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BOROUGH



OF RYDE, I.W.



# ANNUAL REPORT

for 1954

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1954  
(as constituted at 19th May, 1954)

The Mayor—Councillor G. J. Evans

Alderman Russell ( <i>Chairman</i> )	Councillor Cleaver
Councillor Ramage ( <i>Vice-Chm.</i> )	Councillor Lewer
Alderman Feakes	Councillor Matthews
Councillor Baxter	Councillor Read
Councillor Bourn	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Castle	Councillor White

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1954

*Medical Officer of Health*: D. WARREN BROWNE,†\*  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector*: S. DUNMORE,† M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector*: L. N. JORDAN,† M.S.I.A.,  
M.R.San.I.

*Clerk*: MISS D. G. BOYCE.

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\* *Part time Officer.*

† *Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.*



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
5, LIND STREET,  
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1954. As last year, it includes an appendix by your Senior Sanitary Inspector in respect of work carried out by him.

### **Vital Statistics**

The estimated population increased by 170 to a total of 19,760. In spite of this the total number of live births fell by 24, giving a further reduction in the Comparative Birth Rate to 14·1, compared with 14·9 for the previous year.

Deaths totalled 285, compared with 289 in 1953. There were 9 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, most of which were due to congenital malformations or to prematurity, which conditions may be described as "unavoidable."

Eight persons were killed by various accidents, mostly in the homes; one only was due to motor vehicle. For the first time for several years there were no suicides, whereas there were six during the previous year.

### **Infectious Diseases**

There were 285 cases of notifiable diseases, compared with 651 in 1953. The measles epidemic of 1953 continued into 1954, causing 213 cases, or a total of nearly 700 cases of measles in the two years, mostly amongst infants and school-children. A further 52 cases of confirmed whooping-cough occurred, making nearly 200 cases in the two years.

Measles and whooping-cough, particularly the latter, are amongst the leading hazards to the health of children today. They can cause serious lung trouble, lasting into later life, and it must be hoped that it will not be long before both diseases become as rare as diphtheria is today.



### **Tuberculosis**

Of the 28 cases of tuberculosis registered in 1954, 18 were fresh cases compared with 19 fresh cases in the previous year. Only 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, whereas two years previously 15 cases of non-pulmonary (milk-borne) tuberculosis were notified. Parents have become much more aware of the danger of milk from non-attested herds, but until all milk is either T.T. or heat-treated throughout the country, cases will continue to occur. When away from home, on holiday or visiting friends, parents should check carefully on the milk given to their children.

### **Water Supply and Dental Decay**

Once again there is a move in certain circles to press for the addition of fluorine to water supplies. Lack of fluorine is believed by some to pre-dispose to dental decay, and statistics have been produced to support this contention. In certain towns of the U.S.A. fluorine is now being added to municipal water supplies, and some American tooth-paste is advertised as containing "health-giving fluorine."

There is considerable evidence that dental decay is accelerated, if not actually caused by, foods such as milk, confectionery, puddings and breakfast cereals being allowed to remain in contact with the teeth. Close questioning of parents at welfare clinics and at school medical examinations reveals the lamentable degree of ignorance or indifference of parents towards their children's first teeth. It is rare, very rare, to find a mother who strictly insists on teeth-cleaning night and morning, who restricts sweets except after meals, and who does not give a drink of milk last thing at night in bed. Before recommending the addition of more chemicals to our diet, it would be as well to try the effect of teaching mothers the elements of oral hygiene.

Unfortunately there are too few dentists and too many mouths full of decaying teeth in this country. The dentists' valuable time is taken up in repairing teeth already damaged by decay, and the amount of manpower and money available for preventive dentistry is totally inadequate. Every million pounds spent on dental research and on teaching oral hygiene to the public, should save the country many times that sum within a generation or less.

A dental crisis is imminent. The number of practising dentists is about to be reduced, by retirements, to an even smaller number than at present, whereas the dental fitness of children under 5 is steadily deteriorating each year.

#### **National Assistance Act**

No fresh cases have arisen under which application has had to be made to the courts for the compulsory removal of any person to a place of care and attention. During the year, however, a number of old and infirm persons were so removed, but with their full consent.

I should like to record my appreciation of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the very stimulating interest, support, and valuable criticism that they have shown in the work of this Department.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WARREN BROWNE,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



# STATISTICS

## (1) GENERAL

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 31/3/55)	...	...	...	...	...	6,305
Rateable value (as at 31/3/55)	...	...	...	...	...	£170,348
Sum represented by 1d. rate (as at 31/3/55)	...	...	...	...	...	£678
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	...	37.03 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	...	1617.8 hours

## (2) VITAL

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	...	...	19,760
BIRTHS	M.	F.			
No. of live legitimate births	113	129	...	...	242
No. of live illegitimate births	6	7	...	...	13
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	12.9
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	...	1.09
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	14.1
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.2
	M.	F.			
No. of legitimate stillbirths	5	4	...	...	9
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	1	...	...	1
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	37.7
DEATHS	M.	F.			
Total number of deaths	128	157	...	...	285
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	14.4
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	...	0.71
Comparative death rate	...	...	...	...	10.2
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.3
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.	6	3	9
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	—	—	...	...	—
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	35.3
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	37.2
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	49

## CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3 (1)	— (1)
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Syphilitic disease ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Diphtheria ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	— (—)	— (1)
Measles ... ..	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— (—)	— (—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4 (—)	5 (5)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1 (5)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (—)	3 (6)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	3 (6)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	19 (11)	13 (14)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	— (3)	— (1)
Diabetes ... ..	— (—)	1 (—)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14 (19)	38 (29)
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	17 (19)	5 (14)
Hypertension with heart disease ...	5 (2)	8 (5)
Other heart disease ... ..	16 (21)	50 (36)
Other circulatory disease ...	7 (3)	5 (2)
Influenza ... ..	— (2)	— (4)
Pneumonia ... ..	10 (5)	2 (13)
Bronchitis ... ..	9 (9)	— (8)
Other diseases of respiratory system	3 (1)	— (—)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	4 (—)	— (—)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	— (—)	— (—)
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	2 (1)	4 (2)
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2 (7)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	— (1)
Congenital malformations ... ..	3 (1)	1 (—)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5 (4)	14 (15)
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1 (—)	— (—)
All other accidents ... ..	3 (3)	4 (2)
Suicide ... ..	— (1)	— (5)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)
ALL CAUSES ... ..	128 (118)	157 (171)

N.B.—Figures for 1953 are entered in brackets.



### Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	14	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (In- fective) ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	213	3	—
Whooping Cough ...	52	—	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	5	—	1
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ...	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	285	3	1



# Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	—	—	—	—	—	23	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	8	—	—	—	1	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	14	—	—	—	5	1	52	213	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	None
(b)	Number of single cases	...	...	...	None
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	None

### Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools

Mumps	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	11
German Measles	...	...	...	...	5
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	—
Influenza and Influenzal Colds					205
					<hr/> 222 <hr/>

### Diphtheria Prophylaxis

	Age under 5 years	5—15 years
Estimated percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31/12/54	53·2	62·3

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).



### Tuberculosis, 1954

AGE PERIODS		Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 „ „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „	10	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „	15	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „	25	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „	35	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ „	45	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 „ „	55	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ „	65	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 „ „	75	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
75 and over		1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total	...†	28	18	8	—	2	*4	4	—	—	—

†Included in this total are nine transfers from the mainland, two posthumous notifications and one old case who returned to the Island.

\*This total includes one case who died from another disease.

### Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1954	...	...	78
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...	...	1
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	7

## Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the  
Year 1954, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the  
Isle of Wight.

## Part I of the Act

1.—**Inspections** for the 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	17	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	106	40	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	123	48	—	—



## 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	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	2	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	4	3	—	2	—

## **SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and, as in the past four years, with the approval of your Medical Officer of Health, it is set out separately.

No major changes in the layout of the Report have been made. Where figures appear in brackets they are those of last year and are given for comparison purposes.

There have been no changes in the Department's staff, and, except for a period of seven weeks at the height of the summer season, when I was off duty following an operation, during which time Mr. Jordan carried on alone, nothing has interfered with a year of uneventful public health work.

The Report is set out in four sections, as follows :—

### **Section I—Sanitary Circumstances**

#### **Complaints**

400 (389) complaints were received during the year, and this figure is slightly higher than the average yearly number received.

#### **Water Supply**

Water is now supplied throughout the Borough by the I.W. Water Board, and supplies have been maintained at a satisfactory level. The Knighton works, which, until the Board's formation, in 1951, supplied the Borough with its water, have continued to be the principal supplier, and they have been augmented by supplies from the Sandown Undertaking when necessary.

32 routine bacteriological samples were taken within the Borough, from taps at food premises, dairies, schools, public drinking fountains and private houses. 5 samples were not entirely satisfactory, but subsequent check samples proved to be pure, and the small amount of original pollution was undoubtedly in the taps. 2 samples were taken at a local mineral waters factory, and subjected to chemical analysis, and these produced satisfactory reports.



Again during the summer the mains supply to the farms and cottages in Rowlands Lane frequently failed when their separate small storage reservoir could not meet the demand. Samples were taken from three disused wells in the vicinity, and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination with a view to temporarily augmenting the supply, but none were found to be fit for human use. Negotiations continue with the estate owners to get the reservoir capacity increased.

### **Drainage**

No changes of note have taken place in the Borough's drainage system within the past year. I can only stress again my remarks made in the 1953 Report, concerning the load strain on the existing sewerage system, which is being continuously added to by the increasing tempo in building of Council and private houses in the past year, during which 97 new houses have been built, the majority of which are connected to a public sewer. There is no reason to expect any slowing up in building in the near future, and therefore the strain on the sewers, the majority of which were laid before 1900, goes on increasing.

The small sewage plant at Havenstreet works satisfactorily and deals adequately with the village sewage, but the obsolete works at St. Helens still crudely treats the considerable amount of sewage from the large village community. Plans for a new works were first put in hand in 1951, and Ministry approval has not yet been received to proceed with the scheme, although it is anticipated that the new works will be in course of construction during next year.

The fact that no sewers have been laid or extended does mean that some of the new houses where no sewer is available have had to have septic tanks or cesspool drainage installed, and this practice becomes more frequent as the limited building plots adjoining a sewer are absorbed, and I again stress the undesirability of this form of drainage disposal in the clay subsoil generally found in the Borough. The Council operates a modern mechanical cesspool emptier, which is also used to cleanse and flush the street gullies throughout the district.

### **Infectious Disease**

During this year only two (six) premises have received terminal fumigation following infectious disease.



The Council's steam disinfecter is maintained in good working order, to be available for disinfection of articles if required.

### **Caravans and Camping**

Eight caravans were again issued with licences for the year, and only two of these have been continuously occupied throughout the period, the remainder being used as summer dwellings.

No changes have taken place regarding camping sites, six privately-owned ones being operated.

One camping-site has now incorporated permanent luxury chalets, hard standings for caravans, slipper baths, and a fully-equipped shop.

Liaison with the County Planning Officer on all matters affecting caravans and camping sites has been maintained.

Because of the continuous poor weather, especially during July and August, little or no camping under canvas took place.

### **Swimming Pools**

Both the holiday camps at Puckpool are equipped with open-air swimming pools, having filtration and chlorination plants, which are supervised and operated by trained personnel. One pool, in addition to being used by the campers, was used by the Education Authorities for parties of children from the local schools. Because of the poor summer neither pool was in much demand.

### **Vermin**

(a) 37 (44) premises were treated to destroy vermin. There were two cases of bug infestation, and the remaining treatments were carried out in respect of flies, fleas, cockroaches and ants.

(b) 143 complaints of rats and mice infestation were received by the Department during the 12 months ended 31st March, 1955, and these were passed to and dealt with by the County Rodent Officer, who operates under the control of the I.W. (Rodent Destruction) Joint Committee, comprising representatives and sanitary inspectors of each constituent local authority. Visits were made to 28 Council properties, 871 dwellinghouses, 19 agricultural premises and 245 business



and industrial premises, which resulted in the discovery of 3 major and 152 minor rat infestations. 113 premises with mice infestations were also dealt with. "Block" control of the Council's sewers was carried out by systematic inspection.

### **Shops Act, 1950**

The Department's register for 1954 records 441 (454) shops in the Borough, the greater proportion of which are small establishments. 227 (295) inspections were made.

### **Factories Act, 1937**

There were 123 (131) premises on the register on the 31st December, comprising 106 power factories and 17 non-power factories. Since the area is non-industrial, the premises are mainly in the nature of small businesses. 48 inspections were made, and 4 contraventions were found, three of which were remedied by informal notice before the end of the year.

### **Summary of Inspections and Visits**

Complaints ... ..	138
Public Health Act ... ..	120
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public	
Health Act ... ..	77
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	211
Work in Progress ... ..	169
Insanitary Houses and Rooms ... ..	19
Verminous Premises or Rooms ... ..	90
National Assistance Act ... ..	5
Infectious Diseases ... ..	5
Drainage Inspections and Tests ... ..	257
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc. ... ..	13
Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats	45
Stables, Piggeries, Poultry, etc. ... ..	26
Factories, with Power ... ..	40
Factories, without Power ... ..	8
Workplaces ... ..	1
Shops Act ... ..	227
Foreshores, Streams, etc. ... ..	28
Vacant Land and Dumps ... ..	39
Common Yards and Passages ... ..	5
Swimming Pools ... ..	4
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	1
Rodent Infestations ... ..	2
Dangerous Structures ... ..	23
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	113



**Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied**

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	28
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	...	44
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	...	1
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	18
Disposal Plants Installed	...	...	...	1
Septic Tanks, etc., Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	9
W.C.'s Cleansed	...	...	...	2
Offensive, etc., Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	9
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	4
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	...	...	...	2
Contraventions Remedied in Factories and Work-places	...	...	...	3
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	...	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	1
Dangerous Structures Made Safe or Demolished	...	...	...	9

**Section II—Housing**

If one is to judge by the Housing Manager's list of applicants for Council houses, which has actually increased to stand at 358 (354) at the end of the year, the situation has worsened, despite a year of steady building, both by the Council and private enterprise, plus a steady flow of applications for S.D.A.A. loans to purchase vacant properties.

The Corporation constructed 31 (55) houses during 1954, bringing their total of post-war houses built to 311, and an overall grand total of 530. In addition 66 (39) privately-owned houses were constructed.

From the subsequent figures, it will be seen that every effort has been made to remedy defects in dwellinghouses, wherever found. Owners and agents have continued to respond to the requests for repairs in a most heartening manner, so avoiding recourse to formal notices, except in seven instances. During this year no Court actions have ensued.

One dwellinghouse was represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, for demolition, the owner of which subsequently gave an undertaking not to re-let for human habitation.

Formal action was taken under Section 12 of the same Act to close one basement flat.



**Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year**

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	247
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	555
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	20
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2

**Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.**

Complaints ... ..	118
Public Health Act ... ..	139
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act ... ..	247
Housing Acts ... ..	108
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Housing Acts ... ..	61
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	238
Water Samples ... ..	40
Overcrowding ... ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	42

**Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied**

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired ... ..	1
Ceilings Repaired, Renewed or Provided ...	21
Dampness Abated ... ..	61
Doors Repaired or Renewed ... ..	18
Roofs Repaired or Renewed ... ..	38
Eaves Gutters Repaired or Renewed ... ..	12
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed ... ..	3
Cooking Facilities Provided ... ..	1
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed ... ..	11
Means of Heating Provided ... ..	1
Floors Repaired or Renewed ... ..	19
Sinks Provided ... ..	2



Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	5
New Bathroom Provided	...	...	8
Baths Provided	...	...	3
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	2
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	17
Sashcords Provided or Renewed	...	...	11
Walls (Internal) Repaired	...	...	27
Walls (External) Re-pointed or Repaired	...	...	11
New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	6
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	15
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	14
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	10
Water Supplied or Services Repaired	...	...	6
Ventilation Provided	...	...	5
New Dustbins Provided	...	...	3

### Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food

At the end of the year there were 291 (294) food premises (excluding licensed premises) operating in the Borough. A good standard of hygiene has been maintained throughout, and improvements, mainly of a minor nature, have continued. Complaints from customers using these premises have been very limited, and none was of a serious nature.

No reports of cases of food poisoning were received during the year.

#### Meat Inspection, etc.

None of the privately-owned pre-war slaughterhouses has been re-opened following de-control of meat supplies, and indeed none was considered suitable for the purpose according to present-day standards, had application been made. Local butchers have found themselves able to obtain adequate and excellent quality home-killed meat either from the modernised privately-operated slaughterhouses in the Newport Borough, the bacon factory at Wroxall, or from similar establishments on the mainland. Routine inspections and condemnations of meat have been made when necessary, these being generally confined to imported meat.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit :—

Meat (Home Killed)	...	...	85 lb.
Meat (Imported)	...	...	12 cwt. 68 lb.
Poultry	...	...	24 lb.



**Condemned Foods etc.**

The quantities of tinned and packed foods condemned during the year have again shown a satisfactory decrease, which is undoubtedly due to higher quality of foods used for canning, improved canning methods, and discretion by shop-keepers in confining purchases to reputable manufacturers. The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and condemned :—

Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	65 lb.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	283 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	4 lb.
Frozen Whole Egg	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, etc.					
1,061 (1,691) tins and jars					

**Food Analysis**

25 samples of food were purchased by the County Council Sampling Officers, and submitted for analysis, as follows :—

<i>Samples</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Steak and Kidney Pies	4	1	Contained no Kidney
Marmalade	1		
Marmalade (Home Made)	1	1	4% Deficient in Soluble solids
Processed Peas	1		
Salad Cream	1		
Strawberry Jam	1		
Currants	1		
Luncheon Meat	2		
Cough Elixir	1		
Ice-Cream	6		
Margarine	1		
Butter	1		
Marzipan	1		
Lard	1		
Milk	1		
Vinegar	1		
	25	2	

### Milk Supplies

The number of distributors registered is 11, which remains unchanged.

One dairyman has installed a small pasteurizing (Holder) plant, and the necessary licence has been granted by the County Council. Inspections and reports of this plant are carried out on behalf of the licensing authority.

No complaints of a serious nature concerning the Borough's milk supplies have occurred during the year under review.

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year :—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	...	...	11
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	...	...	9
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	10
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	...	...	8

### Ice-Cream

Ice-Cream registrations for storage and sale now stand at 126 (130). The two factories previously registered for ice-cream manufacture have continued to be very well operated.

During the year two informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and both were Grade I standard.

All shops selling mixed goods and the majority of the remainder registered for the sale of ice-cream sell only a pre-packed article.

### Bakehouses

At the end of the year 16 (19) bakehouses were in operation in the Borough. One of the three no longer used was the last faggot-fired bakehouse oven to operate in the district. None is an underground bakehouse. Regular routine inspections were made, and no special action was called for.

### Licensed Premises.

The number of Licensed premises remained unchanged at 64. 28 inspections were made, and hygiene standards have been further raised, special attention having been given to



cellars used for beer storage. Several out-of-date houses have been modernised, and all premises have sinks with hot and cold water and satisfactory sanitary accommodation and drainage.

### Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints ... ..	8
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	122
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Food & Drugs Act ... ..	32
Butchers' Shops ... ..	59
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	6
Greengrocers ... ..	3
Grocers and Other Shops ... ..	55
Bakehouses ... ..	32
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	13
Dairies ... ..	17
Dairy Farms ... ..	2
Ice-Cream Premises ... ..	40
Restaurants and Kitchens ... ..	82
Food Factories ... ..	8
Licensed Premises ... ..	28
Hotels ... ..	16
Food Enforcement ... ..	75
Infestations ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	32

### Contraventions Remedied in :—

Food Premises ... ..	27
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### Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II and III)

Public Health Act (Informal) ... ..	143
Public Health Act (Formal) ... ..	7
Housing Act (Informal) ... ..	2
Housing Act (Formal) ... ..	1
Factories Act (Mechanical Power) ... ..	3
Factories Act (Non-Power) ... ..	1
Shops Act ... ..	1
Food & Drugs Act ... ..	47

### **Section IV—Miscellaneous**

In addition to the duties carried out in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935-51, the sanitary inspectors administer the following duties :—

#### **Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928**

During the licensing year 1954-55, commencing 1st May, 37 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, and the total amount for which these licences were issued was 35,600 gallons. 3 licences to store 180 gallons of petroleum mixtures were also issued. £25 5s. 0d. in fees was paid to the local authority for the necessary licences. 59 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with. There were no new installations. At one garage an old storage tank developed a serious leak, and it was necessary to institute immediately safety precautions, following which the tank was sealed off and taken out of commission.

#### **Shops Act—Closing Hours**

The Department is responsible for the compliance with " hours of closing " by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act and several operative Closing Orders made by the Council.

#### **Hackney Carriages and Drivers**

45 hackney carriages were licensed during the licensing year 1954/55, commencing 1st May. The Council's Byelaws made in respect of such vehicles are administered by the Health Department, and resulted in 93 inspections and visits being made.

The drivers of these vehicles are also subject to similar control, and 48 were issued with hackney carriage drivers' licences during the licensing year.

#### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

Three premises have been licensed as pet shops, and these have been operated in accordance with their conditions of licence.



**Lectures, Talks, etc.**

At the request of the Hospital Authorities, lectures and demonstrations on public health work have again been given throughout the year to trainee nurses preparing for their S.R.N. examinations. Several talks have also been given on public health work to local organisations.

May I again take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence, the Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officers for their advice and help, and Mr. Jordan and Miss Boyce for their continued close support in the many and varied duties of the Department.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. DUNMORE,  
*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*









