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Contributors

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1956



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

OF ROMSEY

Ans.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT (Municipal Borough) OF ROMSEY
YEAR 1956

*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 as follows :—

1. Vital Statistics.
2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
3. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases and Prophylaxis against Infectious and Contagious Diseases.
4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.
 - (a) Water Supply.
 - (b) Drainage and Sewerage.
 - (c) Public Cleansing.
 - (d) Insect Infestation.
 - (e) Rodent Control.
 - (f) Smoke Abatement.
5. Factories and Workshops.
6. Swimming Pool.
7. Housing.
8. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
9. Meat Inspector's Report.
10. Adulterations.

Sections 4–8 of this report have been prepared by Mr. Bell.

I am, Mr. Mayor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
E. JACKSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health	S. L. Morrison, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(part time $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week)	until 31.8.1956.
Chief Public Health Inspector ..	F. J. East, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.S.I.
(with combined duties as Surveyor)	
Additional Public Health Inspector ..	W. Bell, M.S.I.A.
(with combined duties as Deputy Surveyor)	
Meat Inspector	E. H. Dayus, M.R.C.V.S.
Secretary	Miss J. Harding

1. Vital Statistics

Area (in acres)	1,212
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General) ..	6,480
Rateable Value (Estimated at 1.4.1957)	£81,391
Product of 1d. rate (Estimated)	£305
Number of Council houses built before September, 1939	182
Number of Council houses built after January, 1945 ..	270
Total number of rateable premises	2,249
Rainfall—Winter months	14.51 inches
Summer months	12.33 inches
Annual	26.84 inches

Vital Statistics for the year 1956

POPULATION 6,480

Live Births—	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate ..	62	48	110	Birth Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate ..	0	0	0	estimated population 12.3
Total	62	48	110	(Comparability factor 1.09)

Still births—	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate ..	0	1	1	Still Birth Rate per
Illegitimate ..	0	0	0	1,000 live and still
Total	0	1	1	births 12.3

Deaths—(All Causes)—	Male	Female	Total	
Total Registered	51	39	90	(Comparability factor 0.73)

<i>Maternal Mortality</i>	Total
Deaths due to Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	0

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :—

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	0	0	0
Illegitimate	..	..	..	0	0	0
Total	..	..	..	0	0	0

Note: The marked increase in the number of births registered in the Borough is due to the temporary transfer to Romsey Hospital of the work of the Southampton Maternity Unit while the Unit buildings were closed for a short period.

Causes of Death during the year 1956

Cause of Death				Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	..	..	..	1	0	1
„ (Other Forms)	..	..	..	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	0	1	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	0	0	0
Measles	..	..	..	0	0	0
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	0	2	2
„ „ Lung and Bronchus	..	..	..	3	1	4
„ „ Breast	..	..	..	0	1	1
„ „ Uterus	..	..	..	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	5	3	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	0	0	0
Diabetes	..	..	..	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	..	..	..	7	6	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	..	..	..	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	1	0	1
Other heart diseases	..	..	..	11	9	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	1	0	1
Influenza	..	..	..	0	0	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	3	1	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	0	0	0
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	..	..	..	—	0	0
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	5	4	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	0	0	0
All other accidents	..	..	..	0	2	2
Suicide	..	..	..	0	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	0	0	0
TOTAL	..	..	..	51	39	90

The number and causes of death in 1956 do not show any significant differences from previous years. It is, however, encouraging to see that there were no deaths from motor accidents, and that, once again, there were no deaths from the common infectious diseases of childhood.

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. The County Council rent one of the houses erected by this Authority for use by the two District Nurses whose areas are centred in the Borough. 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.

(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.

(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.

(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 receives reports.

(f) *Vaccination and Immunisation*—see later in this report.

(g) *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 South West Regional Hospital Board supply general, maternity and infectious diseases (including smallpox and tuberculosis) hospital services for this area.

(iv) *Laboratory Service.*

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

(v) *Public Health Services provided by this 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 Inspectors 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 1956 although several cases were dealt with informally.

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

The Division continued activities in all branches of their work detailed in the 1955 report.

3. Prevalance of Infectious Diseases and Prophylaxis against Infectious and Contagious Diseases

The incidence of infectious diseases was low during the year.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified to the Medical Officer of Health :—

Measles	..	..	..	..	5
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	0
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	17
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1

No case of diphtheria or poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

Many cases of measles, chicken pox, mumps, whooping cough and diarrhoea are not notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases notified during 1956

Pulmonary—			Non-Pulmonary—		
Male	..	4	Male	..	0
Female	..	5	Female	..	1
Total			Total		
..			..		
9			1		

DEATHS

Pulmonary—			Non-Pulmonary—		
Male	..	0	Male	..	0
Female	..	0	Female	..	0
Total			Total		
..			..		
0			0		

Vaccination of schoolchildren against Tuberculosis has not yet been started in this area.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Children under 15 at 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria at any time during the years 1942–1956 inclusive :—

Age at 31.12.1956 .. i.e. Born in Year ..	Under 1 1956	1–4 1955–1952	5–9 1951–1947	10–14 1946–1942	Under 15 Total
Last complete course (whether primary or booster)					
1952–1956 ..	13	220	229	239	701
1942–1951	—	—	173	164	337

During the year, combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough was carried out in the child welfare clinics as well as by the general practitioners.

Smallpox Vaccination.

Eighty vaccinations were carried out during the year 1956. Of these, 47 were of infants under 1 year of age.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

A small amount of poliomyelitis vaccine was manufactured during 1956 and this was allocated by the Medical Research Council to a proportion of the children whose names had been registered for vaccination. The allocation was planned to enable a satisfactory statistical evaluation of the vaccine to be made by the Medical Research Council.

Eight children living in the Borough were vaccinated.

Although the figures for the incidence of infectious and contagious diseases were satisfactory during 1956 there is a grave risk in the low level of acceptance of preventive vaccination and immunisation. Smallpox could be introduced from countries where it is prevalent by passengers arriving at the sea and airports near to Romsey. Expressing the vaccinations of babies as a percentage of the live births in Romsey during the year gives the figure of 42.7% vaccinated. This figure is not only low but lower than that in any other Borough or Urban District in Hampshire.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough

(a) Water Supply.

The Southampton Corporation are statutory water undertakers for the Borough. The area is provided with a piped supply by the undertakers from their Waterworks Pumping Station at Timsbury. The quality of the water is excellent although fairly "hard."

It is to be noted that although such an excellent water supply is available many of the dwellings are not provided with a piped supply of water within the house but draw their water from communal stand pipes often situate some distance away.

One premises was found to be using water from a well which when sampled was found to contain a high faecal coli count. The well was closed and sealed.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage.

There are 2,238 premises in the Borough of which 1,906 are sewered and 332 unsewered.

The quantity of sewage dealt with by the sewage disposal works during the year was 116,179,375 gallons which is an average daily flow of 318,300 gallons.

During the winter months the average 24-hour flow was 395,456 gallons while during the summer months the average 24-hour flow fell to 241,144 gallons.

The sewage disposal works is still severely overworked and does not function efficiently with the result that the final effluent discharged into the River Test is very unsatisfactory.

The proposed scheme to extend and modernise the sewage works is progressing but it will be several years before it is put into operation.

A scheme to treat the effluent by land irrigation before discharge into the leat has been put into operation and it has resulted in a slight improvement in the quality of the final effluent although, as stated above, the effluent reaching the River Test cannot be considered satisfactory.

(c) *Public Cleansing.*

The 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 but extra collections and trade refuse collections are made where necessary.

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.

The Borough Council's former tip at Timsbury is not in use at present and is undergoing natural consolidation.

Approximately 30 tons of refuse per week is collected which means that about 1,560 tons are tipped per year.

Waste paper and scrap metal is salvaged where possible and £19 12s. was obtained for this.

All highways receive weekly cleansing, the main roads being cleansed by arrangement with the County Council who contribute towards the cost of this service.

(d) *Insect Infestation.*

Several cases of flea and cockroach infestation of dwellings were found during the year and treatments to exterminate these pests were carried out.

One case of infestation by bed bugs was found as a result of the removal of an elderly person to hospital. In this case the furniture and bedding were destroyed and the premises disinfested.

(e) *Rodent Control.*

Test baiting of the public sewers was carried out early in the year in accordance with the requirements of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and two subsequent maintenance treatments of the sewers were completed when 10 cases of infestation were found.

Forty rat 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 nuisances arose from the excessive discharge of smoke.

5. Factories Act, 1937

(i) 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
(a) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	10	—	—
(b) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	29	1	—
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	40	39	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 (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	3	3	—	—	—

(iii) There is one outworker employed in the District in the making of Wearing Apparel.

6. Swimming Pool

The Council own and manage the only swimming pool in the area.

The pool which measures 75 ft. $\times$ 35 ft. is uncovered and is provided with adequate washing facilities and changing and clothes storage accommodation.

A new water chlorinating plant of modern design was provided for the swimming pool and has functioned satisfactorily. Routine samples of the water in the pool were sent 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, and the following attendance figures show that it is well patronised.

Attendances by child bathers during 1956	..	5,076
Attendances by adult bathers during 1956	..	748
Attendances by spectators during 1956	..	267

In addition 111 people held season tickets and children from local schools attended in organised parties.

7. Housing

There were 258 applicants for Council houses on the Borough Council's list on the 31st December, 1956.

A start was made on the slum clearance scheme and an area in Newton Lane was formally declared a Clearance Area. Negotiations for the purchase of other land and premises in Newton Lane were commenced and it is anticipated that work of demolition and redevelopment will take place during 1957.

The erection of 8 flats and 2 bungalows at Mitchells Close was commenced together with the preliminary road works. Although these dwellings were primarily designed to accommodate aged persons, they will, when completed, be used to accommodate persons displaced through the demolition of buildings in clearance areas.

Sixteen new houses were built by private enterprise during the year.

A number of applications for improvement grants was received during the year, 5 grants being made enabling owners to modernise and generally improve their dwellings.

There is no doubt that while the cost of providing new houses remains so high the improvement grant scheme, whereby dwellings which are structurally sound but lack the amenities of a new house can be improved to a modern standard, is of great benefit.

It is perhaps a pity that more landlords do not take advantage of the scheme to modernise the dwellings occupied by their tenants and thus benefit themselves by increased rent and the tenants by the improved standard of accommodation.

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 five Statutory Notices under the Public Health Acts during the year. The necessary work was carried out in all cases.

8. Inspection and Supervision of Food

The general standard of food premises within the Borough is gradually improving, although in certain cases is still not entirely satisfactory.

The Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1956 came into operation at the beginning of the year.

The Regulations lay down requirements in respect of (i) the cleanliness of food premises and stalls etc. and of apparatus and equipment, (ii) the hygienic handling of food, (iii) the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections, (iv) the construction of food premises, the repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., and the facilities to be provided, and (v) the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit disease are to be kept in food premises.

Food Premises.

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

Dairies	2
Bakehouses and Bakers' Shops	4
Grocery and Provision Shops	24
Greengrocers	6
Fish Shops	3
Butchers' Shops	7
Cafes and Restaurants	8
Hotels, Clubs and Public Houses	28
Fried-Fish Shops	3
Confectioners	10
	—
Total	95
	—

A total of 39 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, 25 of these being registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream, and the remainder for the preparation and sale of preserved foods.

Routine samples of ice cream sold within the Borough were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for bacteriological examination and were all found to be satisfactory.

Thirteen samples of designated milk retailed within the Borough were submitted to the Laboratory for statutory examination and all complied with the required standards.

Restaurant kitchens and other places in which food is prepared or sold were frequently inspected and advice and informal action resulted in the remedying of defects and the improvement generally of the premises.

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 by the Department.

Meat Products	76 lbs.
Fish.	
Tinned Fish	27 lbs.
Other Foods.	
Cheese	10½ lbs.
Miscellaneous Vegetables (tinned) ..	13 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	35 lbs.
Tins of Milk	4 lbs.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 3 licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough where the slaughtering of animals for food is regularly carried out.

Inspections of these slaughterhouses are carried out as frequently as possible to ensure that a good standard of hygiene is maintained.

The routine inspection of meat is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon (see below).

9. Meat Inspector's Report

During the year I have inspected the following animals, slaughtered in the Borough, at the 3 licensed slaughterhouses, viz. W. Stares, Cornmarket, F. C. Wells, Bell Street, R. Drew, The Hundred :—

Bullocks	292
Calves	518
Sheep	191
Pigs	2,361
Total ..	3,362 animals

The condemnations for the year included 3 pigs, 1 sheep, and 3 bullocks, as well as certain offal and parts of carcasses. Of these 2 of the bullocks were due to tuberculosis.

Some tins of corned meat were condemned due to perforation.

Also on two occasions the meat at the School Kitchen was condemned.

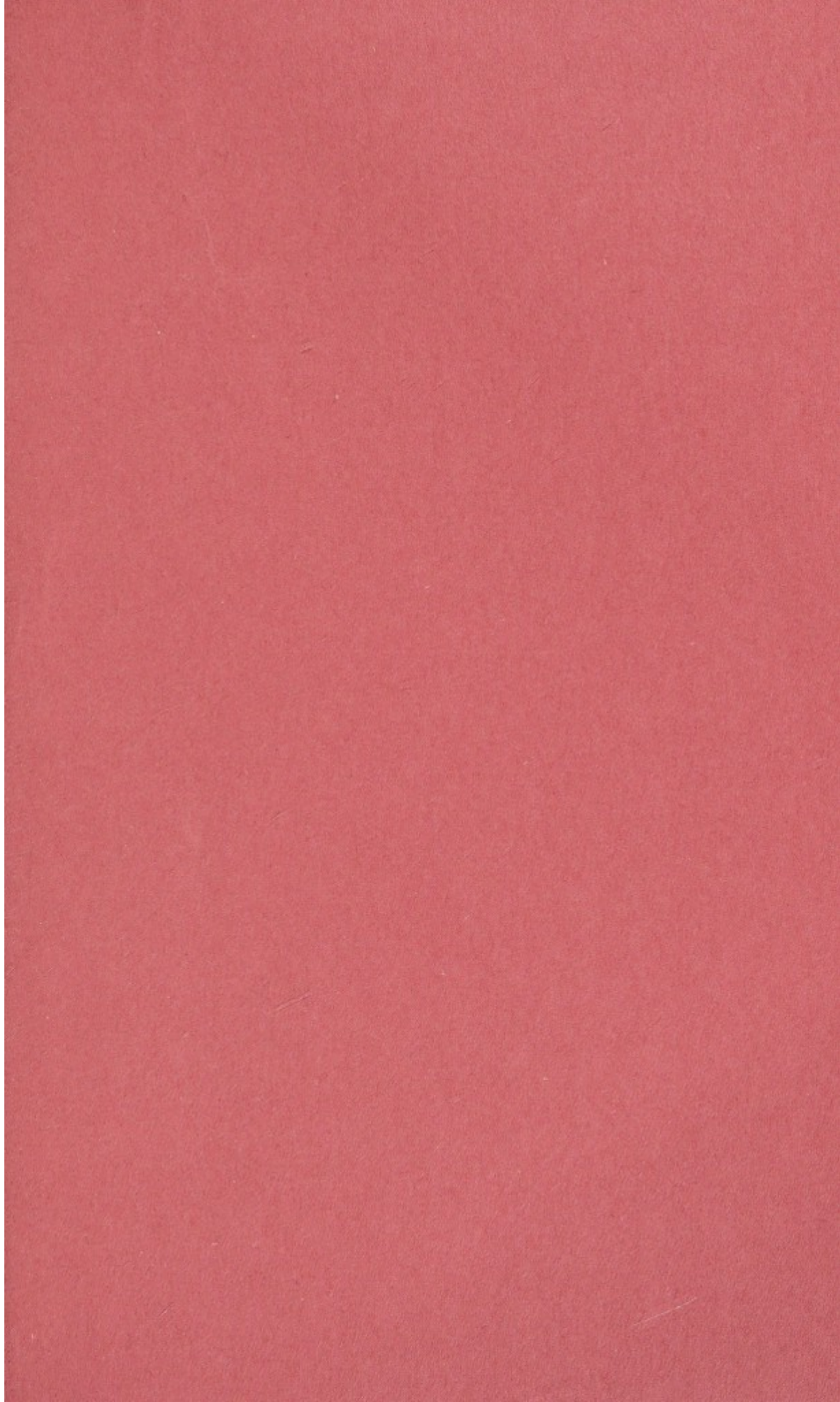
10. Adulteration

The County Council are responsible for the formal sampling of food and drugs sold in the Borough and I am indebted to Mr. C. O. Perry, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for the information that the following samples were taken during the year.

It is satisfactory to report that samples of milk showed no adulteration and that all other samples attained the required standard.

Article	Number of samples taken	
	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter and Other Fats	1	—
Drugs	1	—
Milk	17	—
Milk, Channel Islands	1	—
Sausage, Meat and Fish Products	2	—
Spirits	2	—
Other Foods	2	—
Total ..	26	—

The 17 Milk Samples proved to contain an average of 3·86% Fat and 8·79% Non-Fatty Solids, and the 1 Channel Islands Milk Sample was certified to contain 4·50% Fat and 9·00 Non-Fatty Solids.



The Romsey Press Limited
26 Market Place, Romsey
