giving information on matters connected with health. By arrangement with the Central Council for Health Education, new posters are supplied monthly, and so in the course of a year many suggestions as to health preservation and protection are kept prominently before the citizens.

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

BAKEHOUSES

There are 18 bakehouses in the City and periodic inspection is maintained to ensure that legal requirements as to such premises are duly observed. One very old house presents serious difficulties against the maintenance of satisfactory conditions, negotiations are now proceeding with the tenant for its abandonment, and for the use of suitable premises.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are 102 workshops on the register and at 14 houses homework is carried on. All are systematically inspected and during the past year there was a complete re-inspection for the purpose of revision of all information recorded in the Register. Defects and unsatisfactory conditions, all of more or less minor nature, were discovered at various premises and action was taken to have these remedied.

LODGING HOUSES

The two common lodging houses in the city were subjected to periodic visits and were found to be conducted and kept in accordance with the Byelaws. Towards the end of the year the lodging house used as a women's hostel was closed owing to the increased demand for such accommodation.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—FRIED FISH SHOPS

The 16 fried fish shops in the city were periodically visited during the year, and on one or two exceptions were found to be giving careful observance of the Byelaws under which they are controlled. The exceptions referred to were not serious cases of non-compliance, but were sufficient to indicate the desirability of systematic supervision. It must be said, however, that on the whole the fish fryers continue to carry on their businesses with due regard to the necessity for wholesomeness of the food they supply.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

Reference to these premises is made on page 16 under the heading of "Inspection and Supervision of Food."

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are 5 slaughter houses in the city, three "Registered" and two "Licenced." All are constantly under supervision, as systematic inspection of animals slaughtered necessitates many hundreds of visits in the course of a year. At two of the "Registered" slaughter houses repairs had to be called for during the year, and at one of the "Licenced" slaughter houses some difficulty was experienced about harvesting manure in getting the manure and waste matters removed as frequently as is desirable. Slaughterhouse butchers are dependent on farmers for such removal, and when the latter are engaged in all their horses in harvest operations there is a tendency for them to put slaughter-house manure removal on the waiting list.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928

No action was taken under these Acts during the year.

TABLE II.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	10	1	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	137	21	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	.	.	
Total ...	147	22	

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	15	9		
Want of ventilation ...				
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances ...	16	13		
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	2	1	4	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Other offences ...				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ...	33	† 27		

HOUSING

The continual building of new houses in and adjacent to the City has materially altered the general housing situation, but there is still an appreciable need of houses of the smaller type. The lack of accommodation at a suitable rent for tenants of houses under Demolition Orders, inevitably led to delay in vacation of such dwellings, but the promise of early removal of this handicap on clearance procedure lies in the Council's decision to build about 50 houses with the subsidy assistance available under the Housing Act, 1930.

There are several cases of overcrowding that present a common difficulty in the way of abatement. Large families and a comparatively small income make low rents a necessity. In some instances the numbers in the households makes them unacceptable for three-bedroomed Council houses, and just as unacceptable as tenants of larger privately-owned dwellings, because owners are averse to letting to families whose numbers will increase normal wear and tear. The Council have provided some four-bedroomed houses and helped in this way to reduce the number of such cases, but the remainder constitute an illustration of the most overcrowded being furthest away from housing help. It is hoped that the new housing proposals, which it is understood are now under preparation by the Ministry of Health, will assist Councils to make provision for abatement of overcrowding independently of Clearance or Improvement Area action.

Statistical record of Housing procedure follows, and details as to particular properties are recorded in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 7.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	559
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2340
(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	102
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	420
	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
	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	64

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		543
--	--	-----

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

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

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	17
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

- B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts**
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | | ... |
- C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930**
- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
- (2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
- 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
- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| ... | ... | ... |
|-----|-----|-----|
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit
- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ... | ... | ... | ... |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

During the year 82 new Council houses were completed and 221 were built by private enterprise.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLY

There are 5 registered cowkeepers with a total of 12 cowsheds, and 18 dairies in the city; 10 dairymen with premises outside the city are registered as milk purveyors within the area, an increase of 3 over the figures for last year. In addition to the retailers, 51 shopkeepers are registered to retail milk in sealed bottles only, and with 3 exceptions they sell sterilised milk. Three companies with premises in or near London supply these shopkeepers with the sterilised milk and are registered here as wholesalers.

Periodic visits to dairy premises revealed that due attention was being given to the maintenance of cleanliness of production and distribution. Plans for a new cowshed were submitted and approved, and one small dairy was closed voluntarily. In two dairies a small bulk pasteurising plant was installed. This extension of the total amount of milk pasteurised in the city is commendable and may be regarded as an advisable safeguard of the health of the milk consumer.

No systematic sampling of milk for bacteriological examination is done. One sample was taken for evidence of tubercle infection, but gave a negative result. Of the 13 samples of Certified Milk taken 12 gave excellent results in comparison with the standard laid down by the Milk Designations Order. Investigation revealed the cause of the unsatisfactory result in the other case, and this was quickly remedied.

In certain instances, dairymen who were in doubt as to the fat content of the milk supplied to them by producers, sent samples in to the Chief Sanitary Inspector to be tested, and in one instance it was necessary to refer the producer to the County Agricultural Adviser for advice as to procedure for raising the fat percentage to above the minimum standard.

B. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The usual systematic supervision of slaughtering and inspection of meat, and periodic visits to other food premises were maintained.

C. ADULTERATION, ETC.

64 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Acts and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, and the following summary gives the results.

Article	Number	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	40	39	1
Cream	4	4	0
Butter	4	4	0
Lard	5	5	0
Whisky	3	3	0
Vinegar	5	4	1
Sausage	3	3	0

The sample of milk returned as adulterated was one taken in course of delivery by a dairyman. It was 10% deficient in fat. The cowkeeper requested that samples of his cows should be taken and 12 of such samples were "Gerber" tested by the Sanitary Inspector. Four of the heaviest milkers in the small herd proved to be giving milk deficient in fat to the extent necessary to bring the bulk down to about the standard of the sample. The cowkeeper was referred to the County Agricultural Officer and samples taken later proved that the whole bulk had been raised to just above the minimum standard for fat. Altogether 26 samples of milk were "Gerber" tested for fat content in addition to the samples sent to the Public Analyst, but only in the case above referred to was there any need for further action.

The sample of vinegar was purchased informally as malt vinegar and the Analyst reported that it was "spirit vinegar." A warning only was considered necessary in this case.

One sample of sausage contained 175 parts sulphur dioxide per million, but as a warning was displayed intimating that the sausage contained preservative no offence had been committed.

D. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

The only chemical analysis of food done during the year was that detailed under the heading "Adulteration" and bacteriological examinations were as mentioned under "Milk Supply."

E. NUTRITION

The Journal "Better Health," formerly regarded as a good means of disseminating knowledge on this subject, has now been discontinued, and, as previously stated, its place taken by the regular publication of Posters.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES SCARLET FEVER

Notifications—129. Removed to Hospital—120. Deaths—0.

The average number of notifications for the preceding five years was 79.

There were no undoubted "Return" cases,

The "Dick" test of susceptibility was not used.

DIPHTHERIA

Notifications—50. Removed to Hospital—46. Deaths—3.

The average number of notifications for the preceding five years was 58.

The "Schick" test was not used, but all nurses and members of the domestic staff at William's Isolation Hospital are artificially immunised on entering the service hospital.

171 examinations of swabs, for the purpose of diagnosis, were made during the year, with 133 negative and 38 positive results.

There was no undoubted "Return" case.

Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is issued free of cost and is available day and night.

During the year there were 19 applications for this Serum and 210,000 units issued at a cost to the Corporation of £9-0-3. The cost was £8-15-2 in 1932; in 1931, £3-13-7; in 1930, £8-10-10; in 1929, £10-9-8; and in 1928, £43-6-7.

TABLE III. NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1933

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified												Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total Number of Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.											SOUTH	NORTH			
		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
Scarlet Fever.....	129	1	2	4	7	5	47	41	3	14	3	3	2	67	62	120	
Diphtheria.....	50	1	2	1	1	7	18	9	5	4	2			29	21	46	3
Pneumonia.....	22					1	2	1	4	3	3	3	5	17	5	8	20
Erysipelas.....	7				1			1				3	2	6	1	2	
Puerperal Fever.....	1									1					1	1	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	1		1											1		1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	4	4												1	3	1	
Totals.....	214	6	5	5	9	13	67	51	13	22	8	9	6	121	93	179	24

ENTERIC FEVER

No case was notified.

One specimen of blood was taken for bacteriological examination and proved to be negative.

PUERPERAL FEVER

Notification 1. Removal to Hospital 1. Death 0.

PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA

No case was notified.

PNEUMONIA (All Forms)

Notifications 22. Deaths 20.

ERYSIPELAS

Notifications 7. Deaths 0.

CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS

Notification 1. Death 1.

POLIOENCEPHALITIS

No case was notified.

SMALL POX

No case was notified. Arrangements have now been made by which cases of Small Pox arising in the Area may be sent to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Joyce Green.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Notifications 4. All made complete recoveries.

OTHER INFORMATION

SCHOOL INTIMATIONS

Every Head Teacher is supplied with a book of forms for the purpose of sending 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 is a statement of bacteriological work done during the year :-

	Positive	Negative	Total
Specimens putum for Tubercle	47	141	188
Swabs for Diphtheria	38	133	171
Blood for Typhoid and			
Para-typhoid Fever	0	1	1
Swabs for Puerperal Fever contacts	0	1	1

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 is enjoined.

Occasionally, soft articles are steam disinfected at St. William's Hospital. No steps have been taken during the year with regard to disinfestation of persons, except in cases which arise amongst school children, and which are described in the School Medical Officer's Report. Disinfestation of houses is referred to in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 10.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

Total number of rats destroyed in 1933	...	6919
Total number of poison baits laid in 1933	...	9497
Average yearly number of rats destroyed in the last five years		5422

CANCER

The following Table shews the number of deaths from Cancer, male and female together with the incidence rate per 1000 of the population year by year, for the last ten years:

Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate of incidence
1933	29	25	54	1·7
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

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 held is freely made known throughout the District by means of Posters, and by being published, until recently, 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	Attendances
1933	67	3352
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

It will be observed that the number of new cases is considerably lower than in 1932, but that there is still room for further improvement.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (DEATHS)

TABLE IV.

Disease	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923
Measles	0	2	2	0	8	0	0	9	1	0	3
Whooping Cough	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	3	5	0	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2	0	1	6	4	3	4	2	5	2
Influenza	13	4	19	6	20	5	20	5	11	7	6

This Table shows the number of Deaths from Non-Notifiable Diseases, year by year, since 1923.

MEASLES

There were no deaths in 1933, but this immunity will probably soon come to an end.

WHOOPIING COUGH

There was no death.

DIARRHOEA (under two years)

There was only one death, which is one less than in 1932 and well below the average.

INFLUENZA

There were 13 deaths. The outbreak of this disease was somewhat severe in 1933 and still takes a heavy toll of human life, particularly amongst elderly people.

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1933

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1933
TABLE V.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
0-1								
1-5			1	1			1	
5-10		1	3				1	
10-15					1			
15-20			1		2			
20-25	2	5				2		
25-35	7	6			2			
35-45	1	2	1		4	4		
45-55	6				5	1		
55-65	5	2			1			
65 & upwards	2				1			
Totals	23	16	6	1	*16	7	† 2	

* The Registrar General's figure for this is 18.

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

The Notifications were divided as follows :

	SOUTH	NORTH	To
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	24	15	3
Non-Pulmonary do.	4	3	
Totals ...	28	18	4

Wrong diagnoses were made in 1 case of Phthisis and 1 case of Other Tube

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis for the preceding 5 years are as follows :

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Average for five years	31.6	21.6	11.4	3.2
1933	39	25 (R.G.)	7	3 (R.G.)

188 specimens of sputum were submitted during the year, to bacteriological examination, with 47 positive, and 141 negative results.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this District :—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District, dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary, during the year ended December 31st, 1933.

Number of New Cases	...	...	132
Total number of attendances	...	...	714
Number sent to Institutions	...	...	30

Diagnosis—New Patients	Excluding School Children	School Children (Age 5 to 14)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31	2
Surgical do.	7	3
Other Diseases (including Tonsils & Adenoids)	4	2
Apparently Healthy	62	20
Under Observation 31-12-33	1	0

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1933:—

Lenham Sanatorium 9, Grosvenor Sanatorium 4, Keycol Hill Sanatorium 5, St. Mary's Hospital 1, Preston Hall 5, St. Bart's, Rochester 3, Eversfield Chest Hospital 2, Trowbridge Hospital, Chatham 1. Total 30.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action under these regulations was necessary during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. Section 62

In no case was it necessary to exercise this power to secure removal to hospital of any person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1931:—

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of age. Rochester

TABLE VI.

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
Premature Birth	2	1			3				
Injury at Birth									
Marasmus									
Congenital Heart Disease									
Pneumonia	1				1		2		2
Bronchitis									
Other Causes	2		1		3	1			
Totals	5	1	1		7	1	2		2
Nett Births registered during the calendar year					} legitimate, 379		} illegitimate, 17		
					Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year		} legitimate		} illegitimate

* The Registrar General's figure for this is 14.

HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1933

During the year, 370 births were registered in the District, of which 9 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
South	105	113	218
North	75	77	152
	180	190	370

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT

During the year 370 births were registered in the District and 396 were notified under the Act.

Fifteen still-births were notified. The notifications were made up as follows:

Doctors	Midwives	Parents
127	267	2

82 infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 2,770 visits, an average of 7 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—

Infants visited during 1933: Total Number, 382.

KIND OF FEEDING	Total	Percentages
1. Entirely breast-fed	232	60.7
2. Hand and breast-fed	38	9.9
3. Entirely hand-fed	112	29.3
 KIND OF FOOD (when hand fed)—		
1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water	6	1.5
2. Dried Milk	121	31.6
3. Patent Foods	2	.5
4. Condensed Milk	20	5.2
5. Biscuits, Groats, etc.	1	.2
 MODE OF FEEDING—		
1. Boat Shaped Bottle	149	39.0
2. Spoon	1	.2
 CONDITION OF HOUSE —		
1. Clean	302	79.0
2. Fairly Clean	79	20.6
3. Dirty	1	.2

OVERCROWDED HOUSES

More than 2 persons per bedroom: Total 90. Percentage 23.5.

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

There were seven pairs of twins.

Forty-six cases not notified under the Act were visited and are included in the figures.

In four instances the Nurses were refused admission.

There were twelve deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives a mortality rate of 32.4 per thousand births of 32.4.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1933

First visits to Infants under 1 year	382
Subsequent visits to Infants under 1 year	2,388
Infectious Disease visits	5
Still-births enquiring visits	10
Infants' Deaths enquired into	12
Registered Nursing Homes visited	4
Infant Life Protection—Children visited	47
Ante-Natal Visits	144
Children visited between 1 and 5 years	3,330
Miscellaneous and Ineffectual visits	979
	<hr/>
Total	7,301

ATTENDANCES AT MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE 1933

Infants under one year	1,517
Children over one year	305
Ante-Natal Cases	42
Infant Life Protection	24
Miscellaneous	120
	<hr/>
Total	2,008

Fifteen Hospital Tickets were given to mothers and infants who could not afford a doctor's fee.

Three cases of neglected children were reported to the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

PUERPERAL FEVER

There was one case notified, on the north side of the river. This patient is now in Barming Asylum.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Four cases were notified, one case from the South side of the river, and three from the North side.

Three cases were treated at Hospital and the other case was nursed at home. All four cases made a recovery.

REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1933

325 patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shews the total admissions from each District in the past 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
1933	131	140	0	28	325

The average yearly number for the ten years preceding 1926 was 256.8.

The average yearly number for the last 8 years, including 1933, is 417.2.

The following Table shews the total admissions in 1933 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Totals
Rochester	111	46	0	157
Chatham	112	25	3	140
Neighbouring Authorities	28	0	0	28

The case mortality was as follows :—(percentages)

	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926
Scarlet Fever	No death	.6	1.2	.8	.8	.7	.9	1
Diphtheria	4.5	5.5	2.8	2.1	8.6	8.2	5.9	7.7
Typhoid Fever	No death	5.8	No death	No case	No death	No death	No death	No death

The operation of tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was performed three times during the year.

WRONG DIAGNOSES

5.2 per cent. of all the cases sent in were wrongly diagnosed.

The figures for the preceding five years are as follows :—

1932, 5.5 %; 1931, 7.3 %; 1930, 7.3 %; 1929, 4.1 %; 1928, 4.5 %.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation of the Hospital has been sufficient during the year except that, for a few weeks in the Autumn, some strain was put on the Scarlet Fever beds, but it never became necessary to decline patients.

NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED IN HOSPITAL

	AVERAGES		
	In 1933	In 1932	In 1931
Scarlet Fever	36.6	36.1	36.6
Diphtheria	27.3	25	29
Typhoid Fever	-	63.8	-

TABLE VII.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1933
CIVILIANS ONLY

Causes of Death	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	226	157
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...		
2 Measles		
3 Scarlet fever		
4 Whooping cough		
5 Diphtheria	2	1
6 Influenza	6	7
7 Encephalitis lethargica		
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	1	
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	8	7
10 Other tuberculous diseases	3	
11 Syphilis		
12 General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	2	
13 Cancer, malignant disease	29	25
14 Diabetes	1	1
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	6	11
16 Heart disease	64	35
17 Aneurysm	1	1
18 Other circulatory diseases	5	7
19 Bronchitis		5
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	12	8
21 Other respiratory diseases	1	2
22 Peptic ulcer	5	1
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...		1
24 Appendicitis	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver		1
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.		1
27 Other digestive diseases	8	6
28 Acute and chronic nephritis... ..	5	6
29 Puerperal sepsis		
30 Other puerperal cases		1
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc.	5	2
32 Senility	12	12
33 Suicide	3	2
34 Other violence	10	2
35 Other defined diseases	17	11
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
Small-pox		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants { Total	8	6
under 1 year { Legitimate	8	5
{ Illegitimate	—	1
Live Births { Total	196	200
{ Legitimate	188	191
{ Illegitimate	8	9
Stillbirths { Total	13	6
{ Legitimate	12	6
{ Illegitimate	1	
POPULATION Mid-year, 1933	30,700	

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SAYE HOUSE, ROCHESTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report on the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1933.

Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the year 1933.

TABLE A.

		Number	Tonnage	No. Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspectors		
Foreign	Steamers	294	260070	29	288	88	86
	Motor	89	11728	8	79	9	9
	Sailing	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Foreign		383	271798	37	367	97	95
Coastwise	Steamers	476	214635	12	450	71	71
	Motor	219		10	207	33	33
	Sailing	157	54392	0	140	37	37
	Fishing	25	0	0	21	0	0
Total Coastwise		877	269027	22	818	141	141
Foreign & Coastwise		1260	540825	59	1185	238	236

Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board—Nil.
All Notices were informal.

Estuarial Traffic, 945. These figures represent inspections only, as no record is maintained of the number of barges, etc., trading between places on this river and the London river.

Total inspections of all craft, 2229.

Character of Trade of Port

TABLE B.

a.) Passenger Traffic during 1933:—

Number of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	0	0	0	
Outwards	0	0	0	

b.) Cargo traffic:—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS. Bricks, Timber, Wood Pulp, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Stone, Petrol, Fertiliser, Potatoes, Corn, Grain, Cotton Seed, Ground Nuts, and various Seeds and Kernels for the making of Cattle Food.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. Cement, Cattle Cake, Oil, Paper, Fruit Boxes, Scrap Iron, and other by-products of petrol refining.

Cement and paper is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct or via London, Southampton, Liverpool, &c.

(c.) COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES.

Import Trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German, Portugese, Russian and Baltic Ports, and with Mediterranean, West African, Indian and American Ports.

The Principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are, Sunderland, Blyth, Gool, Tyne, Tees, most of the Scottish East Coast Ports, Liverpool, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry, Southampton, the Cornish Clay Ports, Harwich, Ipswich and London.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS

British 978, Dutch 112, Swedish 70, Danish 37, Norwegian 27, Finnish 6, German 6, Belgian 2, Esthonian 5, American 1, Irish 1. Total 1260.

III. Source of Water Supply

(a.) For the Port. There are two sources of supply. The South Side of the River is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company and the North Side by Strood Water Works, the property of the Corporation of Rochester.

(b.) For Shipping. The supply is from the same sources.

(c.) Water Boat. One Water Boat is used for supplying the shipping. This boat is inspected at frequent intervals. The tanks were cement-washed 4 times during the year. A new tank has been fitted this year.

IV. Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933

As all foreign trading Ships have to pass through the water of the Port of London at Sheerness before they can enter the Port of Rochester, most of these Regulations are carried out by the Authorities of the Port of London. Should, however, a Ship bound for the Port of Rochester escape boarding at Sheerness, the Port of Rochester would be immediately informed by wire or telephone and would undertake the necessary steps of boarding, inspection, &c.

The arrangements for dealing with Infectious Disease were fully described in the Report for 1927, and have undergone no change.

TABLE C.
Cases of Infectious Disease landed from vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1933		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years	No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew		
Scarlet Fever	0	12	.2	1

All these cases arose amongst the boys on board the Training Ship "Arethusa," now moored off Upnor, in the Port of Rochester. The patients were all removed to St. William's Isolation Hospital, Rochester, where they made complete recoveries.

TABLE D.

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

Disease	No. of Cases during 1933		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, Small Pox or Typhus Fever, and no Plague infected rats were found in 1933.

V.

Measures Against Rodents

1. The steps taken for the detection of Rodent Plague in ships in the Port and in warehouses, wharves, quays, &c., 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 aware of the possibility of disease being spread by rats and, in addition to the services of the rat-catcher at intervals, discourage attempts at infestation on the part of rats by keeping cats on the premises. Traps are also used but cats are more effective.

In one flour warehouse it was discovered that some rats were entering by a hole in the roof of a part of the building. Their line of advance was shewn by minor scratches on the various wooden beams, by displacement of dust and by discolouration of paintwork. The droppings shewed that two or three rats only were using this particular entry. By way of experiment, this part of the warehouse was barricaded in order to keep the cats away and a trap was placed near the line of entry. The trap was left in position for four days. No rats were caught. The rat-catcher's dogs were then brought into this part of the building and in a very little time caught two rats. Other rats were caught, of course, but this experiment is mentioned as tending to shew that the instinct of a good cat or dog is more to be relied upon than the doubtful attraction of the most dainty bait, particularly where food is to be found in abundance.

In the case of grain and flour warehouses poison is not used as there is a possibility of poisoned rats contaminating the store.

There are some parts of the riverside where large tracts of mud flats are flanked by various buildings, workshops, &c., which provide little or no food for rats. Nevertheless during the night, rats come into the flats in numbers. Attempts have been made to locate harbourages in the vicinity, but with no great success. Poison is put down between the intervals of high water, traps are used, and in one or two cases shot gulls have accounted for a number of rats. The rats found in this locality were all "brown" rats.

Other methods in use are "sticky boards," fumigation, smoke machine and ferret according to the particular case to be dealt with.

There is much marshland adjoining the Port Sanitary District but no traces of the Musk Rat have been seen.

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 in the case of a vessel from a plague-infected port, or a vessel that has loaded cargo from such a ship. Most of the large vessels from foreign ports are moored at bridges in the stream, the cargoes being discharged into lighters and barges. The rats then reach the shore via such craft. The number however is small, as they are usually caught and killed during the discharge of the smaller craft's cargo.

3. Methods of deratisation 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. Although many of the riverside buildings have not been fitted on rat-proof lines, attempts are made to keep rats out by securing metal plates over rat-holes and the provision of wire-netting over various places, such as ventilators &c. Modern structures are more satisfactory owing to the use of concrete.

Where ships have rat proofing in a state of disrepair, this is treated as a defect in the ordinary way.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1933

TABLE E.

1. On Vessels:—About 50 rats were killed by cats, traps and cargo workers. There was no suspicion of Plague.

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 mauled by cats, killed by traps, or crushed by cargo working, etc., and when this occurs the bodies of the rats are kept for examination.

TABLE F.

2. In Docks, Quays and Warehouses :—

During the year, it has been calculated that about 1000 rats were accounted for by the owners of the principal warehouses by means of cats, trapping, etc. This does not include 1520 rats killed by the 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 examination during the year.

TABLE G.

Particulars of Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels arriving in the Port during 1933 are given under "General Sanitary Work of the Port."

TABLE H.

Measures of deratisation—No certificates were issued.

Hygiene of Crew Space

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances :—

Nationality of Vessel	No. Inspected during 1933	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through Wear and Tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
British	893	5	73	275
Other Nations	282	1	19	120
Barges	945	10	20	50

With the exception of 2 intimation notices, all instructions were verbal and were complied with.

I. Food Inspection

(a.) Cargoes of Flour, Potatoes, Wheat, Meal, Oats, Linseed, Sugar, Maize and Sprats to the number of 108 cargoes, and Winkles, Mussels and Clams to the extent of 47 bushels were examined.

(b.) Shell Fish. See remarks under "General Sanitary Work."

VIII.

Other Information

1. REPORT AS TO EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1933

Name and Address of Inspector—H. EVANS, 61 Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.

Remuneration ... £4 per annum.

Number of boats detained during the year.

„	new boats registered	...	...	...	...
„	boats re-registered owing to structural alteration	...	...	...	...
„	„ „ for other reasons	...	...	...	...
„	boats on Register on December 31st, 1933	...	...	...	...
„	„ inspected	...	...	...	...
„	„ with one or more infringements	...	...	...	...
„	women on boats inspected	...	...	...	...
„	children under 5 years	...	...	...	...
„	boats on Register	...	...	...	...

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS

Masters without Certificates	...	...	...	...
Boats not properly marked	...	...	...	...
Cabins not in cleanly condition	...	...	...	...
Defective bulkheads	...	...	...	...
Leaky decks causing wet cabins	...	...	...	...
Dilapidated cabins	...	...	...	...

Four boats were struck off the register owing to their dilapidated condition.

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 which is navigated, cleaned and kept in running repair by the Inspectors themselves.

c. The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons, but, in case of need, the disinfecting station at the Medway Infirmary would be available.

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

e. In addition to the cargo traffic of the Port, there are several large day passenger vessels operating between the Kent and Essex seaside resorts and between Rochester and France. These vessels are inspected from time to time.

There are two large vessels permanently moored in the District, one of which is a Steam Yacht, used as a club, and the other the Training Ship "Arethusa."

f. There are several small house boats on the river, used as dwellings. These are visited from time to time.

g. With respect to Plague "Infected" or "Suspected" vessels, it has not been necessary to take any special action during year. Oil tankers arriving from tropical ports are discharged in mid-stream in the lower reaches of the river. The river is wide at this point. The banks consist largely of marshland, and, with the exception of the refinery stores of a petrol Company, are sparsely populated. This has simplified the question of quarantine should the need arise.

The new "Declaration of Health" Certificates have been in operation since they became law, and the various shipping agents, pilots and Customs Officers, who might be concerned, have shewn an admirable readiness to co-operate.

Nine parrots were refused landing under the Psittacosis Regulations. One parrot was admitted by Ministry of Health Order.

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

3 CASES OF SICKNESS

Sixty two cases of sickness were advised to obtain medical attention. All of these were non-infectious and there were no deaths. 12 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital. All recovered.

4. GENERAL

Wouldham, Snodland, Cuxton, Halstow and Whitewall were visited from time to time and offer no matter for comment.

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

Seven dead dogs found on the foreshore or afloat have been disinfected and buried. The number of dead dogs found has materially diminished in recent years.

The Port Sanitary District, which consists of about sixteen miles of waterway embraces a number of creeks, extending some distance inland. Many of these have been visited by bus or cycle.

5. COMPLETE LIST OF VESSELS INSPECTED IN 1933

Ships ...	...	...	...	1175
Barges	...	...	...	945
Canal Boats	...	...	...	18
Lighters	...	...	...	56
Water Boat	...	...	...	8
House Boats	...	...	...	27
				2229

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

1932	...	2114	1927	...	2194
1931	...	2192	1926	...	2075
1930	...	2245	1925	...	1753
1929	...	2209	1924	...	1830
1928	...	2180	1923	...	1931

Reference to Table 'A' will shew an appreciable increase in the number of foreign Coast-wise arrivals and also in Tonnage,

The extension to the Paper Factory referred to in the Report for 1932 was not completed until very late in the year.

The depression that has been affecting shipping in general for some years appears to be lifting, and there seems to be reasonable grounds for anticipating a continued increase in the number of arrivals both Foreign and Coastwise.

Each succeeding year brings added duties and responsibilities imposed by the Ministry of Health upon the Port Sanitary staff.

This year has brought its due quota,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Port Medical Officer of Health

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