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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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 1962

To the Worshipful 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.

The Additional Public Health Inspector started work at the beginning of the year so that throughout the year there was a steady improvement in what is generally known as the "routine work" of the Public Health Department e.g. there were more frequent inspections of food premises and shopkeepers asked advice when they wanted to make changes in food handling procedure, shop fitting and kindred matters.

Inspections of houses were also carried out more frequently and the public health staff helped to smooth the way for modernisation and improvement of houses including Council Houses. By the end of the year work had started on the new Council House Estate at Harefield.

The Civil Engineering Contractors continued to work steadily on the construction of the new sewage plant and the installation of new sewers and the prospect of adequate sewers throughout the

Borough enabled plans to be approved for building of dwellings such as the Council Houses mentioned in the preceding paragraph and a substantial number of privately owned houses.

I am, Madam 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., M.B.I.,
Additional Public Health Inspector (also Assistant in Surveyor's Department)	H.C. Watkin. M.A.P.H.I.
Meat Inspector (part-time)	E.H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S.
Secretary	Miss. M. Phillips.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	1,212 acres.
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	6,400.
Rateable Value	£95,420.
Product of penny rate	£380.
Number of Council Houses built before September, 1939.	182.
Number of Council Houses built after January, 1945.	320.
Total number of rateable premises	2,372.

Summary of vital statistics for the year 1962 as supplied
by the Registrar General

		1962			1961
		Total	Male	Female	Total
Live Births:	Total Registered	81	44	37	81
	Legitimate	78	41	37	82
	Illegitimate	3	3	0	5
Still Births:	Total Registered	1	1	0	1

	1962			1961
	Total	Male	Female	Total
Deaths:				
Total Registered	85	43	42	104
Maternal Mortality:	0	-	0	0
Infant Mortality:				
Deaths of infants under one year of age -				
Total Registered	2	2	0	5
Legitimate	2	2	0	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age -				
Total Registered	2	2	0	5

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey Borough	England and Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.7	18.0
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	12.2	18.1
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Total	24.7	20.7
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	24.7	15.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.6	
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	0.35
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.3	11.9

Comparability Factors - Births 1.08
Deaths 0.08

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1962				For Comparison	
	Male	Female	Total 1962	Total	
				1961	1960
Tuberculosis					
Respiratory	0	0	0	1	0
Other Forms	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0	1	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 Disease	0	0	0	0	1
Maglignant Neoplasm					
Stomach	0	2	2	2	1
Lung and Bronchus	1	2	3	3	3
Breast	0	2	2	0	1
Uterus	-	3	3	0	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasm	2	2	4	11	7
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	0	0	0	1	0
Diabetes	1	0	1	0	0
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	6	2	8	10	12
Coronary Disease and Angina	8	7	15	16	16
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2	0	0
Other heart diseases	7	9	16	15	20
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2	7	2
Influenza	0	0	0	3	0
Pneumonia	4	2	6	3	2
Bronchitis	4	1	5	13	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0	0	1
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1	2	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0	2	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	-	0	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	0	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	2	0	2	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	8	12	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	2	2	0	1
All other accidents	2	1	3	1	3
Suicide	0	0	0	0	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	43	42	85	104	89

Although there are one or two figures very different from the preceeding years the differences are not statistically significant as the total numbers for the Borough are small compared with the population of the whole country.

During 1962 there were recorded in the whole country more deaths from lung cancer than in previous years. It is doubtful whether there has been much decrease in smoking since the publication in February 1962 by the Royal College of Physicians of their report on the relation between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung and chronic bronchitis. In the country generally doctors are the only large group of workers whose smoking habits have been changed, there has been a marked diminution in the number of cigarette smokers among the medical profession.

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 Visitors, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioners in the area. No nursing arrangements or contributions are made by the Borough Council but two members represent the Council on the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

During the year even closer co-operation between medical and nursing services was fostered by the attachment of District Nurses to two Group Medical Practices.

The District Nurses are:-

Nurse M. Laycock and Nurse B.D. Sharp,
"Brambles", Cupernham Lane, Romsey,
Telephone - Romsey 3302.

Nurse Picken, "Kyrenia", Magana Way, Braishfield,
Telephone - Romsey 263.

(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 are:-

Mrs. M.E. Ward, Flat 2 Harefield House,
Winchester Hill, Romsey,
Telephone - Romsey 3170.

Mrs. Pointer, "Bryn Coed", Newtown Road,
Sherfield English,
Telephone - 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 - Eastleigh 2558.

(f) Care of the Elderly:

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

The Old People's Welfare Committee has organised the cooking and distribution of a midday meal on one day each week and the demand for this meal has increased steadily throughout the year. The Committee also organises a friendly visiting service and continues to co-ordinate the work of voluntary and statutory bodies interested in helping the elderly. The Honorary Secretary is Mr. Spinney, 34, Church Street, Romsey, Telephone - Romsey 3222.

(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 Children's 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.

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

No case was dealt with under this Section of the Act during 1962.

(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 subsidised chiropody service for old people in the Borough. Details of the chiropody service are available from 4 Market Place, Romsey, Telephone - Romsey 3202.

(viii) Nursing Home:

There is one private nursing home in the Borough - The Durban House Nursing Home, Woodley Lane, Cupernham, Telephone - Romsey 2332.

3. PREVALANCE 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 1962 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	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Non-Respiratory	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Vaccination against Smallpox:

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	2	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
1961	44	9	8	6	24
1962	57	19	307	328	739
					51.1
					50.0

During the early part of 1962 there were cases of smallpox in England and Wales in people who had travelled by air from an area in Asia where there was a smallpox epidemic; there followed about sixty indigenous cases in England and Wales with several deaths. There was a very great deal of anxiety and in some cases a near panic demand for vaccination and re-vaccination. No smallpox case occurred in the Borough and general re-vaccination was not recommended but the above figures make it obvious that there was a great demand for vaccination.

Immunisation against Diphtheria:

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December 1962 was as follows:-

Children born in	1962	19
" " between	1958 and 1961	263
" " "	1953 and 1957	566
" " "	1948 and 1952	751

During the year fewer children had "booster" injections than during 1961 when there had been unusually many cases of diphtheria in the country and much publicity. The need for "booster" injections is brought to the notice of parents of children entering school at five years old and many of the General Medical Practitioners in the area make special arrangements for giving injections to children.

As in previous years the triple antigen was used for infants, babies being given protection against whooping-cough and tetanus at the same time as diphtheria.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis:

Year	Completed first Two Injections	Third Injections	Fourth Injections
1960	220	575	-
1961	164	140	241
1962	63	112	25

Oral poliomyelitis vaccine was first used in this country on a large scale in Hull during October 1961 and subsequently it was announced that the oral vaccine would be available for general use. Oral vaccine has been freely available since the early summer of 1962.

For most children oral vaccine is more acceptable and its administration is not only pleasanter but there is no need for a long time gap between the second and third doses so there is less likelihood of the third dose being missed. However, many people are inclined to forget the need for vaccination since the disease has been very nearly wiped out from the country. There is no doubt that this happy decrease in incidence is in large part due to vaccination administered during the past few years and it is essential that a high level of vaccination should be maintained.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis (B.C.G. Vaccination):

B.C.G. vaccination is carried out by Chest Physicians for contacts attending Chest Clinics but all school children during their thirteenth year are offered vaccination. This vaccination is not given if the preliminary skin test shows that the child already has an immunity to tuberculosis. During the year Heaf testing and B.C.G. vaccination was carried out at Romsey County Secondary School and at La Sagesse Convent, 402 children were tested, 78 were found to have an immunity to tuberculosis and 314 received vaccination with B.C.G.

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 carried out chemical analyses on quarterly samples of both raw and treated water.

There are in the Borough of Romsey over 17 miles of water mains, varying from 24" diameter to 2" diameter and these mains, apart from industrial and other metered supplies afford a piped supply of water to 2,094 dwellings. All domestic consumers have the benefit of the Southampton Corporation's free tap washering services and plumbing repairs on repayment.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage:

The Borough is divided, for rating purposes, into a Sewered Area of approximately 490 acres containing 1,945 premises and an Unsewered Area of approximately 722 acres containing 430 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 120,200,000 gallons during the year giving an average daily flow of 329,315 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.

Work on the Contract for the reconstruction of the sewage disposal works and the provision of public sewers for the unsewered area of the Borough which commenced during September, 1961, proceeded very satisfactorily during the year and it is anticipated that the new disposal works will be brought into use early in 1964.

The public sewers and pumping station on the Industrial Site at Budds Lane were completed and brought into use.

(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.

A pilot scheme covering 124 houses was brought into operation for the use of paper sacks for refuse storage and collection and proved successful. The Council's policy is to extend this method of storage and collection to cover all new Council dwellings as they are erected.

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.

Highway 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 the cost of this service.

(d) Insect Infestation:

Several flea and ant infestations were found during the year and treatment to exterminate the pests was 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 no infestations were found.

Fourty-eight 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, 1961.

(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.	3	2	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	40	1	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	44	42	1	-

(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	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

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

6. SWIMMING POOL.

The Council own and manage the only swimming pool and paddling pool in the area. The pool which measures 75 ft. x 35 ft. 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.

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

	1962	1961
Child bathers	7,894	10,276
Adult bathers	965	1,696
Spectators	952	1,164

In addition 116 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 275.

Four one-bedroom aged persons flats were built at Station Road by the Council.

Phase I at Harefield Estate, comprising 14 three bedroom dwellings was commenced.

Thirty-one dwellings in the Clearance Area at the Rear of The Hundred were demolished.

A scheme for the improvement of 125 pre-war Council houses by the provision of hot water systems, wash hand basins, internal water closets etc., was prepared and work will be commenced during January 1963.

Twenty-nine new dwellings were built by private enterprise.

Applications for improvement grants were received in respect of 14 premises and 11 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 not found necessary to serve any Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act during the year.

8. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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

Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses and Bakers' Shops					4
Grocery and Provision Shops	...				22
Greengrocers	...	...	...		7
Fish Shops	...	...	...		2
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...		7
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...			6
Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses					26
Fried-Fish Shops		...	...		2
Confectioners	...	...	...		10
					—
				TOTAL	87
					—

A total of 34 premises are registered under Sections 16 and 18 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 26 of these being registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and the remainder for the preparation and sale of preserved foods.

Routine inspections of Restaurant kitchens, food shops and other places where food is prepared and sold were carried out 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.

Tinned Meat	59 lbs.
Pigs Kidneys	14 lbs.
Beef Kidneys	12 lbs.

Slaughterhouses:

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 report.

Pigs	...	...	...	2,490
Lambs	...	...	...	1,997
Bullocks	...	...	...	556
Calves	...	...	...	1,129
Cattle	...	...	...	13
Sheep	...	...	...	19
Sows	...	...	...	135

The condemnations for the year included 22 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:

Forty-three samples of milk were taken, nine being Channel Islands and only one sample was found to be unsatisfactory. This was obtained at a snack bar and was found to be 9 per cent deficient in fat. It appeared that the deficiency had been caused by the milk not having been properly mixed before being served, since a check of the milk supplied to the snack bar was up to the required standard. In the circumstances and having regard to the relatively small discrepancy, the vender was cautioned.

Miscellaneous Samples:

Twenty-four samples of various articles other than milk were taken and all were free from complaint.

In connection with two other articles, for which analysis was not required, proceedings were instituted. These concerned metal in a loaf of bread and sausage rolls which were contaminated with mould; both matters having arisen from consumer complaints which were passed to the County Council from the Borough Authority. The same firm of bakers were involved in both cases and they were fined £10 and £50, respectively, with regard to the offences.

General:

Attention was, as usual, given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, with regard to their application and description of food and drugs, during inspection visits to traders and by reference to advertisements.

