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ANNUAL REPORT

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

OF ROMSEY



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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF ROMSEY  
YEAR 1960

To His Worship the Mayor,

Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Romsey.

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Romsey. The report is presented in accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health.

I am grateful to your Chief Public Health Inspector for the preparation of Sections 4 - 9.

Early in October there was flooding in the Borough due to heavy rainfall. The piped water supply was unaffected. The volume of stormwater rushing to join the River Test was so great that sewer manholes were lifted and diluted sewage poured directly into the Test. For many weeks a tremendous volume of rain diluted sewage passed into the sewage works at Greenhill. Throughout the year progress continued with the paper work preliminaries for the new sewage works and sewers.

During the year 27 new Council house dwellings were completed including 7 one-bedroom dwellings which are very much appreciated by the elderly people who have been rehoused. As these houses were occupied so it became possible to close, ready for demolition, slum dwellings in the centre of the Borough. Few privately owned houses were built during the year, permission of the planning authority probably being withheld from many plans because of the lack of adequate sewers

and sewage disposal works.

There was no increase in the Public Health staff so attention must again be drawn to the points you noted last year, namely - Frequent inspections of Food premises and training of food handlers was not carried out. Many houses in Romsey have not been well maintained during the past 30 years but the shortage of trained Public Health staff has meant that routine inspections of property and subsequent advising of owners and occupiers has not been possible. Because of this lack there is an unfortunate deterioration in houses which could be expected to provide satisfactory accommodation for many years to come.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. JACKSON

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time, ½-day per week)	E. Jackson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector (also Engineer and Surveyor)	W. Bell, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Meat Inspector (part-time)	E. H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S.
Secretary	Miss J. Harding

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1. VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	1,212 acres
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	6,540
Rateable Value	£93,074
Product of penny rate	£367
Number of Council Houses built before September, 1939	182
Number of Council Houses built after January, 1945	316
Total number of rateable premises	2,322

Summary of vital statistics for the year 1960 as supplied by the Registrar General

		1960			1959
		Total	Male	Female	Total
Live Births:	Total Registered	84	45	39	88
	Legitimate	80	44	36	84
	Illegitimate	4	1	3	4
Still Births:	Total Registered	2	2	-	-

	1960			1959
	Total	Male	Female	Total
Deaths:				
Total Registered	89	44	45	75
Maternal Mortality:	0	-	0	0
Infant Mortality:				
Deaths of infants under one year of age -				
Total Registered	0	0	0	1
Legitimate	0	0	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age -				
Total Registered	0	0	0	0

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey Borough	England & Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.8	17.1
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	23.2	19.7
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Total	Nil	21.7
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Nil	15.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.76	
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.6	11.5

Comparability Factors - Births 1.08  
Deaths 0.78

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1960				For Comparison	
	Male	Female	Total 1960	Total	
				1959	1958
Tuberculosis					
Respiratory	0	0	0	0	0
Other Forms	0	0	0	0	1
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0
Other Infectious & Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm					
Stomach	0	1	1	0	0
Lung and Bronchus	2	1	3	0	5
Breast	-	1	1	2	1
Uterus	-	1	1	0	0
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	4	7	12	2
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	0	0	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	7	10	17	10	16
Coronary Disease and Angina	10	6	16	11	19
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0	0	0
Other heart diseases	9	11	20	19	16
Other circulatory diseases	2	0	2	5	1
Influenza	0	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia	0	2	2	1	5
Bronchitis	1	0	1	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1	0	2
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	1	1	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	0	0	1	0
Congenital Malformations	1	0	1	0	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5	7	9	15
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1	0	0
All other accidents	2	1	3	1	0
Suicide	1	0	1	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	44	45	89	76	96

Although there are one or two figures very different from the preceding years the differences are not significant for the country as a whole.

## 2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(i) The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council and an Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer to the Hampshire County Council. This combined appointment helps to co-ordinate the Medical Services supplied by the County Council as the Local Health Authority, in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 with the services supplied by the District Council and Regional Hospital Board.

Your Medical Officer attends the quarterly meeting of the District Health Sub-Committee. At this Committee the local representatives are kept in touch with the working of the local County Council services.

(ii) The County Council supply the following services:-

(a) Ambulance Service

An ambulance stationed at Romsey serves the area but is controlled from the County Council Offices at Winchester, additional ambulances can be sent to the District from the depot at Winchester if required.

(b) Nursing in the Home

District Nurses are responsible for domiciliary midwifery and home nursing. They keep in close touch with the County Council Health Visitor, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioners in the area. No nursing arrangements or contributions are made by the District Council but two members represent the Council on the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

The District Nurses are:- Nurse M. Laycock and Nurse B.D. Sharp, "Brambles", Cupernham Lane, Romsey, Telephone No. Romsey 3302.

(c) Child Welfare

The County Council employ Health Visitors who visit children from the age of two weeks, when they pass from the care of the District Nurses, until the age of five years when the child enters school. A child welfare clinic is held every Thursday at Church House.

The Health Visitors (at the end of the year) are Mrs. M.E. Ward, Flat 2 Harefield House, Winchester Hill, Romsey, Telephone No. Romsey 3170 and Mrs. Pointer, Bryn Coed, Newtown Road, Sherfield English, Telephone No. Lockerley 377.

(d) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Ante-natal supervision and dental care are provided for expectant mothers and dental care is provided for mothers in the first year of the baby's life and for children up to school age. Ante-natal clinics are held every Monday at the County Council Clinic at Church House. These clinics are conducted by the General Practitioners of Romsey.

(e) Home Help

This service is provided for mothers confined at home, for those in charge of the elderly, chronic sick etc. The District Health Sub-Committee receive reports. The Organiser for this area has an Office at the Red House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Telephone No. Eastleigh 2558.

(f) Care of the Elderly

A County Council home for the elderly is situated in Romsey at The Gardens, Winchester Road.

During the autumn plans were instituted to set up an old People's Welfare Committee to co-ordinate the work of voluntary and statutory bodies interested in helping the elderly. The Chairman is Councillor R.A. Duke and the Honorary Secretary Mrs. Savage, Wootton House, The Crescent, Romsey, Telephone No. Romsey 3278.

(g) Vaccination and Immunisation - See later in this report.

(h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

These services are part of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors and District Nurses.

(iii) Hospital Services

The Wessex Regional Hospital Board supply general maternity and infectious diseases (including Smallpox and Tuberculosis) hospital services for this area.

General medical and surgical hospital services are provided at Romsey Hospital; Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton; General Hospital, Southampton; Chest Hospital, Eye Hospital and Childrens' Hospital, Southampton; Sanatoria, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford (Women); The Mount Sanatorium, Bishopstoke (Men) and The White House, Milford-on-Sea (Children).

Maternity Services at Romsey Hospital and at the Maternity Unit, Southampton General Hospital.

(iv) Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Southampton, Winchester and Salisbury.

(v) Public Health Services provided by your Council during the year.

(a) Prevention of Accidents

Education of the public to lessen the incidence of accidents, especially those in the home is undertaken by your Public Health Inspector and Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Health Education

Posters and other material from the Central Council for Health Education and the County Council are received and displayed. Education of staffs in food-handling establishments was not undertaken because of shortage of trained Public Health Staff.

(vi) National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

No case was dealt with under this Section of the Act during 1960.

(vii) Work carried out by the Romsey Division of the British Red Cross Society.

The Division continued activities in all branches of their work and the Red Cross provides the only subsidized chiropody service for old people in the Borough. Details of the chiropody service are available from 4 Market Place, Romsey, Telephone No. Romsey 3202.

(viii) Nursing Home

There is one private nursing home in the Borough - The Durban House Nursing Home, Woodley Lane, Cupernham, Telephone No. Romsey 2332.

3. PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of notified infectious diseases was low during the year; many cases of measles, whooping cough and diarrhoea are not notified. There was no death from the infectious diseases of childhood.

Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year 1960 are tabulated below:-

Notification by age-groups

Disease	Total Notified	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 44 yrs.	45 - 64 yrs.	65 and over	Fatalities
Scarlet Fever	12	-	-	1	7	4	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis										
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	157	4	27	41	81	4	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis										
Respiratory	7	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	-
Non-respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Vaccination against Smallpox:

Only one hundred vaccinations were carried out on Borough residents during 1960.

Year	Primary Vaccinations				Re-Vaccination all ages	Vaccination 0-1 year as percentage of yearly births
	0 - 1 year.	1 - 15 years.	over 15 years			
1958	53	15	7		15	63.8
1959	78	7	5		20	88.6
	0 - 1 year.	1 - 2 years	2 - 15 years.	over 15 years		
1960	43	1	12	9	35	51.1

The primary vaccination of infants was not at a satisfactory level during 1960.

Following the advice published by a committee of the Medical Research Council many children are not vaccinated against smallpox until the second year of life. However the figures for 1960 show that this change is not responsible for the very low percentage vaccination figure for the Borough. This figure is the lowest among all the Boroughs and Urban Districts in the County. As Romsey is so near to a great sea port and an air port there is a risk of smallpox being introduced from areas oversea where the disease still kills and disfigures many thousands of people each year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria:

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December, 1960 was as follows:-

Children born in	1960	26
" " between	1956 and 1959	307
" " "	1951 and 1955	383
" " "	1946 and 1950	532

Almost all the children who received primary immunisation injections during 1960 were given protection at the same time against whooping-cough and tetanus by the use of a triple vaccine. This meant that while three injections were given there was established an active immunity of diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus.

There has been very little improvement in the number of children taken to their doctor's surgery for a 'booster' injection before entering school. This booster restores the level of immunity against diphtheria and tetanus (whooping-cough is not necessarily included as it is not considered to be a great danger after 5 years old). This marked falling-off in the number of children taken for booster injections is probably due to the fact that parents have been concentrating on anti-poliomyelitis vaccination and the diphtheria-tetanus injections have been forgotten. Many parents have forgotten the horrors of diphtheria but there is a danger of the disease becoming a major killer if the level of protection in the community is allowed to drop. There was no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

#### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis:

220 people received their first 2 injections and 575 received their third injection during the year. There is an interval of at least 7 months between the second and third injections.

Almost all injections were again given by the family doctors and the administrative work of record keeping and distribution of vaccine was done in the Office of your Medical Officer of Health.

#### 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

##### (a) Water Supply:

The Borough of Romsey lies in the statutory area of the Southampton Corporation Waterworks and the following information was kindly supplied by Mr. C.A. Bradley, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., A.M.I. Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Waterworks Engineer and Manager.

The actual water supplied to Romsey comes from the Timsbury Pumping Station which is about three miles to the north of the Borough. At times of peak demand this supply is augmented by water from the Twyford Pumping Station through a 21" diameter steel main which connects into the Timsbury system in Botley Road, near the western boundary of the cemetery.

The water from the Timsbury Pumping Station is derived from a system of wells and adits in the upper chalk of the Test Valley and before being put into supply is partially softened and treated with chlorine and ammonia. The station is equipped with modern electrically driven pumping plant with diesel driven pumps as standby. Water is pumped from the wells to the treatment works and after treatment it is then further pumped to a service reservoir at Michelmersh whence it gravitates into supply through trunk water mains which pass through the Borough of Romsey.

In common with all chalk waters, the Timsbury supply even after partial softening is regarded as a moderately hard water. It is a very pure water and weekly samples are taken of both the raw and treated water for bacteriological examinations and these samples have always been of a consistently high standard of purity. The examinations of the water are carried out by the Southampton Borough Analyst and also by the Public Health Laboratory at Winchester. The Borough Analyst also carries out chemical analyses on quarterly samples of both raw and treated water.

There are in the Borough of Romsey over 16½ miles of water mains, varying from 24" dia. to 2" dia. and these mains, apart from industrial and other metered supplies afford a piped supply of water to 2,043 dwellings. All domestic consumers have the benefit of the Southampton Corporation's free tap washing services and plumbing repairs on repayment.

Bacteriological Analyses of Timsbury water for the year.

Bacteriological Analyses:- Treated Water.

Origin of Sample	Total No. of samples in the year.	Number of samples showing probable Nos. of B. Coli present in 100 ml.		
		None present	1 to 2 present	3 to 10 present
Timsbury Gravity Main	78	78	NIL	NIL

Bacteriological Analyses:- Raw Water.

Origin of Sample	Total No. of samples in the year.	Number of samples showing probable numbers of B.Coli present in 100 ml.			
		None present	1 to 2 present	3 to 10 present	more than 10 present
Timsbury Well	52	35	9	5	3

Faecal Coli present in 6 samples of Timsbury Well Water.

Typical analyses of water supplied from the Pumping Stations

	Otter- bourne Wells	Twyford Wells	Timsbury Wells	River Itchen
<u>Chemical Analysis (p.p.m.)</u>				
Free Chlorine	0.27	0.28	0.20	0.29
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO <sub>2</sub>	0.25	NIL	2.62	NIL
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, As N	0.043	0.055	0.041	0.093
Albuminoid Nitrogen, As N	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.021
Nitrous Nitrogen, As N	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Nitric Nitrogen, As N	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3
Oxygen absorbed as O (Perman- gamate figure, 4 hours at 80° F)	0.052	0.970	0.062	0.225
Alkalinity as Ca CO <sub>3</sub>	191	137	190	121
Total Solids	286	228.7	286.7	216.5
Reaction pH	7.62	7.87	7.25	8.07
<u>Hardness (p.p.m.)</u>				
Temporary hardness as Ca CO <sub>3</sub>	171.5	122	170.2	60.2
Permanent hardness as Ca CO <sub>3</sub>	38	37.5	41.2	87.2
Total hardness as Ca CO <sub>3</sub>	209.5	159.5	211.40	147.4
<u>Mineral Analysis (p.p.m.)</u>				
Calcium as Ca	79.2	59.9	79	55.4
Magnesium as Mg	2.7	2.2	3.4	2.0
Sodium as Na	7.9	6.8	9.7	7.2
Carbonate as CO <sub>3</sub>	114.5	82.2	113.7	72.7
Chloride as Cl	16.1	15.0	16.8	15.5
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub>	7.9	7.8	16.1	14.3
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	17.8	12.7	16.4	14.8
Zinc	ABSENT	ABSENT	0.042	ABSENT
Iron	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
Copper	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
Lead	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
Phosphates	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
Fluoride	0.100	0.112	0.238	0.100

(b) Drainage and Sewerage:

The Borough is divided, for rating purposes, into a Sewered Area of approximately 490 acres containing 1,932 premises and an Unsewered Area of approximately 722 acres containing 390 premises.

All the existing sewers gravitate to a pumping station at Saddlers Mill from where sewage is lifted by water turbine powered centrifugal pumps to the Sewage Disposal Works at Greenhill in the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council area for treatment.

The quantity of sewage treated at the disposal works as recorded on the pitometer amounted to 180,348,625 gallons during the year giving an average daily flow of 492,756 gallons.

The existing works comprise Grit Channels, primary and secondary Sedimentation Tanks, Filters, Humus Tanks, Sludge Digestion Tanks and Sludge Drying Beds. There are no Stormwater Tanks.

The disposal works are still severely overworked and are rapidly deteriorating with the result that the final effluent discharged into the River Test seldom reaches the standard laid down as satisfactory by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, despite every effort to maintain the works in as good a state of efficiency as their condition will permit.

Of the 3 samples of effluent taken for analysis by the Hampshire River Board only one was satisfactory, the others being unsatisfactory.

Progress has been made with the proposed scheme for the reconstruction of the disposal works and pumping station and the extension of the sewerage system to cover the whole of the Borough and it is anticipated that the work will commence during 1961.

200 yards of 6" sewer was laid during the year at the Durban House Estate ready for connection to the public sewer at the appropriate time.

250 yards of 6" sewer was laid at the Test House Estate and brought into operation during the year.

### (c) Public Cleansing

A refuse collection service is carried out by direct labour and covers the whole of the District. All premises are visited once per week in normal circumstances and extra collections and trade refuse collections are made where required at more frequent intervals. A charge of 9d. per bin is made for extra and trade refuse. A "rear of the house" collection is made in all cases except where the premises have no rear access when a kerbside collection is carried out.

Refuse is disposed of on a controlled tip at Casbrook Common operated by the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council, a charge being made by the Rural District Council for this arrangement.

Approximately 45 tons of refuse is collected per week which amounts to 2,250 tons tipped per year.

Highways cleansing is carried out by direct labour and all roads are, in normal circumstances, swept weekly with more frequent cleansing in the Town Centre. The classified roads are cleansed by arrangement with the Hampshire County Council who contribute towards to cost of this service.

During the year 0.14 miles were added to the length of highways in the Borough.

### (d) Insect Infestation

It is satisfactory to report that only one very minor case of infestation by bed bugs was reported in a vacant premise and no treatment was eventually required apart from cleansing. Several flea and ant infestations were found during the year and treatment to exterminate the pests were carried out.

### (e) Rodent Control

Test baiting of the public sewers was carried out during the year in accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and subsequent maintenance treatments of the sewers were completed when two infestations were found.

Forty infestations were found in domestic and business premises.

All rodent infestations notified to the Department by the public were investigated and the necessary treatment carried out, no charge being made in the case of domestic premises but the cost of treating business premises was recovered.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act requires that a periodical survey of the district for rodents be made and whenever possible this obligation is carried out concurrently with inspections made for other purposes.

(f) Smoke Abatement

The Borough has few factories and no statutory nuisances arose from the excessive discharge of smoke during the year.

5. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(i) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(a) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	5	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	16	-	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	40	21	-	-

(ii) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences Section 7 -	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

(iii) There are no Outworkers employed in the District.

#### 6. SWIMMING POOL.

The Council own and manage the only swimming pool in the area. The pool which measures 75ft. x 35ft. is uncovered and is provided with adequate washing facilities and changing and clothes storage accommodation.

The pool is filled with mains fresh water which is continuously circulated by pumps through a "Bell" pressure sand filter, a Wallace and Tiernan's chlorination plant and a fountain type aerator. The rate of circulation ensures a change of water for the whole of the pool every four hours.

Routine samples of the water were sent weekly for bacteriological examination and in every case the results were very satisfactory.

While the pool was closed for the winter months the paved surround was extended towards the Crosfield Hall and a paddling pool constructed. The water supply to this is treated in the same way as that in the main pool.

This swimming pool is an asset to the amenities of the Borough and to the health of the inhabitants, particularly the younger generation, and the following attendance figures show that it is well patronised.

Child bathers during 1960	7,385
Adult bathers during 1960	861
Spectators during 1960	435

In addition 173 people held season tickets and children from local schools attended in organised parties.

## 7. HOUSING.

The number of applicants for Council houses on the Council's list at the end of the year was 150.

The following dwellings were provided by the Council during the year.

Six one-bedroom aged person bungalows at Mill Lane.  
Fourteen three-bedroom houses at Hollman Drive.  
Four two-bedroom flats at Hollman Drive.  
Three converted flats at Test House.

Thirty new dwellings were built by private enterprise.

Applications for improvement grants were received in respect of 11 premises and 10 grants were approved enabling owners to modernise and generally improve their dwellings.

Informal action under the Public Health Acts and Housing Act was taken in many cases and resulted in the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of housing defects.

It was found necessary to serve one Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act during the year.

### Clearance Areas Nos. 4, 5 and 6 Banning Street

During April 1960 the public enquiry into the Borough of Romsey (Rear of The Hundred) No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1959 was held and the Order was subsequently confirmed by the Minister subject to certain modifications.

## Harefield Estate

Detailed plans of the proposed layout of 116 units and the design of the dwellings were prepared during the year and approved by the Council and the design of the roads and sewers is in hand. It is proposed to commence construction of the Estate at such time as will ensure that the completion of the first dwellings will coincide with the completion of the proposed public sewer.

### 8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows:-

Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses and Bakers' Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Grocery and Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	24
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	6
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	7
Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	27
Fried-Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	10
			TOTAL		<u>90</u>

A total of 35 premises are registered under Sections 16 and 18 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 27 of these being registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and the remainder for the preparation and sale of preserved foods.

The routine inspections of Restaurant kitchens, food shops and other places where food is prepared and sold were not carried out as frequently as desirable but some inspections were made and advice given resulting in improvements in the standard of hygiene generally.

#### Unsound Food Surrendered

It was not found necessary to seize any food during the year, but the following amount of food was found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for disposal.

Meat - 215 lbs.

Tinned Meat Products - 159 lbs.

Sweets - 19 lbs.

### Slaughterhouses

As required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the Council submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a report on the existing and probable future requirements of the district and the slaughterhouse facilities which are, or are likely to become, available to meet those requirements.

There are two private slaughterhouses in the Borough at which regular slaughtering is carried out. The licence for a further slaughterhouse expired during the year and was not renewed.

The inspection of animals slaughtered is carried out by the Meat Inspector, Mr. E.H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S., and the following figures are from his reports.

Figs	...	...	...	483
Lambs	...	...	...	288
Bullocks	...	...	...	94
Calves	...	...	...	251
Cattle	...	...	...	2
Sheep	...	...	...	17
Sows	...	...	...	26

The condemnations for the year included 9 whole carcasses as well as certain offal and parts of carcasses.

### 9. FORMAL SAMPLING.

Formal sampling of food and drugs, under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is carried out by Mr. J.S. Preston, M.I.W.M.A., Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, who kindly supplied the following report.

#### Milk Samples

63 samples of milk, including 21 of the Channel Islands variety, were procured and were satisfactory with the exception of two samples of Channel Islands milk which showed slight deficiencies of fat. Both these samples were from separate churns forming part of a consignment of four churns of Channel Islands milk which was being sold by the producer to a dairy company. The average fat content of the whole consignment was in fact not below the minimum standard of 4 per cent applicable to

Channel Islands milk, and the matter was not therefore considered to warrant further action, although the producer's attention was drawn to the requirement that each churnful of milk should contain not less than 4 per cent of fat. It will be appreciated that the milk was being mixed together on arrival at the dairy and that no prejudice to purchasers would therefore have resulted from the discrepancies in the two churns.

#### Miscellaneous Samples

Of the 58 samples of various food and drugs other than milk, three were adversely reported upon and these affected sweets and chocolates containing spirits. In two cases the amount of proof spirit found was in excess of that permitted to be sold without an Excise licence, although not to any very significant extent, and the results were reported to an officer of the Department of Customs and Excise. The other unsatisfactory sample contained rather less than the quantity of rum implied by the label, but it was found that the labels of subsequent supplies of the products had been suitably modified. Further action was not therefore considered necessary.

It will be appreciated that in connection with pre-packed articles, which now form a high proportion of food and drugs sold by retailers, these are distributed over wide areas and duplication of the sampling of such articles in the various Districts of the County is avoided as far as possible. Products of this type are not readily subject to interference after packing, and except as regards conditions of storage, a single check over a given period is normally adequate where the result is satisfactory.

