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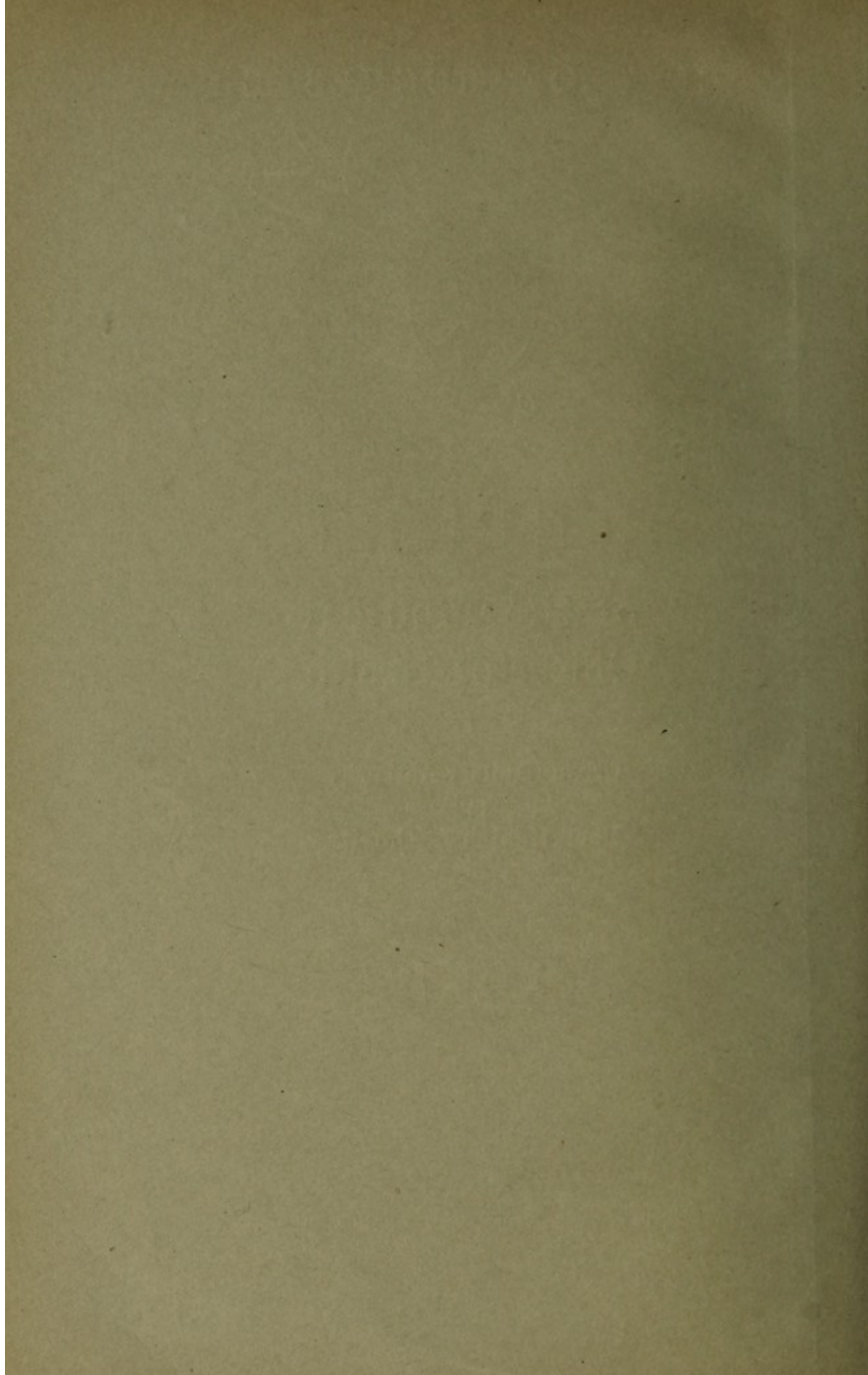
REPORT

of the Medical
Officer of Health

Urban Sanitary Authority
and
Port Health Authority

1950

CHATHAM :
PARRETT & NEVES, LTD., 30 High Street



CITY OF ROCHESTER

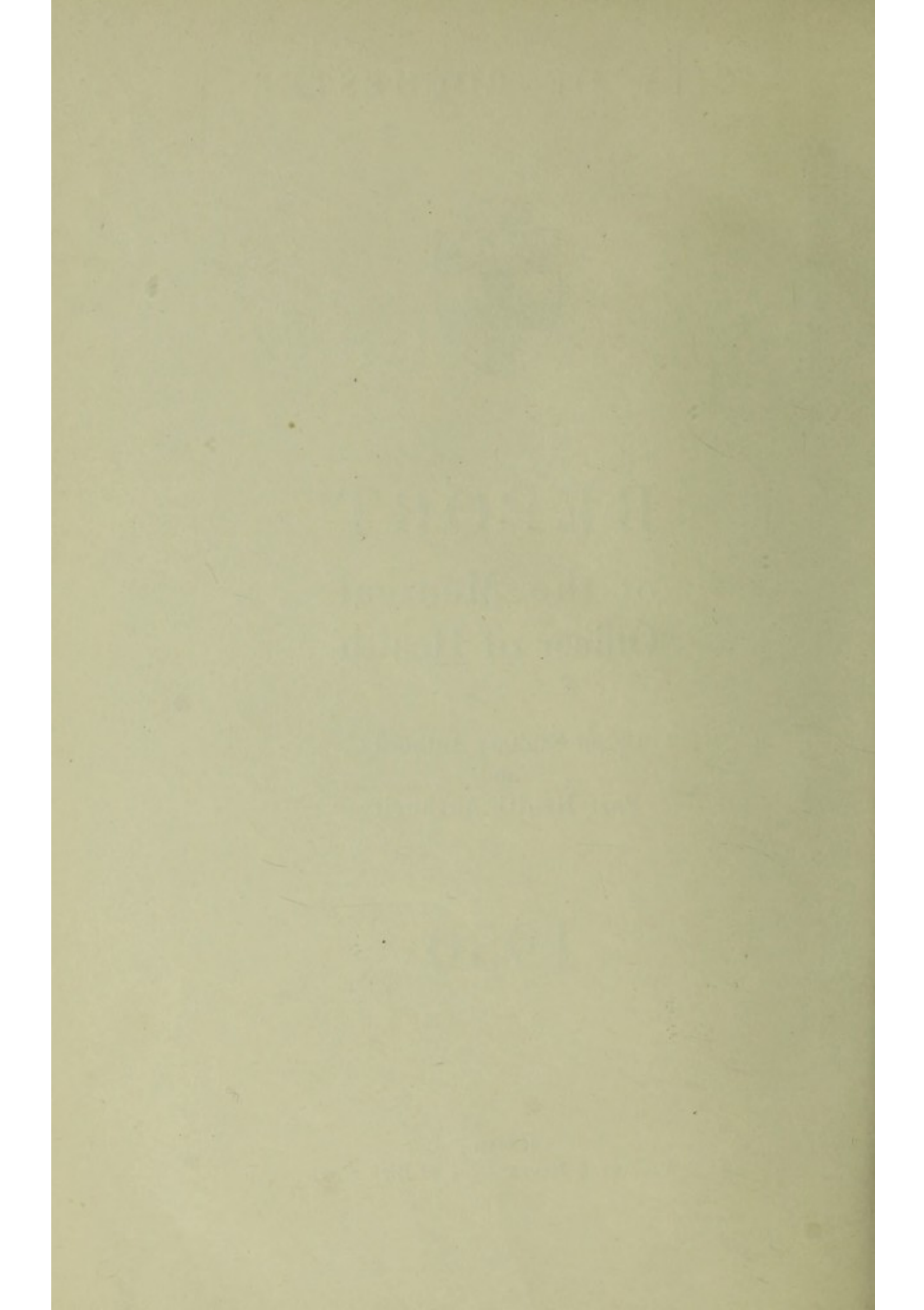


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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1950

CONTENTS

Members of Health Committees	Page 5
Staff of Health Department	6
Introduction	Page 7 to page 9
A Statistical and Social conditions of the area	Page 10 to page 12
Acreage	10
Population	10
Inhabited Houses and Rateable Value	10
Births and Birth Rate	10
Deaths and Death Rate	10
Infantile Mortality	10
Principal Certifiable Causes of Death	11
Child Mortality and Neo Natal Mortality	11-12
Distribution of Deaths in Wards	12
B. General Provisions of Health Services in the Area	Page 12 to page 14
Medical Practitioners	12
Laboratory Facilities	12
Ambulance Service	12
Nursing in the Home	12
Clinics and Treatment Centres	13
Nursing Homes	14
Medical Supplies for Special Treatment... ..	14

C.	Prevalence and Control of Disease	...	...	...	Page 14 to page 19
	Table of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups	...	...	...	14
	Table of Notifiable Diseases in Wards	...	...	...	15
	Admissions to Hospital	...	...	...	15
	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunization & Smallpox Vaccination	...	...	...	15-16
	Scabies Treatment	...	...	...	16
	Bug Infestation	...	...	...	16
	Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	16
	Cancer Mortality according to age and site of tumour	...	...	...	16
	Cancer Treatment Facilities	...	...	...	16
	Tuberculosis. New Cases	}	...	...	17-18
	Deaths				
	Treatment				
	Venereal Diseases. New Cases	}	...	...	18-19
	Treatment				
	Results of Treatment				
D.	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	...	...	...	Page 19 to page 20
	Water Supplies	...	...	...	19
	Bacteriological and Chemical Examinations of Water	...	...	...	19-20
	Swimming Pool	...	...	...	20
	Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	20
	Public Cleansing	...	...	...	20
E.	Table of Causes of Death	...	...	...	Page 20 to page 21
F.	Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	Page 21 to page 33
G.	Report of Medical Officer, Port of Rochester	...	...	...	Page 34 to page 39
i.	Shipping Entering Port	...	...	...	34
ii.	Character of Trade of Port	...	...	...	34
	Countries with which the Port Trades	...	...	...	34
	Cargo and Passenger Traffic	...	...	...	34
iii.	Source of Water Supplies	...	...	...	35
	1. For the Port and for Shipping	...	...	...	35
	2. Hydrants and Hose Pipes	...	...	...	35
	3. Water Boats and their conditions	...	...	...	35
iv.	Port Health Regulations	...	...	...	35
	Cases of Infectious Disease landed or disposed of prior to arrival	...	...	...	35
v.	Measures against Rodents on Ships, Quays, Wharves, etc.	...	...	...	36
	To prevent passage of rats ashore	...	...	...	36
	Methods of Deratization	...	...	...	36
	Detection of Rat Prevalence	...	...	...	37
	Rat Proofing	...	...	...	37
	Rat Destruction on "Infected" or "Suspected" Ships	...	...	...	37
	Deratization Certificates	...	...	...	37
vi.	Hygiene of Crew Spaces	...	...	...	37
vii.	Food Inspection	...	...	...	38
	Cargoes and Shellfish	...	...	...	38
viii.	Other Information	...	...	...	38-39

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1950/51

Chairman—Councillor G. A. Tickner, C.C.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor N. W. Wood.

The Mayor—Alderman E. Washford, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor—Alderman A. T. H. Ring.

Aldermen W. Longley, A. Fray, J.P., W. S. Searle, C. S. Knight, J.P.

Councillor A. A. J. Anderson
Councillor F. C. Burton
Councillor W. Wilkinson
Councillor H. R. Swain
Councillor J. D. May
Councillor H. Wilson
Councillor C. H. R. Skipper, J.P., C.C.
Councillor R. M. Pattenden
Councillor M. C. Wood
Councillor M. H. Cole
Councillor F. Cook
Councillor R. C. Passmore
Councillor J. W. Leech
Councillor J. H. Lower
Councillor J. W. H. Watson
Councillor G. E. Washford
Councillor Lt.-Col. H. S. Shave, O.B.E.
Councillor F. Corry
Councillor J. H. Bryden

MEMBERS OF THE PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE 1950/51

Chairman—Councillor M. H. Cole.

The Mayor—Alderman E. Washford, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor—Alderman A. T. H. Ring.

Aldermen A. C. Lyle, A. Fray, J.P., W. S. Searle, C. S. Knight, J.P.

Councillor A. A. J. Anderson
Councillor F. C. Burton
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Councillor Lt.-Col. H. S. Shave, O.B.E.
Councillor G. E. Washford
Councillor F. Corry
Councillor J. H. Bryden

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J. O. MURRAY, M.D. (Edin. Univ.), Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.),
D.P.H. (Liverpool Univ.).

Combined Appointment, Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Chatham.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Combined Appointment, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Chatham, and
Assistant Medical Officer, Kent County Council.

J. H. WHITTLES, M.D. (Lond.), B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector

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

Sanitary Inspectors

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

A. A. FIRTH, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.

J. HOGG, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.

W. G. THURSTON, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.

Port Health Inspector

C. H. N. EVANS, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I., A.I.N.A.

Veterinary Surgeon (Part time)

D. G. LEWIS, M.R.C.V.S.

Clerks

MISS V. F. M. JENKINS.

MRS. E. GWYER.

MISS M. LAMB.

MISS J. DEVINE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
1, ESPLANADE,
ROCHESTER
July, 1951.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

YOUR WORSHIP, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for 1950 and in this introductory note I have commented on several matters which may be of more general interest than a perusal of the statistics embodied in the Report.

Population 43,130; Live Births 656; Still Births 13; Deaths 448.

As compared to 1949 there has been a slight increase in the estimated population (470), a considerable fall in the number of live births (118) and also in still births (5), and 29 fewer deaths.

There were 23 deaths of infants under one year of age, being 5 more than in 1949. Of the total infant deaths, 5 died within 24 hours, another 5 within the first week after birth, a total of 16 having died before reaching the age of one month. Ten of those deaths in the first month of life were due to Prematurity or Congenital Deformity, the causes of which are not fully understood but, good standards of nutrition and ante natal care play a part in prevention.

Housing.

The housing of the population still remains the most urgent social need. It is difficult to see when this need will be met at the present rate of building, particularly as there are many old houses past redemption or approaching such a state. The latter, through lack of maintenance, are deteriorating more rapidly than might be the case if costs were not so high. I do not refer to statutory defects which the owner is obliged to remedy but to such things as painting, repointing of brickwork before it becomes perished, the provision of more modern cooking and washing facilities and other desirable amenities. Costs have risen, rents remain the same and the economic imbalance results in lack of thorough maintenance particularly in the case of houses built fifty or more years ago.

The following Table indicates the position with regard to new houses built and the total available houses in relation to estimated population since 1945.

Houses Built.

Year	Population R.G.'s estimate	Permanent	Temporary	Total	Total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books
1945	35,430	6	350	356	11,597
1946	38,770	21	79	100	11,879
1947	39,890	130	21	151	12,019
1948	41,770	397	Nil	397	12,400
1949	42,660	227	Nil	227	12,720
1950	43,130	319	Nil	319	13,007
Totals—		1,100	450	1,550	

Drainage Connections to Foul Sewers.

The Council in 1948 decided to endeavour to connect all remaining unsatisfactory drainage to the main sewers within a period of five years. During 1950, 218 existing premises were dealt with and 148 cesspools were abolished.

Atmospheric Pollution.

It is estimated that at least half the atmospheric pollution is due to domestic coal fires, the remedy for which is the use of gas, electricity or smokeless fuel fires. This is obviously the wrong time to suggest a revolutionary conversion of domestic heating but it will have to be considered in due course if we want pure air and a clean environment.

Industrial atmospheric pollution from solid fuel consumption does occur but in only a few cases does a nuisance arise, and that in spite of all practical steps taken to avoid it. The main trouble seems to be that the offending boilers are being called on to provide heat and power beyond their normal capacity and, as in the case of domestic heating, the difficulties in remedying this are at the moment insurmountable.

The cement industry has for many years been an important industry on the Medway and presents a local problem. Whilst there is no evidence to show that cement dust is inimical to health, it is objectionable. Efficient dust precipitating plant can reduce the dust emission to negligible proportions and I am pleased to record that since the plant has been renewed, after a war-time break down, there does seem to be a considerable improvement.

Next year records of atmospheric pollution will be kept as a result of a joint scheme promoted by the Rochester and Chatham Corporations.

Scabies.

This skin disease, which was very prevalent during the war, has practically disappeared. At its height during the war several hundred cases were treated annually at the Cleansing Station. In 1950 only two cases were treated.

Safe Food Campaign.

Rochester and Chatham decided to combine in their efforts to counter the rising trend in Food Poisoning. The co-operation of all Traders and the public was solicited and the Campaign opened with a public meeting in Chatham Town Hall, on the 13th April, 1950.

During the year efforts were concentrated on education on the prevention of food poisoning and the handling and storage of food stuffs. Lectures combined with demonstrations and films were given to members of the public as well as to those engaged in the food trades. Literature on the subject was also distributed.

The instruction consisted of two to three lectures and demonstrations to classes of twenty to forty. Some seven hundred people attended, the majority of whom were employed in canteens, cafes and restaurants.

Infectious Diseases.

(a) *Food Poisoning* which has been of a mild type is, probably, more prevalent than the number of notifications would imply. There appears to be many cases in which an attack of diarrhoea, sometimes without sickness, is so mild that medical attention is not sought, with the result that they never become subject to investigation. These mild cases are, however, potential disseminators of the disease to an even greater extent than the notified, severer cases who can be kept under observation until they are free from infection.

(b) *Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Respiratory Diseases.*

There were no cases of Diphtheria or Typhoid Fever during the year. Neither of these diseases have appeared in epidemic form for many years. This is due to immunisation in the case of Diphtheria (8,150 children have been immunised between 1936 and 1950, and 743 in 1950 when 1,053 also received a reinforcing immunisation).

The provision of main drainage and pure water supplies has led to the eradication of Typhoid Fever.

On the other hand respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) caused 33 deaths in 1950, and must have caused a great deal of invalidism in others. They are third on the list of major killing diseases. Atmospheric pollution, particularly smoke pollution, predisposes to respiratory diseases of all kinds and as the atmospheric pollution is abated so will the mortality and morbidity from nose and throat and lung disease be reduced.

(c) *Measles and Whooping Cough.*

There were 374 notified cases and 1 death from measles. The epidemic was comparatively slight in number and severity, reaching its peak in July when there were 90 cases. The prevention of measles awaits a solution.

Twenty-five cases of whooping cough were notified but there were no deaths.

Recent trials by the Medical Research Council with Whooping Cough Vaccine indicate that, with certain vaccines, either prevention of the disease or amelioration in severity can be attained. There is reason to hope that in future the extensive use of these new vaccines in young children will eliminate, to a very considerable degree, the ravages of this distressing disease.

(d) *Tuberculosis.*

In 1939 the number of registered cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) was 206. In 1950 there were 327. During this ten-year period the death rate from this disease—apart from the war years—has been falling and there were only nine deaths in 1950 as compared to thirty in 1939.

The increase in notifications is related, to some extent, to improved methods of diagnosis including Mass Radiography which picks out about three or four unsuspected cases in every 1,000 examined. There is, thus, earlier recognition of the disease and consequent earlier treatment.

The number of beds has increased from 19,000 in 1921 to 33,000 by 1948 in England and Wales, and it is regrettable that in spite of this many patients have still to wait for admission to Sanatoria. More beds are required. Where home conditions can provide for isolation and rest, the delay in admission is not so serious, but in many cases home isolation facilities do not exist which is a very different matter as it is well known that Tuberculosis is five times as common among apparently healthy home contacts as among the general population.

Education of the public, better housing, examination of contacts and increased facilities for isolation in sanatoria or hospitals are fundamental necessities against the dangers of advanced and infective cases remaining in unsuitable homes.

Local figures as to waiting lists are not available but in England and Wales in 1947 there were 7,942 patients waiting for admission which had risen to 9,210 in 1948 and, although 1,600 additional beds had been provided in this period the gain was reduced by the increase of the waiting list. Many suitable beds are empty through lack of staff.

Fatal Accidents, 1946-1950 (Excluding 16 deaths from fractured femur in aged persons)

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Totals
Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents	2	4	3	5	4	18
Other Forms of Violence	7	12	5	3	7	34
<i>Total Fatal Accidents</i>	9	16	8	8	11	52
Deaths from Tuberculosis						
(all forms)	25	23	19	34	9	110

This table shows that during the five year period under review, accidents and other forms of violence were responsible for an appreciable number of deaths, in fact almost half the number due to Tuberculosis. There can be no doubt that this disconcerting fact presents an important problem in preventive medicine.

Appreciation.

The Report contains a considerable amount of information which has been supplied by colleagues, in official departments of this and other Authorities, to whom I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness.

The staff have performed their duties conscientiously and I appreciate to the full the help which they have given so readily.

The consideration and support which I have received from the Chairmen and Members of Committees has been most valuable and helpful.

For their co-operation and encouragement I wish to express my sincere thanks.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) Land and Inland Water	4,108
Population—Census 1931, 31,193. Estimated R.G. (Mid. 1950)	43,130
Number of houses inhabited (end 1950) according to the Rate Books	13,007
Rateable Value	£297,838
Sum Representing a Penny Rate	£1,145

TOTAL BIRTHS. (Live and Still).				Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births.	Legitimate	...	...	628	342	286	656
	Illegitimate	...	...	28	15	13	
Still Births	Legitimate	...	...	12	8	4	13
	Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	0	
Birth Rate per 1,000 persons Living				...	15.2		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 persons Living					0.3		

TOTAL DEATHS—All causes at all ages ...	250	198	448
Death Rate per 1,000 persons living ...	10.38		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—			
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	0
Others ... ..	...	...	0
Natural increase in population (Excess Births over Deaths) ...	...	...	208

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Total Infant Deaths	23
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	35.06
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	31.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	107.1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths is shown on pages 20-21.

The following Table shows a comparison between this district and other parts of England and Wales.

	Live per cent	Birth 1,000 population	rate resi- population	Deaths per 1,000 population	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 registered live births
England and Wales	15.8	...	11.6	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.6	...	12.3	33.8
148 smaller Towns, resident popula- tion 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census	16.7	...	11.6	29.4
London	17.8	...	11.8	26.3
ROCHESTER	15.2	...	10.38	35.06

PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH.

									Percentage of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Circulatory System including Heart Disease and									
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	168		37.5
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	83		18.5
Respiratory Disease:—									
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	12				
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	18		33		7.37
Others	...	...	...	...	3				
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9		2.0
Deaths from all Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	448		

INFANTILE MORTALITY—BIRTH AND STILL BIRTH RATE.

Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births, and births per 1,000 persons living:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Infant Mortality ...	40.3	63.7	46.4	75.6	47.0	36.22	60.6	27.6	23.2	35.06
Birth Rate ...	18.7	20.1	22.0	23.9	22.2	23.49	23.1	20.8	18.16	15.2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still) ...	25.	32.	21.	18.	32.	20.	24.	22.	23.	19.4

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Neo-Natal Deaths

Deaths over 4 weeks

Cause	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total under 1 Year.
Premature Birth ...	2	3	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Injury at Birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus, Inanition...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malnutrition ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Deformity	1	2	—	—	1	4	1	1	1	—	7
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	—	6
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro-enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes ...	2	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Total ...	5	5	3	1	2	16	3	2	2	—	23

CHILD MORTALITY.

	1948	1949	1950
Number of Deaths of Children aged 1 to 5 years ...	3	5	5

NEO NATAL MORTALITY.

Total deaths under 1 month of age	...	...	...	...	16	(1949—10)
Death Rate of children under 1 month of age per 1,000 births	...	24.3	...	...	...	(1949—12.8)

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS IN WARDS.

St. Margaret's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
St. Peter's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Troy Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
St. Nicholas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Strood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Temple	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Frindsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

There are 20 doctors resident in the area (excluding St. Bartholomew's Hospital) who are engaged in private practice.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following Table shows the number of specimens submitted to Kent County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, for examination and results.

					Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs	Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...	...	—	36	36
	Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	...	28	105	133
Sputum	Tubercle Bacilli:—						
	Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	48	139	187
	Private Practitioners	...	...	...	7	53	60
Fæces	Dysentery, Typhoid Group, Food Poisoning,						
	Etc.	...	...	...	—	30	30
Food stuffs.	Food Poisoning	...	...	...			4
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...			127
Milk	Bacteriological Examinations	...	...	...			211
Milk—	Biological Examinations	...	...	...			17
Water—	Bacteriological Examinations	...	...	...			119
Blood Counts	...	...	...	...			317
Miscellaneous Examinations	...	...	...	...			511

In addition a few specimens from medical practitioners are dealt with in the Pathological Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Depot, King Edward Road, Rochester. Telephone Chatham 3540.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME.

Nursing in the home is provided by the Watts's District Nursing Service, by arrangement with the K.C.C., The Almshouses, Maidstone Road, Rochester. Telephone Chatham 2335.

The number of patients attended during the year was 970 and the total number of visits made was 37,401.

5. MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

There are five County midwives and two independent midwives serving the Rochester area.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

District Office, 13, Gun Lane, Strood. Telephone Chatham 7451.

7. DAY NURSERY.

The Old Institution, Gun Lane, Strood. Telephone 7785.

This Nursery closed on the 31st December, 1950.

8. HOSPITALS.

St. William's Hospital. Telephone Chatham 3243

St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Telephone Chatham 4278

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Clinic	Situation	By whom provided
Ante Natal	Strood Institution on Thursday mornings & Friday afternoons	Kent County Council
" "	St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Wednesday mornings. (This Clinic closed January, 1951)	
" "	St. William's Hospital on Monday Afternoons	
Infant Welfare	St. William's Hospital on Thursday afternoons	
" "	Strood Institution on Tuesday Afternoons & Friday Mornings	
" "	Belsey Hall, Rochester, on Tuesday Afternoons	
Women's Welfare Clinic	St. William's Hospital, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Thursdays: 1st & 4th Wednesdays. By appointment.	
Diphtheria Immunisation	Strood Institution I.W. Clinic on 1st Tuesday in the month St William's Hospital Clinic on 1st Tuesday morning in each month School Clinic, Corporation Street, Rochester, on every Tuesday afternoon.	
Whooping Cough Vaccination	School Clinic, Corporation Street, Rochester, on 2nd Friday afternoon in each month	
Vaccination	St. William's Hospital Clinic on 1st Tuesday morning each month.	
Chest Clinic	13, New Road, Rochester	S.E. Regional Hospital Board
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	36, New Road, Rochester	
Orthopædic; Radium & X-ray; Ultra Violet Light; Ear, Nose and Throat Ophthalmic Skin Diseases Paediatrics	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester	

MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT

Chloromycetin Treatment for specified diseases—supplies available from The Grove Park Hospital, Lee, S.E.20. Tel. Lee Green 1077.

Vaccinia Serum supplies available at Colindale Laboratory, Colindale, N.W.9. Tel. Colindale 6041.

Yellow Fever Innoculations available at the Wellcome Foundation, 183/193, Euston Road, Euston. Tel. Euston 4477.

Serum Treatment of Anthrax; Botulism; Snakebite—Supplies available at South London Blood Depot, Benhill Avenue, Sutton. Tel. Vigilant 0068.

Serum Treatment Mushroom Poisoning—Anti Phalloidin. Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, N.W.9. Tel. Col. 6041.

NURSING HOMES.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

There are two registered nursing homes, one with four maternity beds and one with nine maternity beds and nine beds for general cases. The Homes are visited regularly by the Medical Officer of Health.

The number of maternity cases admitted during the year was 76, of which 38 were Rochester residents. The number of general cases was 92, of which 26 were Rochester residents.

C. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) 1950.

Disease	Total	Number of Cases in Age Groups					Total Notified in each Locality		No. removed to Hospital	Deaths
		0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65+	South	North		
Scarlet Fever ...	37	13	23	1	—	—	25	12	5	—
Pneumonia ...	55	11	4	16	11	13	36	19	—	12
Food Poisoning	3	1	—	1	1	—	3	—	2	—
Whoop'g Cough	138	82	56	—	—	—	96	42	—	—
Measles ...	374	160	208	6	—	—	196	178	2	1
Erysipelas ...	11	—	—	2	6	3	9	2	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	622	267	292	28	18	17	366	256	11	13
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DIVIDED INTO WARDS.

			Frinds- bury	Troy Town	St. Peter	St. Margaret	St. Nicholas	Strood	Temple
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	2	12	6	5	6	6
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	2	8	12	8	6	3	16
*Food Poisoning	...	...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	10	8	27	29	22	20	22
Measles	...	...	36	9	126	14	11	57	121
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	5	2	2	—	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pul. Tuberculosis	...	...	5	—	10	2	8	6	9
Non-Pul. T.B.	...	...	1	1	—	1	2	1	4
			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			54	28	194	64	56	95	181
			—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* 1 Sittingbourne resident.

ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL.

Table showing Numbers and Types of Admissions.

			Rochester	Chatham	Other Authorities	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	5	5	9	19
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	1	7	8
Measles	...	...	2	2	11	15
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	1	7	8
C.S.F.	...	...	—	—	—	—
Streptococcal Infection	...	...	—	1	—	1
Mumps	...	...	—	—	2	2
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	1	1
Others	...	...	19	25	22	66
			—	—	—	—
			26	35	59	120
			—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the following cases have been protected against Diphtheria:—

Under 5 years	...	...	560
5—14 years	...	...	183
Reinforcing dose	...	...	1,053

Total number of Children immunised at any time up to 31.12.1950.

Year of Birth	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	461	479	566	653	555	618	708	638	663	751	489
			1947	1948	1949	1950	Total				
			551	527	429	42	8,150				

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The following cases were vaccinated against smallpox during 1950.

Age at 31.12.1950	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 +	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	208	175	23	20	426
Number Re-vaccinated ...	—	12	19	65	96

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION.

During 1950, Fifty children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough.

SCABIES TREATMENT.

The numbers of cases treated in the last five years are as follows: —

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
2 plus 1 verminous person cleansed.		12	56	48	102

BUG INFESTATION.

48 infested houses were dealt with by D.D.T. during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Total number of rats destroyed	702	1203	1497	1646	1285	1460
Total number of mice destroyed	372	497	593	273	1522	1013

CANCER.

Year	Male	Deaths 1941—1950. Female	Total	Death rate per 1,000 persons living
1941	33	28	61	1.8
1942	35	32	67	1.9
1943	26	28	54	1.3
1944	42	38	80	2.3
1945	33	25	58	1.6
1946	36	36	72	1.8
1947	32	31	63	1.6
1948	38	21	59	1.4
1949	36	46	82	1.9
1950	51	32	83	1.9

TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Modern facilities are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the treatment of Cancer. There is a plant for deep X-ray Therapy and 350 milligrams of radium are in use at the Hospital.

CANCER MORTALITY ACCORDING TO AGE AND SITE.

Site	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 +	Total
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Stomach	—	—	—	—	1 2	2 9 5	11 8
Lung, Bronchus	—	—	—	—	6 1	3 —	9 1
Breast	—	—	—	—	— 3	— 4	— 7
Uterus	—	—	—	—	— 1	— 3	— 4
Others	—	—	—	—	2 8	3 23 7	31 12

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	7	5	—	—	1	4	—	1
35—45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	6	1	1	2	3	—	—	—
55—65	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24	16	3	7	4	4	—	1

2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were not notified prior to death.

NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS WERE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:—

	South		North		Totals
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	5	3	...	8
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	1	—	...	1
	Pulmonary Notified	T.B. Died	Non-pulmonary Notified	T.B. Died	
Average for the preceding 5 years	44.6	25	11.6	2.8	
1950	40	8	10	1	

The following information has been kindly supplied by Dr. S. Roy C. Price, the Chest Physician for this District:—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the Rochester Chest Clinic during 1950:—

New Patients	Pulmonary				Non-pulmonary				Totals			
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Def. T.B.	16	18	3	2	1	2	1	2	17	20	4	4
Non-T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	115	125	58	45
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	132	145	62	49
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total attendances — 1,591.

INSTITUTIONS to which patients were sent during 1950.

Royal Sea-bathing Hospital, Margate	...	...	2
Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	2
Grosvenor Sanatorium	...	...	3
Kettlewell Hospital	...	...	1
Grove Park Hospital, Lee	...	...	5
All Saints' Hospital, Chatham	...	...	10
Eversfield Chest Hospital	...	...	1
Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup	...	...	1
Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford	...	...	2
Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital	...	...	1
Preston Hall	...	...	1
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester	...	...	2
Benenden Sanatorium	...	...	1
Fairlight Sanatorium, Ore	...	...	2
King's College Hospital	...	...	1
Papworth Hall, Cambridge	...	...	1
Total	...	...	36

NOTIFICATION AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1941—1950.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
	Notifications	Deaths	Death Rate	Notifications	Deaths	Death Rate
1941	31	23	0.7	12	6	0.2
1942	35	20	0.6	16	12	0.4
1943	24	25	0.6	9	8	0.2
1944	77	22	0.6	19	6	0.2
1945	51	35	1.0	15	3	0.08
1946	55	23	0.6	8	2	0.05
1947	34	21	0.52	15	2	0.05
1948	27	16	0.38	10	3	0.07
1949	56	30	0.7	10	4	0.09
1950	40	8	0.19	10	1	0.02

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

The number of notified cases on the Register on Dec. 31st, 1950, was 327.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Sessions are held at the Special Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Mondays, from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on other days by appointment. This information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, through the Public and Port Health Departments, doctors, nurses and other clinics.

The Clinic is conducted by E. E. Prebble, Esq., M.D., and serves a considerable area.

NEW PATIENTS. ROCHESTER.		Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	3	4	7
Soft Sore	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	...	7	2	9
Non-venereal	...	41	11	52
Total number of new patients from all districts served		...	...	309
Total attendances of Rochester patients		...	...	961
Total attendances of patients from all districts		...	...	4881

**NEW PATIENTS ATTENDING VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC
AND TOTAL ATTENDANCES FROM (a) ROCHESTER (b) ALL DISTRICTS.
1935—1950.**

	1935—1939	1940—1944	1945—1949	1950
1. New Patients	Average No.	Average No.	Average No.	
(a) ROCHESTER	per Annum	per Annum	per Annum	
Diagnosed Venereal Disease	43	36	25	16
Diagnosed Non-Venereal Disease	27	34	46	52
(b) ALL DISTRICTS SERVED	not			
Venereal & Non-Venereal	available	426	385	309
2. Attendances				
(a) ROCHESTER PATIENTS	2641	1316	1057	961
(b) ALL DISTRICTS SERVED	not			
	available	8481	6021	4881

DISCHARGES FROM ALL DISTRICTS COVERED.

Discharged cured: —

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Soft Sore	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	225

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER.

- (i) The Corporation Water Works for the supply of the Strood area on the North side of the River Medway. The source of this water supply is from wells in the chalk in Strood, to which was added in 1942, an additional supply from deep chalk wells in Cuxton.
- (ii) The Chatham and District Water Company which supplies the rest of the City to the South. This supply is drawn from wells in the chalk and greensand. Both supplies are Chlorinated.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Rochester Corporation Supply.				Chatham & District Supply.		Total.
Raw Water	...	...	15	—		15
Treated Water	...	...	12	24		36
			—	—		—
			27	24		51
			—	—		—

In addition there were 4 chemical analyses of the Rochester Corporation raw water supply.

179 samples of the water supply of Chatham and District were submitted by the Chatham and District Water Company for bacteriological examination and the results forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

The following is a copy of a Report on the chemical analysis of untreated water taken from the Rochester Corporation supply.

Total Solids	52.8
Chlorine as Chlorides	7.75
Free Chlorine	0.01
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.60
Free Ammonia	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0030
Temporary Hardness	27.0
Permanent Hardness	6.8
	} 33.8
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil
Appearance in 2ft. tube	Clear
Smell	Nil
Sediment	Nil

The water is supplied direct to all houses.

SWIMMING POOL.

During the bathing season the water in the swimming pool is frequently submitted for bacteriological examination. The pool, which is owned by the Local Authority, gives good bacteriological results, the water being chlorinated and filtered continuously. During 1950 thirty-six samples were taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Refuse collection and disposal is under the control of the City Surveyor. Refuse is collected once a week and at the present time is dealt with by controlled tipping on Temple Marsh. Salvage (paper) is collected once weekly.

E. CAUSES OF DEATHS IN ROCHESTER

		M.	F.
	All Causes	250	198
B1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	4
B2.	Tuberculosis other	—	1
B3.	Syphilitic disease	2	1
B8.	Diphtheria	—	—
B9.	Whooping Cough	—	—
B10.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
B12.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
B14.	Measles	1	—
B4-7, 11, 13, 15-17.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2

		M	F
B.18.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	8
	" " lung bronchus	9	1
	" " breast	—	7
	" " uterus	—	4
	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	31	12
	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
B.20.	Diabetes	4	1
B.22.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	18
B.26pt.	Coronary disease, angina	28	17
B.28.	Hypertension with heart disease	5	6
B.25, 26pt., 27.	Other heart disease	50	48
B.29, 46pt.	Other circulatory disease	7	7
B.30.	Influenza	1	—
B.31.	Pneumonia	9	3
B.32.	Bronchitis	9	9
B.46pt.	Other disease of respiratory system	3	—
B.33.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	3
B.36, 43pt.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	3
B.38.	Nephritis and nephrosis	4	5
B.39.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
B.40.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
B.41.	Congenital malformations	5	2
B.19, 21, 23, 24, 34, 35, 37, 42, 43pt, 44, 45, 46pt.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	29
BE.47.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
BE.48.	All other accidents	6	5
B.49.	Suicide	2	1
BE.50.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	Special causes (included in No. B.19—46pt)		
	Smallpox	—	—
	Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
	Total	13	10
	Legitimate	12	8
	Illegitimate	1	2
Live Births :			
	Total	357	299
	Legitimate	342	286
	Illegitimate	15	13
Stillbirths :			
	Total	9	4
	Legitimate	8	4
	Illegitimate	1	—
POPULATION		43,130	

F. CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1950

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER,

Your Worship, Madam and Gentlemen:

I beg to submit my twelfth annual report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

COMPLAINTS.

1189 complaints were received in the Department during the year as compared with 1477 in 1949.

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

The following houses were subjected to Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, during the year:—

6, Cossack Street, Rochester.
99a, High Street, Strood.
109a, High Street, Strood.
9, Victoria Street, Strood.

DEMOLITIONS.

3 Houses under Housing Act Demolition Orders were demolished during the year:—

17a, Cazeneuve Street, Rochester.
85 and 87, Frindsbury Road, Strood.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Repairs and improvements to the total of 4,832 were effected under the Inspectors' direction and supervision throughout the year. The details of the various repairs, etc., carried out are given in the following list:—

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

Premises (existing) connected to foul water sewer	...	...	...	218
Drainage entirely reconstructed	...	...	55	
Drainage partly reconstructed	...	...	127	
Drainage of houses converted from storm water sewer to foul water sewer	...	...	36	
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	19
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	307
New ventilated soil pipes fixed	...	...	...	7
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	...	39
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	1
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	3
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	...	10
W.C.'s provided with pans and traps	...	...	...	44
Urinals constructed and improved	...	...	...	1
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	10
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	112
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	7

New lavatory basins and baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	47
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	148
Water tests applied	...	...	...	497		
Smoke tests applied	...	...	...	170		

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	0
Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	0
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	252
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	347
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	167
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	378
Yard paving repaved or repaired (Repaved 23; repaired 48)	...	...	...	...	...	71
Concrete floors provided to cellars	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	162
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	723
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	146
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	127
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	117
Defective windows repaired (Woodwork, glazing and sashcords)	...	...	...	...	...	642
Lighting of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilation to rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	71
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	17
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	44
Ventilated food stores provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	35
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	61
Steam outlets provided in scullery wash-houses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sanitary Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	125
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	17
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	101
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	202
Total						4832

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices issued (written and verbal)	...	...	...	...	1380
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	1151
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	103
Statutory notices complied with:—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	67
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	...	...	...	...	31

(includes statutory notices served in 1949 and complied with in 1950)

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

2,548 loads were pumped from cesspools in the City as against 2,590 in 1949. Of the total number of loads pumped, 1,721 loads were taken from foul water cesspools.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS.

101 rooms in 48 houses (Corporation houses 14, Requisitioned houses 2, Privately owned houses 32) were subjected to disinfestation treatment for the destruction of vermin. In all cases the premises were treated by thorough spraying with D.D.T.

In addition to the foregoing, action was also taken in co-operation with the Housing Manager from whom a list of allocations for Council Houses is received each week, to inspect and treat the tenants' furniture before removal where vermin infestation is suspected.

During the year the furniture at 7 households was subjected to disinfestation treatment before removal to the new Council House.

FOOD INSPECTION.

1874 visits were paid by the Inspectors to the various premises associated with the sale and production of food. Of this number 765 were visits to the Government Slaughterhouse in the City for the purpose of examining carcasses, etc., at the time of slaughter. The number of carcasses, etc., examined during the year was 11,243 as compared with 10,792 in 1949.

The following tabulated statement indicates the kind of carcasses inspected and the number found upon inspection to be diseased or unsound:

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1963	849	2414	6012	5
Number inspected	1963	849	2414	6012	5
<i>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	15	11	8	33	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	818	305	1	288	0
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	42.43	37.22	0.37	5.33	20.00
<i>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	16	29	8	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	232	313	10	0	0
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	12.63	40.28	0.74	0	0

The following table shows the number of carcasses, excluding pigs, inspected in Rochester, together with the percentages of the carcasses found to be affected with Tuberculosis and other diseases or conditions, during the two years prior to 1939 as compared with the figures for 1949/50.

	No. of Carcasses inspected				Percentage of the carcasses inspected found to be affected with disease							
	Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1949	Year 1950	Tuberculosis				Diseases other than Tuberculosis			
					Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1949	Year 1950	Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1949	Year 1950
Cows	6	9	856	849	55.5	11.1	42.05	40.28	0	11.1	20.32	37.22
Cattle excluding cows	217	365	1637	1963	8.3	8.8	12.25	12.63	7.8	9.0	39.27	42.43
Calves	88	101	2301	2414	0	0	0.22	0.74	4.5	1.98	0.65	0.37
Sheep and Lambs	8332	12984	5998	6012	0	0	0	0	2.8	2.88	3.23	5.30

The total amount of all foods found to be diseased or unsound during the year weighed 40 tons 4 cwts 0 qtrs 5 lbs. This amount was made up as follows, and the details of the unfit food surrendered are shown below.

Diseased or Unsound Meat	...	37 tons	8 cwts	0 qtrs.	13 lbs.
Other Foods	... ..	2 tons	15 cwts	3 qtrs.	20 lbs.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

40 Carcases, etc., of cows	28 Generalised Tuberculosis, 4 Johne's Disease, 3 Dropsy and Emaciation, 2 Septicaemia, 1 Uraemia, 1 Tuberculosis, Dropsy and Emaciation, 1 Fevered and Ill-bled.
14 " " " heifers	8 Generalised Tuberculosis, 2 Johne's Disease, 1 Pyaemia, 1 Enteritis and Fever, 1 Dropsy and Emaciation, 1 Septicaemia.
17 " " " steers	8 Generalised Tuberculosis, 5 Pyaemia, 1 Carcinomatosis, 2 Fevered and Ill-bled, 1 Septicaemia.
16 " " " calves	8 Generalised Tuberculosis, 2 Septicaemia, 2 Pyaemia, 2 Immaturity, 1 Fevered and Ill-bled, 1 Septic Pneumonia.
1 Carcase, etc., of a pig	Fevered and Ill-bled.
33 Carcases, etc., of sheep and lambs	15 Dropsy and Emaciation, 7 Fevered and Ill-bled, 4 Septicaemia 6 Putrefaction, 1 Pyaemia.
35 Fore-quarters of cows	34 Tuberculosis, 1 Severe Bruising.
10 Fore-quarters of heifers	8 Tuberculosis, 2 Severe Bruising.
5 Fore-quarters of steers	Tuberculosis
3 Hind-quarters of cows	Tuberculosis
339 Bovine Heads and Tongues	289 Tuberculosis, 49 Actinomycosis, 1 Cysticercus Bovis.
1098 Bovine Livers	647 Parasitic, 220 Cavernous Angioma, 108 Multiple Abscess, 62 Tuberculosis, 57 Cirrhosis, 2 Cystic, 2 Fatty Degeneration.
526 Bovine Lungs	471 Tuberculosis, 44 Parasitic, 7 Multiple Abscess, 4 Melanosis.
9 Bovine fore-quarter Offal	Tuberculosis
45 Cows udders	Putrefaction
26 Bovine Stomachs, Intestines, etc...	20 Tuberculosis, 4 Parasitic, 2 Johne's Disease.
10 Calves' Plucks	Tuberculosis
1 Calf's Liver	Abscess.
65 Sheep Plucks	Parasitic
229 Sheep Livers	Parasitic
3 Ox Hearts	2 Parasitic, 1 Pericarditis
66 lbs Fore-quarter Beef	45 lbs Severe Bruising, 21 lbs Tuberculosis
623 lbs Hind-quarter Beef	356 lbs Severe Bruising, 267 lbs Bone Taint
159 lbs Mutton	122 lbs Decomposition, 37 lbs Severe Bruising
4 lbs Pork	Severe Bruising
50 lbs Sweetbreads	Unsound

2 Ox Kidneys	Cystic
5 Sheep's Heads	Putrefaction
4322 tins Milk	Unsound
191 " Meat	"
4 " Veal Loaf	"
21 " Beef	"
4 " Brawn	"
6 " Rabbit	"
2 " Pork	"
18 " Luncheon Meat	"
145 " Fruit (Miscellaneous)	"
3 " Apples	"
12 " Peaches	"
12 " Plums	"
5 " Pears	"
68 " Preserves	"
59 " Peas	"
23 " Tomatoes	"
64 " Beans	"
12 " Carrots	"
429 " Mixed Vegetables	"
14 " Beetroot	"
46 " Soup	"
131 " Fish	"
3 " Blackberries	"
10 " Mincemeat	"
18 " Meat Paste	"
1 jar Mincemeat	Glass Splintered
11 jars Pickles	" "
59 packets Pudding Mixture	Unsound
38 lbs Fruit Cake	"
26 Swiss Rolls	"
13 packets Barley Flakes	"
3854 Eggs	"
101½ lbs Cheese	"
13½ lbs Margarine	"
80 lbs Prunes	"
5½ lbs Sultanas	"
38 st 2 lbs Wet Fish	"
1 st Dried Fish	"
44 Coconuts	"
137 lbs Rabbit	"
19½ lbs Pork Sausage Meat	"
2½ lbs Luncheon Meat	"
2 lbs Cooked Meat	"
29½ lbs Sausages	"
37 lbs Bacon	"
14 Meat Pies	"

MILK.

The production of milk at the 5 cowkeepers' premises in the City Area is no longer the responsibility of the Rochester Corporation. All dairy farms and the persons carrying on the trade of dairy farmers are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who, since the 1st October, 1949, is now the controlling authority.

Local Authorities still retain the duties connected with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations which apply to dairies other than those at dairy farms, the provisions relating to diseases communicable to man and to the conveyance and distribution of milk in their areas.

The issue of the necessary licences in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 is also the concern of Local Authorities and Food and Drugs Authorities.

The following table indicates the number of retail dairies and the number of distributors of milk in the City Area together with the various licences issued by the Council under the Special Designation Regulations:—

Number of dairies (excluding dairy farms)	4
„ „ registered distributors (excluding distributors of sterilised milk only) with premises in the City Area	5
„ „ registered distributors (excluding distributors of sterilised milk only) with premises outside the City Area	6
„ „ registered distributors of Sterilised Milk only (General shops, etc.,)	44

Licences issued:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—Dealers' Licences	11
Dealers' Supplementary Licences... ..	3
Pasteurised Milk—Dealers' (Pasteurisers') Licences	3
Dealers' Licences	12
Dealers' Supplementary Licences	3
Sterilised Milk—Dealers' Licences	47

159 visits were paid to the retail dairies in the City throughout the year for the purpose of routine inspection and the taking of milk samples.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Milk.

The following samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk (Farm Bottled)	21
Non-designated Raw Milk	21

4 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk did not satisfy the prescribed tests under The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

In addition to the above, 18 samples of milk were taken from local herds, from milk supplied to schools, and from retailers' premises for examination as to the presence of Tubercle Bacillus in the milk.

17 of the samples showed negative results but 1 sample from the herd of a producer whose premises are situated in an adjoining district was found to contain the Tubercle Bacilli.

Immediate action was taken and the matter was fully investigated and followed up by the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which resulted in the exclusion and destruction of the animal responsible in the herd.

The producer/retailer concerned was requested to arrange for all the milk produced at the premises to be subjected to heat-treatment. All milk from this herd is now pasteurised at one of the licenced plants in the City Area.

Samples of Pasteurised and Heat-treated Milk from the 2 licensed dairies in the City area, and from supplies treated outside the area, were sent to the County Bacteriologist and Public Analyst during the year for subjection to the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests. The results are given below:—

<i>Phosphatase Test</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Turbidity Test</i>
232 samples passed	196 samples passed	24 samples passed
4 samples failed	11 samples failed	0 samples failed

Water.

55 samples of drinking water and 36 of swimming bath water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis during the year. Fuller details in connection with the water supplies will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

ICE-CREAM.

During the year 33 vendors were registered under the Rochester Corporation Act, 1936, for the storage and sale of ice-cream in the City Area. The total number of premises and/or vendors registered is 125. All supplies are received from outside sources, there being no manufacturers registered for such purpose within the City.

128 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination and the results of the same are as follows:—

Grade I	...	65 samples
" II	...	26 "
" III	...	32 "
" IV	...	5 "

In addition 29 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis and the details relating to these are given on page 31.

OTHER SPECIMENS.

The following specimens were also submitted to the County Bacteriologist for bacteriological examination during the year:—

Synthetic Cream.	Parts of Offal of a sheep.
Specimens of Fresh Pork.	Cooked Liver.

BAKEHOUSES.

31 visits were paid to the 9 Bakehouses on the Register and the premises proved upon inspection to be kept, generally, in a satisfactory condition. In two instances only was it necessary to serve notices with regard to the unsatisfactory conditions found thereat.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING, 1949.

182 samples of milk and other foods were taken and submitted to the public Analyst for chemical analysis during the year. His reports are summarised overleaf:—

Article	No.	Genuine	Adulterated or Deteriorated
Aspirin	2	2	—
Baking Powder ...	1	1	—
Beef Sausage	3	3	—
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	2	2	—
Bread	1	1	—
Cocoa	1	1	—
Coffee Essence	1	1	—
Corned Beef	1	1	—
Cream, Artificial	1	1	—
Cream, Synthetic	1	1	—
Doughnuts	1	1	—
Fish Cakes	2	2	—
Fish Paste	3	3	—
Flour Mixture, Unsweetened	1	1	—
Flour, Self-raising	1	1	—
Fruit Cake	1	1	—
Ice-Cream	29	29	—
Liver, Cooked	1	1	—
Malt Vinegar	2	2	—
Milk	95	93	2
Milk, Condensed	4	1	3
Mustard	2	2	—
Ox Lung	1	1	—
Ox Liver	1	1	—
Pepper Compound	1	1	—
Pepper (White 2, Black 1)	3	3	—
Potato Crisps	5	5	—
Pork Sausages	1	1	—
Quinine, Ammoniated			
Tincture of	3	2	1
Saccharine	1	1	—
Salad Cream	4	4	—
Tomato Ketchup	3	3	—
Zinc Ointment	1	1	—
Zinc Oxide	2	2	—
Totals	182	176	6

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
9	Condensed Milk.	Contents contained mould and unfit for human consumption.	Whole of stocks surrendered and used for animal feeding.
26	Milk.	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.7%	Letter of warning to retailer from the Town Clerk
85	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.	Deficient in Ammonia.	Verbal warning to retailer.
108	Condensed Milk.	High acid value.	Remainder of stocks surrendered for animal feeding.

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action taken
133	Condensed Milk.	High acid value.	Remainder of stocks surrendered for animal feeding.
155	Milk.	Deficient in fat to the extent of 13%.	Letter of warning to retailers by Town Clerk. Matter referred to Wholesalers and County Authorities.

ICE-CREAM

For the period to which this report relates no legal standard had been prescribed for the composition of ice-cream. On the 1st March, 1951 the following standard became law under the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order, 1951 made by the Ministry of Food:

"Ice-Cream shall contain not less than 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar and 7½ per cent milk solids other than fat."

There are two provisos to this standard relating to ice-cream containing fruit and to "Parev" (Kosher Ice-Cream), the standard for the latter being not less than 10 per cent fat and not less than 14 per cent sugar.

The results of the analyses of 29 samples submitted to the Public Analyst during the year are as follows:—

FAT.

4-5%	5-6%	6-7%	7-8%	8-9%	9-10%	10-11%	11-12%	12-13%	13% and over
1	1	0	1	4	5	9	4	0	4
Total:									29 samples

NON-FATTY SOLIDS.

5-10%	10-15%	15-20%	20-25%	25-30%	30-35%
1	0	3	15	8	2
Total:					29 samples

FACTORIES AND WORK-PLACES.

252 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to the factories and work-places in the City during the year. The number of defects found at the premises visited was 20.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	69	64	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	178	186	11	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Total ...	249	252	12	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	14	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	5	1	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	3	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	8	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	2	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	2	1	—	1	—
Total ...	20	*33	1	5	—

*Includes defects remedied in 1950 following inspection and action in 1949.

3. OUTWORK.

Nature of Work		Section 110			Section 111	
		No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served
Wearing Apparel	Making, etc.	41	—	—	—	—
	Cleansing & washing	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...		41	—	—	—	—

DISINFECTION.

98 rooms were disinfected by formaldehyde fumigation after infectious disease. This number includes 52 rooms disinfected after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

28 loads of bedding were removed from premises for the purpose of steam disinfection or destruction, as against 34 in 1949.

RODENT CONTROL.

Total number of premises, lands, etc., inspected and treated during the year	199
Number of sewer manholes baited	433
Estimated number of rats killed (Ministry of Food formula)	702
Actual bodies recovered	455
MICE: Number of mice destroyed (actual bodies recovered)	372

In addition to the rodent control operations carried out following complaints and routine inspections of premises, two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. Of the 433 sewer manholes baited 56 revealed the presence of rats.

The necessary poison treatment was applied to the sewers in the areas found to be affected.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Primary Inspections (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	881
Caravans inspected	22
Re-Inspections	1854
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	2452
Visits to Factories and Work-places	252
" " Bakehouses	31
" " Slaughterhouses	765
" " Ice-cream premises	177
Visits to Food preparing premises (Canteens, etc.)	282
" " Dairies and Milk Shops	159
" " Fried Fish Shops	39
" " Other premises for food inspection(shops, etc.)	271
" " Stables and mews	5
" for food sampling and testing	1084
" to cases of infectious disease	110
" for water sampling	117
Overcrowding investigations	143
Market Stalls inspections	150
Shops Acts inspections	275
Smoke observations	20
Visits in connection with Rodent Control (primary and treatment, etc.)	1650
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	1854
Total	12593

In conclusion I beg to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to Dr. Murray for the support and guidance I have received throughout the year. To the Staff of the Department I wish to record my thanks and appreciation for their assistance.

I am also indebted to the Officers in other Departments for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. W. BARTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

G. PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1950

I. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year

TABLE A.

Type	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected by the M.O.	Number Inspected by the P.H.I.	Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	Number reported as having had infectious disease aboard during voyage.
Foreign { Steam	129	152197	3	112	24	23	—	—
Motor	144	44211	2	99	10	9	—	—
Sail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	273	196408	5	211	34	32	—	—
Coastwise { Steam	195	156908	2	116	45	42	—	—
Motor	369	56277	1	312	23	22	—	—
Sail	14	886	—	13	1	1	—	—
Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	578	214071	3	441	69	65	—	—
Total Foreign & Coastwise	851	410479	8	652	103	97	—	—

The above do not include 170 river and estuarial craft inspected.

TABLE B.

II. Character of Trade of Port.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING 1950.

The passenger traffic of the Port is confined entirely to day trips between this Port and other British seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC.

Principal Imports. Wood pulp, coal, timber, china clay, stone, gypsum, crude oil, fertilisers, grain, cattle food, seeds and kernels for making cattle cake, maize, potatoes and flour.

Principal Exports. Cement, cattle cake, vegetable oil, plaster boards, scrap iron.

(c) COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES.

Scandinavia, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Canada, West Indies, West Africa, and the Mediterranean Ports.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are:—

London, Tyne Ports, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Blythe, Keadby, Goole, Seaham Harbour, Ipswich, the Scottish East Coast Stone and Coal Ports, the Cornish Stone and China Clay Ports.

Vessels arrive in ballast from many British Ports to load cargoes of cement.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

British	...	466	Norwegian	...	45	German	...	2
Swedish	...	36	Finnish	...	23	Spanish	...	1
Dutch	...	61	Danish	...	18			

III. Source of Water Supply

1. (a) FOR THE PORT.

There are two sources. The South side of the River is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company; the North side by the Strood Water Works which is the property of the Rochester Corporation.

(b) FOR SHIPPING.

The supply is from the same sources.

2. HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION.

The majority of filling points are standpipes and taps but, at the few points where hydrants are in use, the system of drainable concrete pits and porous pits renders direct contamination unlikely. The necessity for washing the connections before coupling up the hoses has been pointed out to the people concerned. It is the usual practice to take the supply of boiler water before filling the drinking water tanks and this ensures that the hoses are well flushed before the supply of drinking water is taken aboard.

3. NUMBER OF WATER BOATS AND THEIR SANITARY CONDITION.

There is one boat for supplying shipping. This vessel is of iron and the two tanks, capable of holding some forty tons of water, do not form part of the hull but are separate constructions and may be lifted out of the craft whilst she undergoes her periodic overhaul and the painting of the bilges. During service the tanks are kept sealed, the power pump supplied for discharging the water being fitted to a permanent intake pipe and not through an uncovered manhole. When taking in her cargo of water the vessel is placed alongside a pier along which a permanent water pipe carries the water from the Town supply. This pipe is connected to the boat's tanks and the water flows in without contamination by dust and dirt. The tanks are cleaned out and cement washed at regular intervals. In order to render the work and subsequent inspection efficient, electric cables are carried along the pier so that electric lighting is provided by wandering lead inside the boat's tanks.

IV. Port Health Regulations and Port Health Amendment Regulations, 1945

See pages 30, 31 and 32 of my Annual Report for 1945.

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS.

Disease	No. of cases during the year Passengers Crew		No. of Vessels concerned	Average number of cases for previous 5 years
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Less than 1

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OCCURRING ON VESSELS DURING THE VOYAGE BUT DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

Nil

V. Measures against Rodents

1. STEPS TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RODENT PLAGUE.

(a) SHIPS IN THE PORT. The query as to the presence of rats on board is made to the Master or Officer-in-Charge on all vessels, by the Port Health Inspector when boarding.

Deratization certificates are examined in the case of vessels carrying such certificates and the crews are questioned as to the presence of rats in or about their quarters and store rooms and other possible harbourages are examined for rat traces.

Due regard is given to the trade in which the vessel is engaged and it is a routine measure to attempt to obtain specimens of rats, for bacteriological examination, in the case of ships from places where Plague is endemic.

Foremen stevedores have been made aware of the significance of the finding of numbers of dead rats and have been requested to report the matter without delay.

Attention is given to small rivercraft such as barges, etc., which, either regularly or periodically, take on cargoes direct from ocean going vessels from tropical ports and the masters are informed of the possibility of rats from such vessels being taken on board with the cargo. The masters of such craft are asked to keep any rats they may catch on board, where this may be practicable, so that they may be subjected to bacteriological examination.

(b) QUAYS, WHARVES, WAREHOUSES, ETC. These places are examined from time to time in order to discover infestation. They are included in the block control carried out by the Rodent Officer for the City who spends part of his time, as necessary, in the Port.

The principal warehouses and mills carry out a routine rat service either by men detailed by the owners for this duty, or by rat servicing firms.

In addition to rats trapped on board vessels from suspected Ports, specimens from the near vicinity of the Port are sent for bacteriological examination as a matter of routine.

2. MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF RATS FROM SHIP TO SHORE.

Except in special circumstances no measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore.

The larger vessels from tropical ports discharge their cargoes into lighters, etc., while moored out in the stream and the usual precautions such as beams, lighted and painted gangways are impracticable. In the majority of cases access to the ship is by rope ladder which is hung clear of the craft alongside.

3. METHODS OF DERATIZATION.

(a) Rochester is not an authorised Port for the issue of Deratization or Deratization Exemption Certificates but, where these are required, arrangements have been made under Article 4 of the Port Health Regulations, for them to be supplied by the Port of London Health Authority.

Where deratization is necessary, traps, sulphur dioxide, varnish boards and poisons are the methods used by the Port staff. Fumigation by H.C.N. is carried out by firms specialising in this type of fumigation.

(b) On premises in the vicinity of the Docks and Quays, trapping and poisoning are the methods chiefly used.

4. MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS AND ASHORE.

SHIPS. Enquiry is made of officers and crew. The usual rat traces, droppings, gnawed woodwork, body smears on paint and small openings affording passage, etc., are looked for, particularly in storerooms. In practice it is found that crews complain of the presence of rats without any leading questions.

Cargo workers are questioned as to rats or rat traces they may have seen while working the cargo. When a vessel is under observation, holds, lifeboats, etc., etc., are inspected for rat traces.

ASHORE. Buildings are examined for the usual rat traces and evidence of gnawed sacks and traces of feet or tails in dust, etc.

5. RAT PROOFING.

New buildings are built on rat proof lines. Old buildings are not and, where possible, efforts have been made to improve them by zinc lined grain rooms and expanded metal to openings where practicable.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1950

TABLE E.

ON VESSELS.

Number of rats ... 19

TABLE F.

IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES.

Number of Rats.

Brown	...	...	5	} Dealt with by Rodent Officer.
Black	...	...	14	
Species not recorded	...	...	—
Estimated killed by warehouse and wharf owners 583.				
Bacteriologically examined			14	

TABLE G.

MEASURES OF RAT DESTRUCTION ON PLAGUE "INFECTED" OR "SUSPECTED" VESSELS, OR VESSELS FROM PLAGUE INFECTED PORTS ARRIVING IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

1 vessel arrived from a "Suspected" Port.

TABLE H.

DERATIZATION AND DERATIZATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

During the year 6 Deratization Exemption Certificates were issued through the London Port Health Authority.

VI. Hygiene of Crew Space

TABLE I.

Nationality of Vessel	No. inspected	Defects of original constructions	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	465	7	18	44
Others	186	2	7	25

VII. Food Inspection

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937; The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926; and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940; and the Food and Drugs Act, 1936 (Section 39).

121 Cargoes of Flour, Wheat, Maize, Barley and Sugar were examined. 74 cwt of Sugar was damaged by bilge water and was returned to Messrs. Tate & Lyle. The London Port Authority was notified of its arrival in their district. 1 Cargo of salted bacon sides arrived in a non-refrigerated barge. On examination they were found in good condition. The weather at the time was very cold with frost and snow.

A barge loaded with beer was sunk. The salvaged cargo was returned to London as "Spoilt beer" in order to claim refund of duty.

It was not necessary to take any action under the above regulations.

2. SHELLFISH.

Periwinkles only are taken from the River Medway. Collection of mussels, cockles and oysters is controlled by the Medway Shellfish Regulations, 1936, which require them to be relaid in approved waters or passed through a cleansing plant.

Mussels are not gathered owing to the expense involved in cleansing or relaying. No cockles exist in numbers sufficient to be a commercial proposition. Oysters are relaid at Brightlingsea or sent to the Brightlingsea cleansing plant for sterilization.

THE LAYINGS FROM WHICH SHELLFISH (SPECIFYING THE KINDS OF SHELLFISH WHICH MAY BE MARKETING IN THE DISTRICT) ARE DERIVED.

Sources of local supply of Oysters and Mussels are Whitstable and Billingsgate Market. No shellfish are imported into the Port from Overseas or British Ports.

VIII. Other Information

Dangerous Infectious Disease (Smallpox, Typhus, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Plague). Arrangements for Hospital Treatment

DISEASE.	HOSPITAL.
Smallpox	Long Reach Hospital, Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.
Typhus Fever	St. Ann's General Hospital, St. Ann's Road, Tottenham, N.15. Tel. Stamford Hill 1144.
Cholera, Yellow Fever and Plague	Any Local Infectious Disease Hospital or E.M.S. Bed Service. Tel. Monarch 3000.

AMBULANCE SERVICE for Dangerous infectious disease is provided by the London County Council, Tel. Waterloo 3311.

CANAL BOATS.

There are no canal boats operating within the boundary of the Port. Shallow draft motor coasters with their lowering masts, motor barges and lighters can proceed many miles above Rochester Bridge and these vessels now handle the trade once carried by canal boats.

PROVISION FOR CLEANSING AND DISINFECTING VERMINOUS PERSONS.

The cleansing station at St. William's Hospital is at the disposal of the Port for the treatment of persons, and the steam disinfector at the same hospital is available for the disinfestation of clothing.

CASES OF SICKNESS.

- 1 Tonsillitis and 1 septic throat removed to hospital.
- 1 septic wound.

Where necessary, cases of a minor character were advised to obtain medical treatment.

MOSQUITOES.

Anti-mosquito measures have been carried out on the local marshes under the direction of the Port Health Inspector. Numerous pools and permanent collections of water have been treated where necessary and practicable. The spraying with D.D.T. and Kerosene reduced the mosquito nuisance to negligible proportions.

PORT FISHERY.

The duties of the Port Fishery Officer, introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as a war-time measure, are still being carried out by the Port Health Inspector.

Details of the duties are given in the Report for 1946.

