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SEP 56



**BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**


OF THE

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR 1955.**

---

**P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.**



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Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

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P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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Tunbridge Wells:  
C. BALDWIN, LTD. NEWTON ROAD  
2095/56



# BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE :

(Constitution at 31st December, 1955).

THE MAYOR, (Mr. Councillor S. H. MUFFETT, J.P.)

Mr. Councillor K. J. G. MORRISON (*Chairman*).

Mr. Councillor E. GABBÉ.

Mr. Councillor D. SAVAGE.

Mr. Councillor A. T. GOULDEN.

Mr. Councillor J. T. SPARE.

Councillor Mrs. E. M.

Mr. Councillor R. G. G. WOODLAND.

GREENFIELD, B.A.

---

## STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health ; Principal Medical Officer to Kent County Council  
(Area No. 4) ; Visiting Medical Officer Infectious Diseases Hospital :

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O., D.P.H

## Senior Sanitary Inspector :

T. S. ELLIS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

## Sanitary Inspectors :

T. ELLISON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

W. P. S. RAE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

R. WELCH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Meat and Food Cert.

## Health Visitors :

\*Miss M. BRERETON.

\*Miss M. MACLAREN (Retired 13.8.55).

\*Miss D. LAZELL

\*Miss P. TURNER.

\* Miss W. M. WEST.

## Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital :

† Miss B. L. DE MAUGER, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.

**CLERICAL STAFF :****Chief Clerk :**

Mrs. D. E. TEBBIT.

**Second Clerk :**

Miss G. M. MOORE.

**Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :**

D. A. BARMBY.

**Rodent Operator :**

E. J. SMITHERMAN.

**Public Analyst :**

H. E. MONK, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.Inst.S.P.A., A.M.Inst.W.E.

**Deputy Public Analyst:**

R. C. SPALDING, M.A., F.R.I.C.

\* County Staff employed locally

† Under Control of Regional Hospital Board

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# BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

MR. MAYOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1955.

The population at mid-year 1955 as estimated by the Registrar General was 38,780. This figure has shown very little variation during recent years.

The vital statistics show that the number of births in the Borough has again slightly decreased, the number of births registered being 460 (243 males and 217 females). The number of births per 1,000 of the population was 11.9 compared with 12.6 for 1954. The corrected birth rate was 13.1 compared with the birth rate of England and Wales which was 15.0.

The number of deaths recorded was 586 (237 males and 349 females) as against 587 in 1954. The number of deaths per 1,000 population was 15.1. The Standardised rate was 9.5 compared with the death rate for England and Wales, which was 11.7.

Deaths from lung cancer numbered 12. The following figures show the deaths from this disease during the last six years :—

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
1950	...	...	4	2	2
1951	...	...	14	12	2
1952	...	...	15	10	5
1953	...	...	14	13	1
1954	...	...	20	19	1
1955	...	...	12	11	1

The predominance of lung cancer in males has been maintained.

Deaths of infants under one year numbered 10, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 21.7 per 1,000 live births compared with a rate of 24.9 for England and Wales.

During the year 760 cases of Infectious Disease were notified. The number of Measles notified was 645. The maximum incidence of the disease occurred during the months of May and June. All cases were of a mild type and no deaths were recorded.

Nineteen cases of Whooping Cough were notified. There were no deaths.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified was 43, of which 10 were admitted to hospital. This disease continues to be of a very mild type.

Six cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) were notified, three of which were paralytic and three non-paralytic.

I am again pleased to report that no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. This is the sixth year that no cases have occurred in the Borough—a very satisfactory position. The Table on page 18 of the Report shows that only 306 children received primary inoculations and 147 booster inoculations. These figures compare very unfavourably with the figures of the previous year which were 516 and 539 respectively and this reduction must cause some concern. I would like to stress that if this trend is not checked the abovementioned satisfactory position will no longer be maintained and diphtheria will inevitably return. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the figures supplied in these tables.

The number of persons vaccinated against smallpox during 1955 was 298 and re-vaccinated 58. These vaccinations were carried out on the same days as the immunisation sessions and the figures in the Table on page 18 also furnished by the County Medical Officer give details of those vaccinated in various age groups.

During the Autumn the Mid-Kent Mass Radiography Unit visited the town and during the period 12th to 29th September, 1955, the number of persons X-rayed was 8,266 (3,337 males and 4,929 females). The Survey was not confined to residents within the Borough. Fourteen cases of active tuberculosis were diagnosed. It is rather disappointing that many more people do not avail themselves of this very valuable preventive service. Many of these Units are functioning throughout the country and the Surveys carried out by them during recent years are already showing their value in that many cases are diagnosed in the early stages before they become infective and many cases already infective receive prompt admission to hospital. As a result a gradual reduction in the number of cases can reasonably be expected.

The laboratory at County Hall, Maidstone, now administered by the Public Health Laboratory Service under the direction of the Medical Research Council, and the laboratory

at the Kent & Sussex Hospital deal with the majority of bacteriological investigations for the Borough.

A summary of the services provided by the Kent County Council and the Regional Hospital Board under the National Health Service Act, 1946, is given at the end of the Report.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Ellis, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his comments on and the preparation of, the statistics shown in pages 22 to 35 of this Report.

I should like to thank the Members of the Council and especially the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest in the working of the Department. My thanks are also due to the Chief Officers for their co-operation and to my staff for their loyal assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. CROWLEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## 1 (a)—Summary of Statistics.

## 1 (a)—(i) GENERAL.

Area : 6,034 acres.

Population : 37,780 (R.G.'s Estimate 1955). 38,397 (R.G.'s Census figure 1951).

Density of population, *i.e.* number of persons per acre : 6.4.

Number of inhabited houses : 12,008.

Rateable value, 1955 : £520,786.

Sum produced by a penny rate : £2,036.

Mean Annual Temperature : 48.3° F.

Hours of Bright Sunshine, 1955 : 1,680.2 hours.

Total Rainfall, 1955 : 32.56 inches.

## 1 (a)—(ii) BIRTHS.

<i>Live Births (Registered):</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate ...	438	235	203
Illegitimate ...	22	8	14
	<hr/> 460 <hr/>		

Corrected Birth Rate : 13.1.

Live Birthrate per 1,000 population : 11.9.

Corresponding rate for 1954 : 12.6.

Live Birthrate for England and Wales : 15.0.

1 (a)—(iii) <i>Stillbirths:</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate ...	7	3	4
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
	<hr/> 7 <hr/>		

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births : 15.2.

Rate per 1,000 population : 0.18.

Stillbirth Rate for England and Wales : 23.1.

## 1 (a)—(iv) DEATHS.

Males : 237. Females : 349. Total : 586.

Standardised Death Rate : 9.5.

Crude death rate per thousand of population : 15.1.

Corresponding rate for 1954 : 15.1.

Death rate for England and Wales : 11.7.

1 (a)—(v) Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal mortality per 1,000 total registered births	...	...	...	...	0.23

## 1 (a)—(vi) INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	10	5	5
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Causes of death :					
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	4
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births : 21.7.

Rate for England and Wales : 24.9.

1 (a)—(vii) Total number of deaths from :—

				1954	1955
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	100	93

1. Table showing Summary of Causes of Death during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

No.	Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..	3	2	5
2.	Tuberculosis, Other ... ..	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease ... ..	2	—	2
4.	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8.	Measles ... ..	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach ... ..	3	6	9
11.	Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	11	1	12
12.	Malignant Neoplasm Breast ... ..	—	10	10
13.	Malignant Neoplasm Uterus ... ..	—	8	8
14.	Other Malignant Lymphatic Neoplasms	21	33	54
15.	Leukæmia Aleukæmia ... ..	2	3	5
16.	Diabetes ... ..	1	3	4
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	28	66	94
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	55	42	97
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	4	7	11
20.	Other Heart Disease ... ..	39	56	95
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	9	24	33
22.	Influenza ... ..	—	4	4
23.	Pneumonia ... ..	10	13	23
24.	Bronchitis ... ..	10	9	19
25.	Other Diseases of respiratory system ...	6	4	10
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	5	6	11
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	1	3	4
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	4	3	7
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	4	—	4
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	—	1	1
31.	Congenital Malformations ... ..	—	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	12	28	40
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	1	3
34.	All other accidents ... ..	4	14	18
35.	Suicide ... ..	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and Operation of War ... ..	—	—	—
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES ... ..	237	349	586

2. TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEATHS AT SEVERAL AGES FOR CONSECUTIVE PERIODS OF FIVE YEARS.

	1901 to 1905	1906 to 1910	1911 to 1915	1916 to 1920	1921 to 1925	1926 to 1930	1931 to 1935	1936 to 1940	1941 to 1945	1946 to 1950	1951 to 1955
Deaths at under 1 year	57	46	40	36	23	22	18	17	21	22	10
" 1 and under 2 }	29	23	16	6	3	5	3	4	3	1	1
" 2 " " 5 }				9	5	5	4	3	3	1	2
" 5 " " 15 }	11	10	16	15	6	7	5	4	5	3	2
" 15 " " 25 }	13	14	12	21	10	10	7	7	4	3	3
" 25 " " 45 }	141	141	145	47	36	37	30	30	25	20	15
" 45 " " 65 }				107	104	118	119	115	107	101	93
" 65 and upwards	178	205	234	245	276	307	342	368	420	470	473

3. TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Five-yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis		Infectious Diseases.	Violence.	Influenza.
		Pul- monary.	Non-Pul- monary.			
1901-1905	226	167	61	104	45	67
1906-1910	251	154	48	90	35	87
1911-1915	260	133	46	110	49	60
1916-1920	310	150	62	59	50	178
1921-1925	328	111	32	27	65	64
1926-1930	384	106	21	30	59	91
1931-1935	383	65	20	15	57	52
1936-1940	417	60	14	21	81	55
1941-1945	502	66	16	13	65	61
1946-1950	496	44	9	9	52	25
1951-1955	500	18	2	7	116	40

Table 4. Ages, etc., of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES (all ages).	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	3-4 years.	5-9 years.	10-14 years.	15-24 years.	25 and over.	Age not given.	Cases ad- mitted to hospital.	Deaths (Inhabi- tants only).
Scarlet Fever ...	43	—	3	9	26	3	2	—	—	10	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	14	—	—	—	1	—	—	13	—	—	23
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever (includ- ing Meningococcal Menin- gitis) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	19	—	7	3	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	645	11	122	121	357	19	7	8	—	4	—
Acute Encephalitis :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—
Non-Paralytic ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid (Para B) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary ...	21	—	—	—	1	2	3	15	—	—	5
Central Nervous System...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	760	11	133	133	392	27	17	47	—	21	28

Table 5. Seasonal Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	9	6	3	1	6	1	3	—	—	6	6	2	43
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	2	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	14
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	7
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	2	4	4	3	—	2	2	—	—	—	19
Measles ...	—	7	50	24	248	264	38	14	—	—	—	—	645
Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis :													
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	3
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :													
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary ...	2	2	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	6	4	2	21
Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	13	19	57	35	261	270	44	20	4	19	12	6	760

Table 6. Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 ...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ...	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65 ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	7	1	1	2	1	—	—

Table 7. Tuberculosis Register.

	1st Quarter.			2nd Quarter.			3rd Quarter.			4th Quarter.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>												
Number of cases on register	145	136	281	146	136	282	149	136	285	151	134	285
New notifications ...	3	1	4	2	—	2	2	1	3	7	5	12
Cases removed and subsequently restored ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to register (inward transfers) ...	2	—	2	5	—	5	4	—	4	2	1	3
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	4	1	5	4	—	4	4	3	7	3	2	5
Cases remaining on register	146	136	282	149	136	285	151	134	285	157	138	295
<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>												
Number of cases on register	31	37	68	31	38	69	31	39	70	31	39	70
New notifications ...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed and subsequently restored ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to Register (inward transfers) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases remaining on register	31	38	69	31	39	70	31	39	70	31	39	70

Table 8. Tuberculosis—Summary of Cases.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	Total.
	Male.		Female.		
Cases on Register at beginning of year...	145	31	136	37	349
Cases added ...	27	1	8	3	39
Cases removed	15	1	6	1	23
Cases Remaining ...	157	31	138	39	365

**Table 9. Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis during the past 25 years.**

Year.	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY		Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.		Total.
	No. of cases notified.	Deaths.	No. of cases notified.	Deaths.		Pul-mon-ary.	Non-Pul-monary.	
1955	21	3	2	—	3	0.08	0.00	0.08
1954	8	2	6	—	2	0.05	0.00	0.05
1953	17	3	2	1	5	0.10	0.03	0.13
1952	24	5	8	1	6	0.13	0.03	0.16
1951	17	5	7	1	6	0.13	0.03	0.16
1950	18	9	4	—	9	0.23	0.00	0.23
1949	27	7	4	—	7	0.18	0.00	0.18
1948	30	9	5	—	9	0.23	0.00	0.23
1947	37	10	3	3	13	0.26	0.08	0.34
1946	27	7	3	1	8	0.19	0.03	0.22
1945	22	16	11	1	17	0.45	0.03	0.48
1944	25	11	5	3	14	0.31	0.08	0.39
1943	17	10	7	2	12	0.27	0.06	0.33
1942	25	13	12	5	18	0.35	0.13	0.48
1941	35	12	11	2	14	0.32	0.05	0.37
1940	22	14	6	—	14	0.37	0.00	0.37
1939	23	10	10	3	13	0.28	0.08	0.36
1938	20	11	8	3	14	0.30	0.08	0.38
1937	13	12	8	4	16	0.33	0.11	0.44
1936	13	14	12	3	17	0.39	0.08	0.47
1935	23	12	8	5	17	0.34	0.14	0.48
1934	21	12	13	4	16	0.34	0.11	0.45
1933	27	14	14	4	18	0.41	0.12	0.53
1932	32	12	14	3	15	0.34	0.09	0.43
1931	27	16	7	3	19	0.46	0.09	0.55

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1941).

Year of Birth.	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1951-1955	9	14	15	23	67	256	408	362	304	377	372	336	341	253	17	3154
1950 or earlier	249	195	197	196	196	38	26	65	212	10	—	—	—	—	—	1384

Number of children who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1955:—

Year of Birth.	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total
Primary Inoculations ...	17	227	26	7	11	9	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	306
Re-inforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	9	90	30	3	3	7	3	2	—	—	—	147

### Vaccinations.

Number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Before 1941	Total
Primary Vaccination	162	120	4	3	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	298
Re-Vaccination	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	6	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	37	58

**NURSING HOMES.**

	Number of Homes	Number of Beds provided for :		
		Maternity	Others	Total
(a) Homes first registered during year ... ..	1	—	4	4
(b) Homes on the register at the end of the year	16	2	209	211
Number of visits of inspection made during year ...	—	—	—	26

**LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH provided by the Kent County Council.**

**Ambulance Facilities.**

As in previous years, since the inception of the National Health Act, 1946, the Kent County Council Ambulance Service served the needs of the town from their station in Monson Road.

**Domestic Help Service.**

This service is also operated by the Kent County Council. The Area Organiser's office is at 41, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

**Nursing in the Home.**

Nursing in the Home is undertaken by Home Nurses employed by the Kent County Council. District Midwives also employed by the County Council undertake the majority of the domiciliary midwifery cases in the Borough.

**Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The following table gives details of the various treatment centres and clinics operated by the Kent County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.	SESSIONS.	
	Days.	Times.
Child Welfare Centres:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Tuesday and Thursday	2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Congregational Church Hall, Rusthall.	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
St. Luke's Church Hall, 36, Silverdale Road.	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	1st, 3rd and 5th Friday	2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Mothercraft & Relaxation Classes:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	2nd and 4th Friday	2.30—3.30 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation & Vaccination Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday	2 p.m.—3 p.m.
School Health Service:— Minor Ailment Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday, Wednesday and Saturday	9 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday	9 a.m.
Orthopædic Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday	9 a.m.
Speech Therapy Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Thursday	9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Daily	9.30 a.m.

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Clinics.	Days.	Times.
Chest Clinic :— Out-Patient Department, Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.	Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (for children only). 10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Clinic for treatment of Venereal Diseases :— Kent and Sussex Hospital Tunbridge Wells	Wednesday (Females)	2.0 to 4.0 p.m.
	Wednesday (Males)	4.0 to 6.0 p.m.

The following are hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Regional Hospital Board which provide services for the town :

Pembury Hospital, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells.

The Homœopathic Hospital, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

The Kent & Sussex Hospital, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells.

Tunbridge Wells & District Maternity Home, Calverley Park Gardens.

Tunbridge Wells & District Isolation Hospital, Benhall Mill Road.

### Scabies.

A Cleansing Station is provided at the Central Clinic. There were no cases of scabies during the year under review.

### National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended).

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

### Public Health Bacteriology.

Since October 1st, 1955, the laboratory at County Hall, Maidstone, has been taken over by the Public Health Laboratory Service, which is directed by the Medical Research Council. This laboratory together with the one at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, deal with the investigations for the Borough. During the year 31 specimens were sent for examination.

### Staff Medical Examinations.

During the year the following medical examinations for superannuation purposes were carried out :—

Tunbridge Wells Borough	...	...	19
Kent County Council	...	...	39
Other Authorities	...	...	2

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### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1955.

#### Water Supply.

Regular samples were taken of the public water supply throughout the year. Following the storm in July, when  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rainfall was recorded in a few hours, samples from some of the surface water springs were found to be contaminated. The dosage of chlorination was increased to remove any element of risk and after the springs had again settled down no further trouble was experienced.

With a dry summer no restrictions were placed on the public supplies and the quality and quantity of the water was satisfactory throughout the year.

After careful preparation and sterilisation the new concrete water tower at Blackhurst came into use in the spring of the year. Satisfactory samples were obtained from the tower before it was brought into operation.

Thirteen houses in the rural parts of the Borough are still not on main supply.

#### Swimming Bath.

Twenty-eight samples were taken of the bath water during the year. All the samples were reported as satisfactory. These results show that the water was at all times in a satisfactory condition for bathing.

#### Sewage and Refuse Disposal

Now that there are two modern sewage disposal plants for the Borough there is little to comment upon. There has been

little alteration during the year to the approximate number of 200 houses not on main drainage. Cesspools are emptied eight times a year free of charge.

Nine houses in the Borough, draining in common with other premises in Uckfield Rural District area to an overflowing cesspool, were connected to a new small treatment plant operated by the rural authority.

A weekly collection of house refuse is still in operation. All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on land outside the Borough. Altogether 10,196 tons of refuse was collected coming from approximately 14,638 dustbins.

### **Milk and Ice Cream.**

A dairy licensed to pasteurise milk closed down during the year and there are only three dairies retailing milk from premises within the Borough. Two dairies are licensed to pasteurise milk.

One hundred and two samples of milk were taken as a check on the correct temperature of pasteurisation and for the keeping quality of the milk.

The whole of the milk sold in the Borough is either pasteurised or from Tuberculin Tested cows.

Twenty-five samples were taken of ice cream for bacteriological examination. The sampling rate of ice cream has been reduced as the greater proportion is pre-packed and many traders retail the products of the same manufacturer. As long as ice cream is kept at the correct temperature little or no trouble is experienced.

### **Clean Food.**

One thousand, five hundred and eighteen visits were made to all types of food premises during the year. A café proprietor was prosecuted for failing to keep the café kitchen in a hygienic condition. A fine of £2 on each of two charges was imposed.

### **Rodent Control.**

Rodent control during the year has not presented any great problems. The methodical treatments over the past few years are now showing results and large infestations are not found. Most cases treated are of single colonies of rats under garden sheds.

The improvement has coincided with the use of Warfarin as a poison bait, and since the use of this poison the Rodent Operator has to make very few return visits.

Quarterly treatments of the old sewers in the town are being maintained and all sewers are tested for infestation once during the year.

### **Housing.**

The survey of houses of a rateable value of £12 and under commenced in the autumn of 1954 was completed early in 1955. The survey supplied useful information for the formulation of the Council's slum clearance programme.

The survey of 1,768 houses revealed the following interesting figures. Every house had a water closet. Nine per cent. of the houses had bathrooms or fixed baths in sculleries; 15 per cent. of the houses had constant hot water; 17 per cent. of the houses had a properly ventilated food store. Forty per cent. of the houses were tenanted by single persons or families of two units and 14 per cent. of the houses were owner-occupied.

The Council decided 260 houses were unfit for human habitation and that steps should be taken for their demolition during the next five years.

The figure of 260 unfit houses was reported to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government well in advance of the final day, the 1st September, 1955, and the Minister approved it without any alteration.

I must again refer to the high cost of building repairs to cottage property. Unless building costs are stabilised and owners of cottage property are placed in a position to carry out thorough repairs to letting properties, the houses will deteriorate rapidly with each succeeding year.

This means that many of the houses surveyed and not placed in the clearance programme will require clearance action at the completion of the first five years' programme, unless their further decay can be arrested.

In March a clearance area of 22 houses in Hervey Town was declared and later in the year the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order of the area.

During the year 11 families were rehoused from houses in the programme and 5 families from unfit basements subsequently closed for habitation.

Tunbridge Wells has a housing problem different from many other similar sized Boroughs. As a health resort quite a number of single elderly persons have settled in the town.

Many of them are living in single rooms of the large Victorian houses of which the town has a large number. The rooms they occupy in many instances are not supplied with separate water supply, sink, cooking and food storage accommodation and, in some instances, sufficient sanitary accommodation. Some attempts were made during the year to improve the living conditions of the occupiers of single rooms. Unfortunately, with existing legislation the progress of these improvements cannot be rapid or undue hardship may fall on the elderly people.

### **Meat and Food Inspection.**

Two slaughterhouses are in use in the Borough. The Holly Farm slaughterhouse taken over on lease by the Council and operated as a Public Slaughterhouse and one private slaughterhouse used by a butcher for his own retail business.

When the Ministry of Food returned slaughtering to the trade in July, 1954, they were operating some 477 slaughterhouses and there are now over 4,200 premises in use. The greater proportion of the 477 premises were old but they had been partially modernised and improved by the Ministry. Holly Farm falls into this category.

Trade at Holly Farm was very brisk for the first twelve months of operation from July, 1954, but towards the end of 1955 the trade began to drop due, to some extent, to the private slaughterhouses in the rural areas coming back into use. It was thought when regional slaughtering was brought into operation it had come to stay, but we are now back again to the unsatisfactory multiplicity of slaughtering arrangements prevailing in 1939.

I can only repeat the advantages of public controlled premises are : a proper system of meat inspection can be carried out ; the animals can be handled and slaughtered without cruelty ; its cleanliness and the prevention of nuisances are in the hands of the Council.

In July, 1955, the Government issued a report of a Committee reporting on the siting of new slaughterhouses. The proposals in the report were that Tunbridge Wells could be the slaughtering centre for a population of approximately 235,000. The districts involved are Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Ticehurst, Uckfield, East Grinstead, Southborough and Cranbrook. Whether the proposals become law or that the new proposed slaughterhouse can be made to pay is still to

be decided, but it is apparent that the present system of slaughtering is going to be in operation for many years to come.

During the year 1,130 cattle, 785 calves, 4,091 pigs and 1,706 sheep went through Holly Farm.

The tables later in the report give an analysis of the meat inspection carried out by the Department.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the support given by the Committee and yourself at all times.

T. S. ELLIS,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

The following table gives a general summary of the visits and work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1955 other than in respect of Food Premises :—

Visits to Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
„ „ Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
„ „ Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ Insects and Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
„ „ Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
„ „ Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ Rats and/or Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
„ „ Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	619
Interviews respecting properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	451
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Smoke test to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Water test to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Informal notices served <i>re</i> housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	504
Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	414
Formal notices served <i>re</i> houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
„ „ complied with by Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
„ „ „ „ Local Authority in default	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

#### TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN OF DRINKING WATER.

1. Corporation Supply.	Passed.	Failed.
(a) PEMBURY WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—		
Bacteriological Samples	6	0
Chemical Samples	1	0
(b) SAINTS' HILL WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—		
Bacteriological Samples	4	0
(c) TANGIER WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—		
Bacteriological Samples	4	1
TANGIER WATERWORKS (UNTREATED)—		
Bacteriological Samples	0	1
2. Pantiles Chalybeate Spring.		
Bacteriological Samples	5	1
3. Private Supplies (Untreated)—		
Bacteriological Samples	1	2

#### TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN OF SWIMMING BATH WATER.

Corporation Swimming Bath, Monson Road.	Passed.	Failed.
Bacteriological Samples	24	0
Chemical Samples	4	0

## HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		Number
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	1,212
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	2,600
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which) were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	752
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose ... ..	1,017
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	260
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	504
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	414
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—		
(a)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	14
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	14
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	2
(b)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	44
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	38
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0
(c)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 ... ..	14
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 ... ..	6
(d)	<i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	4
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	1
4. Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—		
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10 (1) ... ..	3

## Factories Act, 1937.

## 1. INSPECTIONS.

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 ... ..	67	18	1	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	205	52	1	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	7	8	1	0
TOTAL ... ..	279	78	3	0

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	0	1	0
Overcrowding ... (S.2)	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature ... (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors ... (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	0	0	0
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	10	10	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ... ..	12	12	0	1	0

**Outwork.**

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110. (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	4	—	—	—	—	—

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) **Number of food premises in the Borough** ... 364*Type of Business:*

Bakehouses and bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	30
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	31
Cafés and restaurants	...	...	...	...	41
Dairies	...	...	...	...	4
Fish shops and fish fryers	...	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	39
Grocers and mixed	...	...	...	...	105
Ice Cream Factory	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	61
Market (covered)	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Sweet and cake shops	...	...	...	...	22
Miscellaneous food premises	...	...	...	...	11

The nature of the business has been classified according to the principal trade as two or more trades are often carried on from the same premises.

Number of food premises registered under :

(i) *Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:*

(1) Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Manufacturers of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	...	...	...	35
(3) Manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	108

(ii) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:*

Dairies	...	...	...	...	4
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of Inspections of Food Premises :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	66
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	111
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	82
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	72
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	22
Restaurants and café kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	148
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	652
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	365

(b) **Milk Supply :—**

Licences in force at the end of the year :—

Pasteurisers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealers' Licences : Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	9
"    "    Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	4
"    "    Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	24
Supplementary Licences : Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	...	4
"    "    shops (not dairies) selling bottled milks	...	...	...	...	...	30
"    "    distributors from other districts selling milk in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Samples taken :	Taken. Unsatisfactory.					
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	58	1
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	...	...	...	...	44	2
For Biological Examination	...	...	...	...	2	0

(c) **Ice Cream:—**

Number of Manufacturers of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	4
Number of other premises registered for the sale or storage of ice cream	...	...	...	...	104
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	25
The 25 samples were graded as follows :	Grade 1	...	14		
	Grade 2	...	7		
	Grade 3	...	3		
	Grade 4	...	1		

(d) **Meat and other Foods:—**

(i) Details of food found to be unfit for human consumption in the two slaughterhouses in the Borough:

	T.	Weight.			T.	Tubercular Weight.		
		C.	Qts.	lbs.		C.	Qts.	lbs.
Beef	1	12	0	12	1	2	2	0
"    offals	2	3	2	21	1	0	2	18
Pork	...	12	0	20	...	3	1	17
"    offals	...	3	1	6	...	...	1	22
Veal	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
"    offals	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	3
Mutton	...	...	3	9	...	...	...	...
"    offals	...	...	3	11	...	...	...	...
Total weight	4	13	1	13				

(ii) Details of food found to be unfit for human consumption in Retail and Wholesale Food Premises:—

Item of Food	Weight.			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beverages	...	...	...	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Buttercream	...	...	1	0
Cake mixtures, etc.	...	1	0	7

<i>Item of Food.</i>						<i>Weight.</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
						<i>T.</i>	<i>C. Q.</i>	
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...		2	16
Eggs (frozen)	...	...	...	...	...		2	12
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
„ (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	14
„ (cured)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	14
Fondant	...	...	...	...	...		1	0
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	10
„ (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	25
„ (dried)	...	...	...	...	...		1	22
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...			11
Jam	...	...	...	...	...		1	4½
Lard and fats	...	...	...	...	...		1	12
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...			8½
Meat (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	15	1	15
Meat and offal (home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...		1	9½
„ „ „ (imported)	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	24¾
Meat and vegetables (canned)	...	...	...	...	...		2	16½
Milk (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	22½
Nuts	...	...	...	...	...		1	4
Pastes and spreads	...	...	...	...	...			21
Poultry and Game	...	...	...	...	...			23
Salt	...	...	...	...	...		2	24
Sausages and sausage meat	...	...	...	...	...		3	21
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...		3	8
„ (canned)	...	...	...	...	...		1	21½
Soups	...	...	...	...	...		1	20
Suet	...	...	...	...	...			16¾
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...		1	0
Sweets and chocolates	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	9¼
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	17
„ (canned)	...	...	...	...	...	8	0	8½
„ (dried)	...	...	...	...	...		2	17½
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...		2	24
TOTAL WEIGHT						3	13	1 27

TABLE OF CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND FOUND UNFIT IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed ... ..	1,023	293	843	2,080	4,818	—
Number inspected ... ..	1,023	293	843	2,080	4,818	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>						
Whole carcasses found unfit ... ..	1	—	1	2	3	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was found unfit ... ..	198	111	2	66	157	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ... ..	19.45%	37.88%	0.36%	3.27%	3.32%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>						
Whole carcasses found unfit ... ..	—	2	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was found unfit ... ..	49	40	2	—	23	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	4.79%	14.33%	0.24%	—	0.50%	—
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was found unfit ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally unfit ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

**WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS  
ACT, 1949.**

1. Surface Treatment.	Type of Property.			Total.
	Local Authority.	Private Dwellings.	Business Premises.	
Number of properties in- spected as a result of:—				
(a) Notification ... ..	10	235	47	292
(b) Survey under the Act	6	494	1	501
Number of complaints where infestation was not con- firmed ... ..	—	20	3	23
Number of properties which were found to be infested by:—				
(a) Rats (major) ...	1	10	3	14
" (minor) ...	12	169	14	195
(b) Mice (major) ...	—	1	—	1
" (minor) ...	—	60	26	86
Number of infested proper- ties treated by Rodent Operator ... ..	13	238	43	294
Total treatments carried out including retreatments ...	13	261	47	321

**2. Sewer Treatment.**

No. of manholes test-baited during the year	...	...	...	...	115
" " " poison-baited (1st quarter)	...	...	...	...	86
" " " " (2nd " )	...	...	...	...	73
" " " " (3rd " )	...	...	...	...	75
" " " " (4th " )	...	...	...	...	74

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

**Sampling.**

One hundred and nineteen samples were taken under the provisions of the above Act and the following table shows the various types of food examined. Only seven samples were not up to standard. The adulteration in five cases was not considered serious enough for official action.

The remaining two samples were of Pork Sausages purchased from the same butcher. Sample No. 42, an informal sample, was found to contain 215 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. This sample was followed by formal sample No. 50 and the Public Analyst reported the sample to be 10 per cent. deficient in meat and to contain 230 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. The Preservative in Food Regulations allow up to 450 parts per million of sulphur dioxide as long

as the addition of preservative is declared to the purchaser. In both cases the existence of sulphur dioxide was not declared.

The full facts were notified to the Health Committee and the Committee cautioned the Vendor.

**SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1955 UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

Nature of Sample.	Examined.			Adulterated.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Almonds (ground) ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Aspirin ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Beer ...	3	—	3	—	—	—
Butter ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Camphorated Oil ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cheese ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cornish Pasty ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream (double) ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream Ice ...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Glaze Cherries ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Glaubers Salts ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Glycerine ...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Glycerine, Honey and Lemon ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Herbs ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Honey ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iodine ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Jam ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Lard ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Juice ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Meat Pastes ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Milk ...	14	32	46	—	—	—
Milk (Channel Island) ...	2	7	9	—	2	2
Milk (Condensed) ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Mincemeat ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Mustard ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orange Squash ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper (ground white) ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper Flavoured Compound ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Prunes ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sauce ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Sausages (pork) ...	1	11	12	1	2	3
Tea ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Tomato Ketchup ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vinegar (Malt) ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whisky ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Yeast ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Zinc Ointment ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

## WEATHER INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Tunbridge Wells has a Municipal Meteorological Station which is an official Auxiliary Station of the Meteorological Office. Observations are taken daily at 9.0 a.m. G.M.T. and these readings are forwarded monthly to the Meteorological Office. Certain readings are also taken at 6.0 p.m. clock time and, being an inland health resort, a brief summary of observations is forwarded each evening by telegram or telephone. In addition to recording the readings of the various instruments and other data at set times note is taken of weather conditions and any phenomena throughout the day.

No change has taken place in the siting of the instruments which are as follows :—

Calverley Grounds :	Rain gauge ;
	Maximum thermometer ;
	Minimum                "
	Wet                     "
	Dry                    "
	Earth 1 ft.           "
	" 4 ft.         "
	Grass minimum thermometer.
Earls Court Hotel,	Sunshine Recorder.
Mount Ephraim.	
Town Hall :	Barometer ("Fortin " type).

Members of the Health Department act as Observers and the work was carried out on a rota system by Mr. T. Ellison, Mr. W. P. S. Rae and Mr. R. Welch.

### Sunshine.

Bright sunshine during the year amounted to 1680.2 hours and was 4 per cent. above the 41 year average of 1614.3 hours. Sunshine was recorded on only 11 days in January and the month was 38 per cent. below average ; June was 11 per cent. below and November 42 per cent., but the other nine months were above average. February and March were exceptionally sunny, being 28 per cent. and 20 per cent. above average respectively, whilst October also was a particularly sunny month.

July was the sunniest month of the year with 223.1 hours, although only 6 per cent. above average, whilst May and August also exceeded the 200 hour mark.

The sunniest day of the year was 5th June with 14.7 hours.

During the year there were 72 sunless days ranging from 20 in January to 1 in May and September ; the yearly average being 66.

### **Precipitation.**

32.56 inches of rain were recorded during the year, being 2.11 inches above the average of 30.45 for the past 75 years. Rainfall exceeded 4 inches in each of three months—May with 4.72 inches, July with 4.42 inches, whilst October with 4.80 inches was the wettest month of the year.

May was the wettest month this century and only 10 days passed without rain.

July was the wettest since 1918 when 4.57 inches was recorded. Torrential rain fell in an unusually severe storm which lasted from 19.45 hours G.M.T. on the 17th to 05.00 hours on the 18th, during which time 3.65 inches of rain was recorded. This rain was peculiarly localised in extent and severity, even within the borough boundary, but it caused extremely heavy flooding in the town. The 17th July was therefore the wettest day of the year and in fact was the second greatest fall in 24 hours on record, only being exceeded by 3.77 inches on the 23rd July, 1903. A fall of 0.67 inches had occurred on the 14th, but further rain fell on only 4 other days and none from the 19th to the end of the month.

Despite the high rainfall figure in October the raindays during the month numbered only 10. Heavy rain amounting to 1.66 inches falling over the period 18th to 20th, followed by a fall of 1.65 inches on the 21st accounted for most of this figure.

Apart from the fall of 3.65 inches on the 17th July and the 1.65 inches on the 21st October, the following falls exceeding 1.0 inch in 24 hours were recorded : 1.15 inches on January 13th ; 1.0 inch on May 26th ; and 1.57 inches on September 22nd in a storm which lasted from 19.00 G.M.T. on the 22nd until 04.00 G.M.T. on the 23rd.

Raindays during the year numbered 144 against an average of 171 days.

April last year with 0.46 inches was the driest since 1912 and the driest month this year was April once again with 0.24 inches—only 12 per cent. of average—and all measurable rain fell in the first 7 days. August, too, was exceptionally dry with only 7 days of measurable rain. Another abnormally dry month was November with 1.46 inches of rain against an average of 3.57 inches, and of this amount 1.34 inches fell in the first 9 days of the month.

Dry periods included 11 days from March 11th to 21st ; 23 days from April 8th to 30th ; 14 days from May 19th to June 1st ; whilst the 21 day period August 15th to September 4th was marred by a fall of 0.19 inches on the 27th August.

Snow or sleet fell on 28 days, 7 in January, 12 in February, 8 in March and 1 in May. At the 9.0 a.m. observation hour snow lay  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep on January 5th, 8 inches on January 14th, and 4 inches on the 21st February. Sleet was recorded on the 17th May when snow was recorded in and around London.

Hail was noted on 6 occasions only—4 in May and once in June and September.

Thunder was recorded on 16 days and these were confined between May and September.

### **Temperatures.**

The mean temperature throughout the year was again below the average of  $49.2^{\circ}\text{F.}$ , being  $48.3^{\circ}\text{F.}$  Mean temperatures were well below normal for the first quarter of the year and below for May, September and October, but the remaining months were above average. The mean daily range of temperature was  $15.4^{\circ}\text{F.}$ , the average being  $14.5^{\circ}\text{F.}$

Temperatures below ground at 1 foot level were below average, except for April, June to September and December and were consistently below at the 4 foot level except for the 3 month period July to September.

$86^{\circ}\text{F.}$  was the highest temperature of the year and this was achieved on the 22nd August whilst the lowest was  $15^{\circ}\text{F.}$  on the 20th February. The lowest grass temperature was  $19^{\circ}\text{F.}$  on 17th January.

The last air and ground frosts in the spring were on the 22nd May and the first in the autumn on the 16th October. There were 96 ground frosts and only the four months June to September were free.

The maximum temperature in May, reached on the 26th, 30th and 31st, was only  $65^{\circ}\text{F.}$  and was the lowest for over 40 years.

August 8th was the coldest August night since 1940 with a minimum temperature of only  $40^{\circ}\text{F.}$

The warmest nights of the year were July 15th and 18th and August 18th, when the temperature did not fall below  $62^{\circ}\text{F.}$

**Wind.**

The wind direction at 9.0 a.m. was North on 67 days, North-east on 66 days, East 26 days, South-east 15 days, South 42 days, South-west 70 days, West 41 days and North-west 37 days. Calm was recorded on the 22nd January.

Wind reached gale strength on 10 days, 1 in January on the evening of the 16th with rain and sleet, again on March 23rd and 24th, on the night of 17th and 18th May with rain and sleet, on 5th October and on the 19th with rain and again on the night of the 21st and 22nd with heavy rain and finally on the night of 28th December.

**General.**

Mean amount of cloud during the year at the observation hour was 5.34 oktas, or eighths of the sky covered with cloud, the average being 5.38.

Fog occurred 33 times at the observation hour and mist was recorded on 41 other mornings. The relative humidity at this hour was 82 per cent.

The barometer was at its highest 30.629 on the 16th November and lowest 28.930 on the 15th December.

## METEOROLOGICAL NOTES 1955.

Month.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature. In shade 4 feet above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature.		Temperature Underground.			
	1955.	41 year average.	1955.	75 year average.	1955.	65 year average.	One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	Hrs. Mins.	Hrs. Mins.	Inches.	Inches.	°F.	°F.	1955.	55 year average.	1955.	41 year average.
January ...	33 0	52 54	3.94	2.75	35.9	38.1	37.7	39.1	42.4	43.0
February ...	91 6	71 42	2.25	2.30	34.5	38.8	37.3	38.8	41.3	41.9
March ...	149 18	123 54	1.41	2.23	37.2	42.1	37.2	41.7	39.4	42.7
April ...	178 6	158 42	0.24	1.96	47.9	46.8	47.8	47.3	45.5	46.7
May ...	220 54	210 54	4.72	1.99	49.9	53.0	53.5	54.6	51.0	51.5
June ...	195 6	219 36	2.76	1.93	58.3	58.2	61.5	60.8	56.6	57.0
July ...	223 6	209 48	4.42	2.28	63.1	61.6	65.6	63.7	61.7	60.4
August ...	207 30	194 24	0.91	2.43	64.0	61.3	66.0	63.3	63.5	61.6
September ...	167 0	151 0	2.62	2.29	56.4	57.2	59.8	59.2	61.6	60.2
October ...	126 30	110 36	4.80	3.49	47.3	50.2	50.4	52.4	55.0	56.0
November ...	35 54	62 36	1.46	3.57	43.9	43.4	44.8	45.7	49.0	50.2
December ...	52 42	48 12	3.03	3.23	41.3	39.8	41.7	41.3	45.2	45.5
	1680 12	1614 18	32.56	30.45	48.3	49.2	50.3	50.7	51.0	51.4