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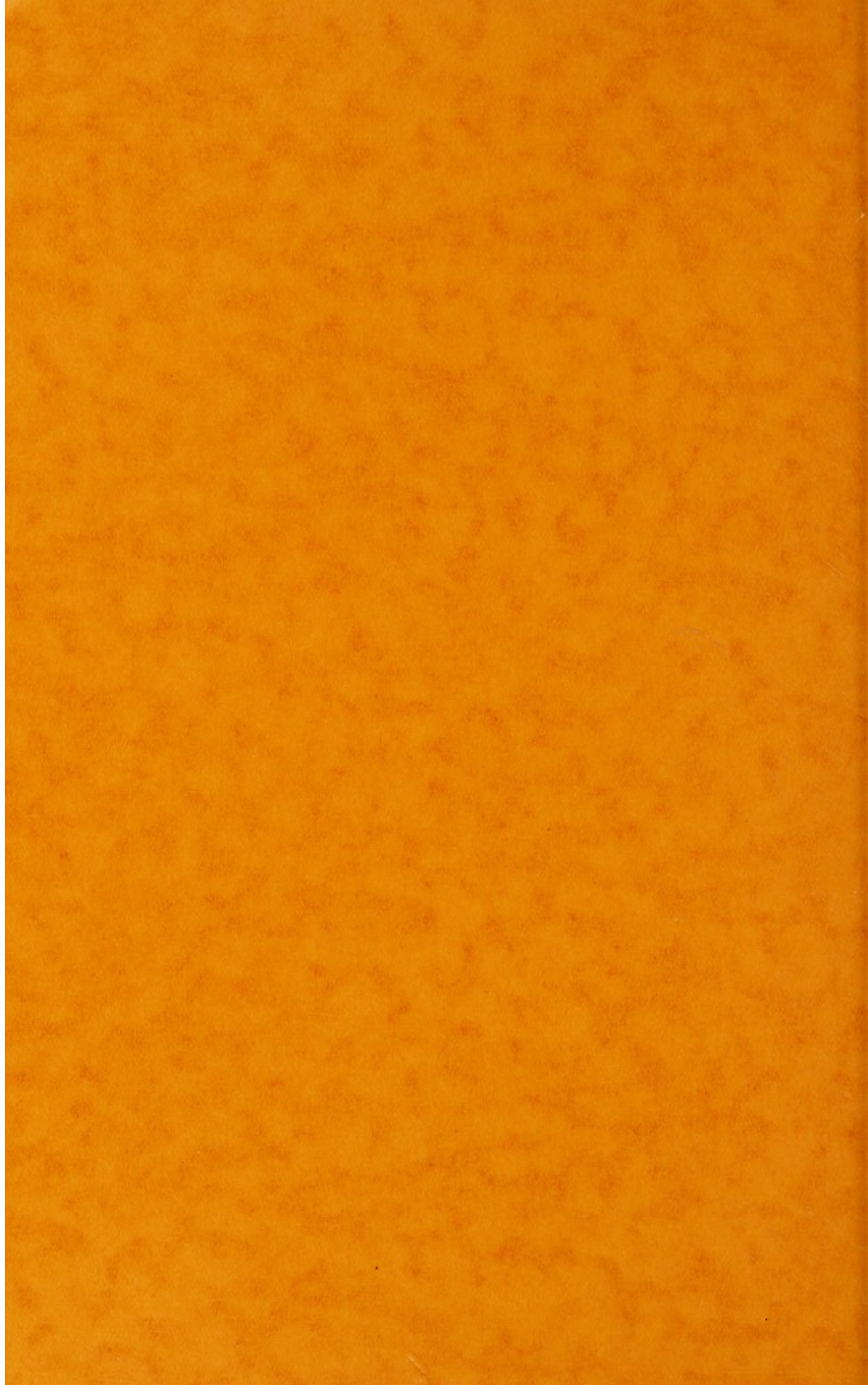


ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH
AND MELCOMBE REGIS FOR
THE YEAR 1954

E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health





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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE MAYOR (Alderman A. C. BILLETT, J.P.)

Alderman A. BILES, J.P. (Chairman)

Alderman A. P. BURT, J.P. (Vice-Chairman)

Ald. LAWSON JONES

Councillor E. J. COLEMAN

Councillor W. A. FORY

Councillor Mrs. B. L. FULLER

Councillor TUDOR GRIFFITHS

Councillor L. W. KING, J.P.

Councillor Mrs. I. A. LEGH

Councillor C. F. LINNITT

Councillor L. T. NORTHCOTT

Councillor N. THOMAS

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

CHARLOTTE A. G. WARD, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

†*‡ H. HANDSCOMB

District Sanitary Inspectors:

†* R. G. S. NEWBOULD, M.S.I.A.

†* A. L. HARRIS, M.S.I.A.

† Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board

* Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

‡ Smoke Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute

Clerical Staff:

Mr. F. H. HOUSE

Miss M. S. STEELE

In Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 it is stated that "it would be helpful in the Minister's view if full particulars, e.g. qualifications and duties, of the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers were published in the Report, together with a list indicating the Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health."

It is understood that in referring to the Authority's Senior Public Health Officers the Ministry has in mind the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector.


The information requested is as follows:

My qualifications are as stated above and in addition to my appointment as Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth, I hold the following appointments:

- (a) Medical Officer of Health, Portland Urban District Council.
- (b) Port Medical Officer, Weymouth Port Health Authority.
- (c) South Dorset Area Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.
- (d) Physician i/c Weymouth Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Mr. Handscomb's qualifications are stated above and in addition to his statutory duties, he is responsible for the supervision and control of public conveniences in the Borough.

The only Committee of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health is the Public Health Committee.



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HEALTH CENTRE,
WESTHAM ROAD,
WEYMOUTH
July, 1955

**To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the Year 1954 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

It can be said that 1954 was a healthy year with a low incidence of infectious disease. Whooping cough headed the list of notifiable diseases with 142 cases and it is to be regretted that a six month old baby died from this infection. Early in 1955, the Ministry of Health authorised the County Council to proceed with their scheme for the immunisation of children against whooping cough and this is now being done on an increasingly large scale. A double antigen is used so that babies are protected against both whooping cough and diphtheria by the same course of three injections given at intervals of one month. I would strongly recommend all parents to take advantage of this arrangement and thus protect their young children from whooping cough—a really distressing illness—and at the same time ensure our continued freedom from diphtheria.

Towards the end of the year, the final stages of preparation for main drainage in the Preston area had been reached and at the time of writing this foreword, work has now begun on the scheme. I very much hope that it will be possible for the existing camp sites to be drained into the Preston sewers as it is known that a number of site-owners are anxious to co-operate with the Health Department in securing this much to be desired improvement.

In general it can be said that during the year caravan site owners did everything possible to meet the requirements of the Health Department. There were, however, two glaring exceptions and it was necessary to institute legal proceedings in both these cases.

The needs of the aged were not forgotten and friendly supervision was kept on 14 old people whose circumstances might have

made it necessary to take steps to secure proper care and attention for their needs. In only one instance, however, was it necessary to take formal action. The number of cases supervised was double that for the previous year (seven). This gives some indication that the welfare of our ageing population will become more and more of a problem as the years go by.

Particular mention must be made of the fact that as from 1st April, 1954, no undesignated milk could be sold in the Borough. This meant the unlamented passing of the out-moded "dip-can" method of retailing milk and we hope it has also closed the door to human infection by the bovine tubercle bacillus.

This Report deals with the many activities of the Public Health Department and I am again most grateful to Mr. Harold Handscomb, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the great ability and energy he devotes to the detailed supervision of this work which continues to increase.

I am again happy to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation in the work of the Department afforded by my professional colleagues in practice in the Borough.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and consideration and my fellow officials and the Health Department Staff for their unfailing assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

E. J. GORDON WALLACE,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) excluding 331 acres of tidal water	7,017
Mid-year Home Population (estimated by the Registrar General)	37,760
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954)	11,700
Rateable Value (31st March, 1954)	£343,272
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1954-55) ...	£1,406

CHIEF INDUSTRIES & EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

I am indebted to Mr. P. Harrison, Manager of the Weymouth Employment Exchange, for the following information :—

Registered Wholly Unemployed Persons

	1952			1953			1954		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
March	78	141	219	159	160	319	207	182	389
June	46	38	84	67	36	103	135	39	174
September	54	46	100	97	39	136	103	46	149
December	137	163	300	146	139	285	170	153	323

The main occupations in this area are :

- Building and Civil Engineering
- Local and National Government Services
- Engineering
- Distributive
- Hotel and Catering
- Transport
- Shipping and Ship Repairing
- Railways
- Laundries
- Breweries
- Bakeries
- Radio Making Equipment
- Electrical and Scientific Instrument Making.
- Agriculture
- Garages

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF BOROUGH
SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR 1954.**

Total Births—570.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—15.1

Comparability Factor—1.04

Standardised Birth Rate—15.7

Live Births—560

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	278	260	538
Illegitimate	...	10	12	22
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	288	272	560
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—14.83

Stillbirths—10

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	6	4	10
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	6	4	10
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—0.26

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—17.54

Deaths—402. Males—208. Females—194.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population—10.64

Comparability Factor—0.84

Standardised Death Rate—8.94

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	6	7	13
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	... ..	6	7	13
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rates

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	23.21
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			24.16
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Neo-Natal Morality Rate	...	...	12.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes		...	1

TOTAL DEATHS 1954. (Registrar General's Official Returns)

All Causes—402. Males—208. Females—194.

Cause of Death.			Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	...	1
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	1
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
8.	Measles	...	...	...
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	8	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	17	20
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...
16.	Diabetes	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	28	51
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	38	20
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	4	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	34	24
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	10	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...
23.	Pneumonia	...	12	13
24.	Bronchitis	...	10	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	2	...
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	5	...
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	3	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	15	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...
34.	All other accidents	...	3	7
35.	Suicide	...	5	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...
TOTAL			208	194

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate

The birth rate of 15.1 per 1,000 population is lower than that for the preceding year (16.47).

Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 158.

Deaths

The total number of deaths was 402—208 males and 194 females—giving a crude death rate of 10.64 per 1,000 population. By applying the Comparability Factor (0.84) the Standardised Death Rate is found to be 8.94. This is the lowest annual death rate since the Comparability Factor was re-introduced in 1949.

(The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enables us to obtain standardised death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude death rates.)

There was one death from whooping cough and one maternal death. Seven of the 13 infant deaths occurred during the neonatal period, i.e. under 4 weeks of age.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It was again a quiet year so far as notifiable infectious diseases were concerned. There were 142 notifications of whooping cough, almost one half of these being in the first three months of the year.

Notifications were received in respect of four cases of poliomyelitis, two being paralytic and two non-paralytic.

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953

These Regulations, which came into force on 1st April, 1953, enable a local authority to authorise its Medical Officer of Health to take the prescribed action in an emergency in order to prevent the spread of infection.

On the recommendation of the Health Committee the Town Council resolved:

“That the Medical Officer of Health be authorised generally to issue any notice on behalf of the Corporation under Part II or Part III of the Fourth Schedule to the Regulations in relation to any particular case if in his judgment it is immediately and urgently necessary for him to do so for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection.”

It was not necessary for me to take any such action during the year.

Superannuation Medical Examinations

During the year, eighteen entrants into the Corporation's employ were medically examined as to their fitness for inclusion in the Council's Superannuation Scheme.

Laboratory Facilities

The County Laboratory at Dorchester, under the direction of Dr. T. V. Cooper, and the separate Public Health Laboratory there, under Dr. G. H. Tee, have given every possible assistance in the work of the Health Department and their ready co-operation at all times has been much appreciated.

INFESTATION.

Scabies and Head Infestation.

The tables which follow show that a new low record of cases of Head Infestation were dealt with during the year.

It will be remembered that Scabies is a notifiable disease in the Borough.

SCABIES

Year	Total No. notified	No. Notified by Practitioner	No. Notified by Public Health Dept.	Total Number of Treatments (incl. contacts)
1944	598	124	474	1882
1945	275	72	203	1078
1946	198	63	135	992
1947	80	32	48	599
1948	71	23	48	241
1949	26	6	20	67
1950	30	7	23	54
1951	9	3	6	15
1952	16	6	10	25
1953	19	3	16	31
1954	11	2	9	18

HEAD INFESTATION

Year	Number of Infested Persons	Adult	School	Under 5	Total No. of Treatments
1944	594	148	411	35	894
1945	305	87	283	35	405
1946	310	117	203	40	461
1947	164	40	96	28	304
1948	143	19	110	14	266
1949	106	13	80	13	197
1950	109	20	71	18	173
1951	99	11	78	10	184
1952	70	6	60	4	83
1953	53	4	47	2	57
1954	24	1	21	2	36

Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during 1954

14

DISEASE	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 plus	Unknown
Scarlet Fever	18	3	1	2	24	1	1	...	20	1	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	60	37	7	38	142	9	30	36	64	1	...	2	...
Ac. Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Non-Paralytic	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Measles	2	1	13	1	17	...	6	3	8	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DISEASE	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Unknown
Ac. Pneumonia	5	5	1	1	12	5	...	...	2	5	...
Dysentery	...	1	7	...	8	...	4	4	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Encephalitis : Infective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-infectious	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	2	1	6	...	...	3	2	...	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	5	...	...	3	8	2	1	2	...	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	15	2	1	2	20	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria (contracted abroad)	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1

Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis, 1948-1954

Year	Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1948	6	—	27	12
1949	18	2	35	7
1950	4	1	30	12
1951	3	—	31	6
1952	1	—	28	4
1953	12	1	37	10
1954	4	1	24	3

Verminous Premises

Verminous premises are treated with suitable liquid and powder insecticides and, where necessary, articles of clothing and bedding are treated in the Department's steam disinfector plant.

Facilities are available at the Health Centre for personal cleansing and as far as possible the treatment of persons, their clothing and premises is carried out at one time.

I am glad to say that there was a considerable decrease in the number of infestations reported during 1954. Only 31 houses were disinfested—a decrease of 30 on the previous year. All were minor flea infestations and I am pleased to record that no infestations of bed bugs or lice were reported.

Verminous Persons

As it is desirable that arrangements for dealing with verminous persons should be carried out with a minimum of delay, the Town Council, in June 1953, delegated their powers and duties under Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936, including the institution of legal proceedings, to a special committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other member of the Health Committee.

No such statutory action was, however, necessary during the year.

Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year but eight single cases were reported and investigated. In six of

these cases samples of the suspected foods were available for examination and two such samples (imported cheese) proved positive for staphylococcus pyogenes. Samples of faeces were available in three cases and two of these proved positive for Salmonella-typhi-murium. Further investigations were carried out but the source of infection could not be traced. In all cases I am glad to say that patients made good recoveries.

Humane Killer for Cats and Dogs

The apparatus supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The number of animals dealt with was 395 which is ten less than during the previous year.

I must again record my appreciation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the continued loan of the apparatus.

Details of animals dealt with during 1954 are as follows :

Dogs	...	...	136
Cats	...	...	259
			<hr/>
Total	...		395
			<hr/>

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Mr. F. Horner, the local inspector for the R.S.P.C.A., continued in his appointment as an honorary officer of the Corporation for the purposes of the Act. The total number of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and Mr. Horner was 33.

Two applications for renewal of licences to keep Pet Shops were granted and three new applications were received and approved during the year. In all cases appropriate conditions relating to the humane treatment of animals were attached to licences.

Mortuary

The Town Mortuary in Commercial Road has ceased to be used as a mortuary except on very rare occasions and all post mortem examinations during the year were carried out at the Weymouth and District Hospital where more satisfactory facilities are available.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Under this Act and the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Town Council is empowered to take steps to secure the removal to suitable accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. During the year 14 cases were dealt with but only in one case was it necessary to take Statutory Action. In this particular instance it was necessary to remove to hospital an aged gentleman who was living in insanitary conditions.

Of the remaining 13 cases, five went to hospital or to old persons' homes quite voluntarily, two went to live with relations and in three cases arrangements were made for Home Helps to visit at regular intervals. The remaining cases were kept under observation.

A considerable number of visits were made by the Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors and myself to the foregoing cases and it is noteworthy that 14 persons were dealt with during the year as against only seven during the previous year. The care of aged persons unable to look after themselves is a matter which will give increasing difficulty as the years go by but the Town Council is aware of this and is making provision in its building programme for homes for aged persons.

The Town Council now has 44 old persons bungalows and of this number 14 were completed during 1954.

WATER SUPPLY

The water in the Borough is provided by the Weymouth Waterworks Company, the main supplies being from springs at Empool and Sutton Poyntz. The water being fairly hard does not give rise to danger from Plumbo-solvent action, and both quality and quantity have been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. No outbreaks of illness which could be traced to the water have occurred and it may be said that the supply continues to be very good for drinking and domestic purposes and shows a high degree of purity.

The closest co-operation is maintained with the Engineer and Manager, Mr. S. E. Barrett, A.M.Inst.C.E., and there is constant exchange of the results of samples taken by the Company and Health Department.

SUMMARY OF BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

Total Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Suspicious
61	61	—	—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Sample taken on 6th December, 1954.

	Fountain, Empool Pumping Station (Before Chlorination)	Sutton Poyntz Spring
Physical Examination :		
Colour	None	None
Appearance	Clear	Clear
General Chemical Examination :		
Reaction	pH 7.1	pH 7.4
	Parts per Million	
Free Carbon Dioxide CO ²	31	11
Free and Saline Ammonia	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.03	0.04
Chlorine (as Chlorides) equivalent to Sodium Chlorides	23	23
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	38	38
Nitrite	0.24	0.20
Nitrogen in Nitrate	Absent	Absent
Total solids	4.3	3.5
Loss on ignition	355	300
Appearance on ignition	35	25
	Very slight charring	Slight local charring
Hardness :		
Temporary	228	188
Permanent	37	35
Total	265	223
Lead and Copper	Absent	Absent

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Preston Drainage Scheme

The greater part of the Borough is served by sewers but there is still a large area in Preston, Sutton Poyntz, Overcombe and Bowleaze where main drainage is not available.

The Town Council resolved some years ago that the erection of new dwellings should not be permitted in these districts until main drainage had been provided and I have reported each year on the steps taken to expedite the provision of sewers to serve the Preston area.

Last year we had reached the position where the Town Council gave authority to the Consulting Engineers to proceed with the preparation of contract documents. In March, 1954, it was

reported to the Town Council that the contract documents would be prepared so that the section of the scheme designed to serve the camping sites might be included or omitted as might be decided following proposed consultations with the camping site owners on the question of such owners contributing to the cost of the work. In the same Minute concern was expressed on the question of surcharge of the existing sewerage system at the man-hole situated at the North end of Radipole Lake. It is at this point that drainage from Preston would be connected and the Borough Engineer reported that investigations were proceeding on this subject.

In November, 1954, the Town Clerk reported that an advertisement had been issued inviting tenders for the Preston Drainage Scheme and that such tenders were to be received on the 6th December, 1954. In view of the urgency of the matter the Town Council authorised immediate expenditure for making the necessary trial borings in connection with the scheme.

On the 30th December, 1954, it was reported that tenders for the drainage of the Preston area had been received and referred to the Consulting Engineers for their report. A tender was eventually accepted early in 1955 but difficulties subsequently arose which resulted in the Town Council deciding to re-advertise the contract. It is to be hoped that this will result in only a temporary delay and it will be possible for the scheme to be started during 1955.

2. Drainage of part of Goldcroft Estate

A small area including about 30 houses in the Goldcroft Estate is not provided with main drainage. Cesspools serving these houses have given rise to complaints during the past few years. A report was made to the Health Committee in April, 1954, on the unsatisfactory state of affairs in this area and, as it would be more economical to provide sewers at the rear of the houses rather than in the roads, it was left to the Town Clerk to consider the legal aspects of a scheme whereby sewers could be laid in the back gardens of houses by agreement with the owners concerned.

In July, 1954, it was decided that all owners concerned should be approached with a view to getting their agreement to such a scheme. Early in 1955 all the owners had agreed to the scheme and the matter was referred to the Street and Works Committee to proceed to the fullest practicable extent. The scheme also involves the construction of a public sewer approximately 210 yards in length by the Corporation at an estimated cost of £700.

3. Wyke Sewage Disposal Works

During the year it was necessary for me to draw the attention of the Town Council to conditions at Wyke Sewage Works where

on three mornings each week crude sewage was discharged to a stream running through a Council housing estate. This practice was carried out during periods when screens at the Belfield Pumping Station were being cleaned. The Town Council immediately adopted a scheme for remedying the situation which included the piping of the stream in question and the installation of a comminutor at Belfield Pumping Station so that all sewage might be dealt with by the existing pumping plant at Belfield.

4. Conversions to Main Drainage

There is still a large number of cesspools in use in areas where main sewers are already available. Efforts continue to be made to have these cesspools abolished by connection of house drains to the main sewers where it is at all possible.

During the year 18 houses were connected to the main drainage system and as a result 11 cesspools and seven pail closets were abolished.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN BOROUGH

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number of houses in the Borough ...	...	...	11,700
Number of houses served by cesspools (approx.) ...	...	...	703
Number of cesspools (approx.) ...	...	...	467
Number of pail closets (approx.) ...	...	...	211

PARTICULARS OF CONVERSION FROM CONSERVANCY TO MAIN DRAINAGE SYSTEM DURING 1954

Number of premises converted ...	...	...	18
Number of cesspools abolished ...	...	...	11
Number of earth closets abolished ...	...	...	7

HOUSING

(a) Unfit Houses

Because of the continued housing shortage it was still necessary to restrict action with regard to unfit houses. Paragraph (b) gives details of the action taken with regard to unfit houses dealt with during the year.

With regard to sub-standard houses action was still limited to urgent matters only, such as leaking roofs, dampness in walls, defective floors, etc. Such items were dealt with by means of Informal or Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, and I am glad to say that it was necessary to serve only twelve Statutory Notices in cases where Informal action was unsuccessful.

In my previous report I referred to the proposed Housing, Repairs and Rents Act and this eventually came into force on the 30th August, 1954. This Act requires that every local

authority shall, within one year after the commencement of the Act, submit to the Minister proposals for dealing with unfit houses.

The Act lays down standards of fitness for houses and also deals with securing fitness of houses let in lodgings and the prevention of overcrowding in houses let in lodgings.

Provision is also made for increasing rents of houses where owners have complied with certain conditions with regard to repair and maintenance and, where tenants oppose the payment of increased rent on the grounds that the house is not in a good state of repair, they may apply to the local authority for a Certificate of Disrepair. By the end of the year four applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been applied for and granted. On completion of the necessary repairs owners are entitled to apply for revocation of the Certificates of Disrepair but at the end of the year no applications had been made by owners for such Certificates. It is still a little early to assess the full extent of additional work which will be placed on the Department under this new Act and compilation of the report on unfit houses required by the Government to be submitted by August, 1955, was in hand at the end of the year.

(b) Action taken under the Housing Act, 1936

The following houses were demolished during the year :
4 and 5 James Court (subject to a Clearance Order made in 1939).
64 Sutton Road (subject to an undertaking not to use for human habitation, given by the owner in 1952).

32 Fernhill Avenue was represented during the year as unfit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and as a result a demolition order was made.

No. 2 Elwell Street was also represented under Section 11 of the Act and in this case an undertaking was accepted not to use the building for human habitation until it had been made fit. A similar undertaking was accepted for 690 Dorchester Road and also for a caravan situated at the rear of 269a Dorchester Road, both of which were represented as unfit in 1953.

Late in 1954 representations were made under Section 11 of of the Act in respect of :

1. Albion Cottage, Union Place.
2. 36, East Street.

and under Section 12 in respect of :

3. 14a Crescent Street.
4. Ground floor flat, Wesley Cottage, Wesley Street.

Action in these cases had not been completed by the end of the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Position at 31st December, 1954

Premises	Still occupied as dwellings	Used as Store or work-places	Vacant	Total
Houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Orders not yet demolished	2	8	11	21
Parts of Buildings subject to Closing Orders	—	5	3	8
Houses subject to U/D not to re-let for human habitation	3	3	8	14
Houses subject to U/D to make fit	—	—	—	—

(c) Applications for re-housing

Again this year a considerable amount of time was spent on the investigation of claims by housing applicants for priority recommendations on public health grounds and 186 visits were made in connection with such applications.

This important duty accounts for a considerable proportion of the time of the Department. Apart from the very many interviews at the Health Centre, where each caller is given a sympathetic hearing, a report is prepared following home visits and a departmental discussion is held to try to assess the real need in every case.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector attends each meeting of the Housing Allocation Sub-Committee to present the Department's views on applications which claim special consideration on public health grounds.

MOSQUITO AND MIDGE CONTROL

(1) Radipole Lake

In my last two Annual Reports I mentioned the difficulties which were encountered by the appearance of *Mercierella enigmatica*—a worm which produces a coral-like growth—after the successful experiment of introducing sea water into Radipole Lake.

For this reason no sea water was introduced into Radipole Lake during 1954 but further samples of water were taken from the Lake on behalf of the British Museum so that the behaviour of *mercierella enigmatica* could be further studied.

At the beginning of the year the channels draining marsh land to the main western channels of the Lake were cleared out

by the Borough Engineer's Department and a good start was made in clearing out Little Chaffeys stream which was fast becoming over-grown and producing areas of stagnant water in which mosquitoes were likely to breed. I am pleased to say that there was no major mosquito infestation in the Lake during the year but there were one or two complaints regarding mosquitoes in areas immediately adjoining the Lake.

Once again reeds for thatching purposes were removed from the Lake along Radipole Park Drive and this helped to maintain the flow so that stagnant areas of water were avoided and undue fly breeding was prevented.

Tipping operations below and on each side of the Railway viaduct were carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department in the early summer in order to provide an area of land to be used as a car park. As the area of lake which was filled in had previously been stagnant the work resulted in a slight but permanent improvement in mosquito control. An extension of this car park was decided upon in October, 1954.

The tipping to form this extension car park was to consist of house refuse with suitable covering and it was agreed for this reason that the tipping of house refuse at Lodmoor should be suspended. Although I expressed my concern at this proposal to tip house refuse into the Lake the Council decided to go forward with the scheme.

In December the Radipole Lake Development Committee decided to proceed with the second stage of their tipping proposal so that the tipping of household refuse in the Lake should continue until the whole area of a proposed new car park should be filled. This was duly carried out but not quite completed by the end of the year. It is hoped that the work will effect an improvement in the flow of water down the north-east side of the Lake and, if so, will be another measure to reduce mosquito breeding.

(2) Lodmoor

During the year the remaining small areas of Lodmoor came into the ownership of the Corporation under Compulsory Purchase Orders. The tipping of refuse was continued and filling of the south-western corner of the marsh was completed during the year.

During the summer months tipping was again transferred to a point as distant from the houses as possible and I am pleased to say that, since the employment of a bull-dozer at the tip, nuisance from flies has been reduced considerably. I am again pleased to record that the Borough Engineer's Department gave

considerable care to the controlled tipping on Lodmoor, especially during the summer months, and no complaints were received from householders during the year.

There is no doubt that the filling in of the marshy land behind Melcombe Avenue has already contributed to a reduction in mosquito breeding and, as the work proceeds, more mosquito breeding areas are being eliminated.

No specific work in connection with the clearing of channels and dykes was carried out during the year but a start was made on re-construction of the outfall from Lodmoor by the Sluice Gardens. In connection with this work the channel between Preston Road and the sea wall was thoroughly cleaned out and the pipe taking the water from Lodmoor under Preston Road to the Sluice was lowered. It is to be expected that when the new outfall and valve are completed in the coming year a great reduction will be made in the amount of water which will remain stagnant on Lodmoor.

Plans were made early in the year for clearing the channels across Lodmoor but the sum of money allowed for this work was deleted from the Annual Estimates and it was decided that this work should be carried out eventually by the raising of a loan.

The steady progress of controlled tipping together with the repair and re-construction of the sluices will, I hope, show some improvement in the position during the coming year but much remains to be done particularly in the north-west areas of the marsh where the mosquito nuisance caused by Lodmoor is perhaps most severe.

SEAWEED FLY

In my last Annual Report I mentioned that seaweed flies (*Coelopa Frigida*) had become a nuisance in a number of south coast towns. In November, 1953, seaweed fly breeding had increased considerably in one or two places on the coast within the Borough and I reported on the steps which were taken to deal with this unusual occurrence. In March, 1954, a mild infestation was reported and immediate action was taken to remove seaweed from the affected beach. This resulted in abatement of the nuisance.

In May swarms of small flies of quite another type were to be seen in the Town and reports were also received that similar swarms had been seen in other Dorset towns during the month. Ships at sea also encountered swarms seven miles off St. Albans Head during the return journey of Her Majesty the Queen after the Royal Tour. Samples of the flies were sent to the British Museum for identification and were reported as being *Dilophus*

febrilis. These flies are to be found at the roots of grasses, in compost and decaying vegetation and sometimes cause damage to turf and seedlings. The last paragraph of the letter from the British Museum stated :

" The adults are quite harmless and commonly swarm in large numbers in the sunlight on fine days in the spring and summer. It seems probable that the recent warm weather has brought out a large number all at once."

The infestation lasted only a few days in Weymouth and the flies disappeared as mysteriously as they had arrived.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

As in previous years the licensed camping sites in Preston were full for many weeks during the summer and fields in and around the village were used to accommodate the overflow.

It appears that camping and caravanning are becoming more popular every year and, though I have in previous reports expressed my anxiety with regard to the conservancy method of sanitation in Preston, the provision of sewers to serve the camping sites seems to be as far away as ever. I have referred to the Preston sewerage scheme in an earlier part of this Report and, though it seems likely that the scheme will come to fruition in the next year or two, this will in no way solve the problem of sanitation in the camping sites. It was hoped that a supplementary sewerage scheme to serve the camping sites would be approved with the main scheme so that the problem of the camping sites as well as the village might be dealt with at one time. Unfortunately, however, a scheme for the drainage of the camping area has not been proceeded with and the present Preston sewerage scheme will not result in modern sanitation being brought to the many thousands of campers and caravanners. The Preston scheme will probably allow just one camp site to provide a few water closets along a boundary hedge but these will serve only a very small part of this one site.

Licensees again paid particular attention to the hygiene of bucket closets but I regret to say that again this year a few complaints were received in respect of this unsatisfactory method of sanitation.

I am pleased to record that licensees continued to co-operate with the Health Department in all aspects of the Department's work and the general standard of the camps, excepting of course the method of sanitation, showed a steady improvement.

The number of residents on licensed sites during the winter months was again reduced and at the end of the year there were very few caravans occupied on licensed sites in Preston.

Unauthorised Camping—Legal Proceedings

1. In my last Annual Report I referred to two cases where owners were prosecuted for permitting land to be used for camping purposes for more than 42 consecutive days. In both cases convictions were recorded and fines of £5 and costs were imposed. In one of these instances the owner made application to the Town Council early in 1954 for the land to be licensed for camping purposes under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Council granted a licence subject to the provision of satisfactory sanitary accommodation, drainage, water supply, etc.

The owner failed to carry out these requirements but continued, nevertheless, to use the site for camping purposes.

Proceedings were taken and the Bench made convictions as follows :

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) With respect to number of caravans | Maximum penalty of £5, and a continuing penalty of £2 a day forthwith. |
| (2) Spacing | Maximum penalty of £5. |
| (3) Sanitary accommodation | Maximum penalty of £5. If sanitary provision is not made within twenty-eight days a continuing penalty of £2 a day to operate. |
| (4) Drainage to water tap | Maximum penalty of £5. If necessary work not carried out within seven days, daily penalty of £2 to operate. |

Costs were awarded on each count.

In spite of the daily penalties awarded by the Magistrates the owner continued to use the site for camping purposes and failed to comply with the public health requirements issued with the licence.

Further proceedings were taken and the Magistrates awarded a total amount in respect of continuing penalties up to the 10th October 1954, of £272, and costs were also awarded against the owner.

2. An inspection was made of land being used for camping purposes without a licence under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. No proper water supply was provided on the site and it was seen that campers were using water from an old field drain which discharged into a dirty iron bath. This bath contained moss, weeds, dirt and live worm. The owner held that the water was fit for human consumption. Samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all of these proved that the water was heavily contaminated and dangerous for drinking pur-

poses. The owner was required to take steps to prevent campers gaining access to this dangerous water supply but failed to take effective action.

Legal proceedings were taken against the owner under Section 140 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Magistrates made an Order authorising the Corporation to carry out the following works the cost of which could be recovered from the owner.

- “ 1. To temporarily close and cut off the source of water supply by effectively wiring off the same and keeping the same wired off.
2. To cause the iron bath on the site of the supply to be overturned and kept overturned until the field ceases to be used for camping purposes.”

This work was carried out immediately by the Corporation.

I regret to say that this same owner permitted the field and sanitary conveniences to get into a filthy condition and it was necessary to serve a Statutory Notice requiring the carrying out of a considerable schedule of works in order to cleanse the conveniences and the site. This Statutory Notice was complied with and at the expiration of 42 days the use of the land for camping purposes was discontinued.

It is regrettable that there are such owners of land who will permit camping without providing satisfactory sanitary arrangements and water supply, and take absolutely no interest in the users of the land except to collect their fees. Such persons not only do a great dis-service to holiday makers but give Weymouth a bad name.

Inspections

From the foregoing paragraph on legal proceedings and from the knowledge that there are nearly 2,000 caravans in the Preston area alone one can understand that a considerable part of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is taken up during the summer months with the problem of camping and caravanning.

The number of inspections made during the year was 276. Informal action was taken to deal with 33 matters which were brought to the attention of site owners and these were all remedied without undue delay. The work of supervision of camping sites has increased year by year and it now becomes more difficult each summer to allocate sufficient time to the supervision of camping and caravanning owing to other increasing public health duties.

Applications for Licences under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Five applications to use land as sites for camping purposes were received during 1954. Three of these applications were

approved and conditions were applied in each case requiring provision of satisfactory sanitary accommodation, water supply, etc.

In both cases where the applications were not granted the reason for refusal was that the public health requirements could not be met satisfactorily by the applicants.

Five applications to site individual caravans were received and four of these were granted. Three of those issued were for a period of six months and the remaining one for a period of 12 months. In the one case where the licence was refused the applicant could not comply with necessary public health requirements.

FOOD HYGIENE

The total number of inspections of food premises carried out during the year was 544 and I must say that all connected with the food trade readily co-operated with the officers of the Department. I am pleased to report that it was not necessary during the year to serve any Statutory Notices under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts nor was it necessary to take legal action under the Food Byelaws.

There were, however, minor contraventions of the Food Byelaws or Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in respect of which it was necessary to serve 34 Informal Notices. These Notices covered 53 separate items and by the end of the year all of them had been remedied.

The following are details of food premises in the Borough.

No. of licensed premises in Borough (for consumption on or off the premises)	...	...	...	...	99
No. of off-licences	...	...	...	...	20
No. of registered clubs where liquor is sold	...	...	...	...	14
No. of chemist's shops	...	...	...	...	15
No. of food premises	...	...	...	...	385
(including the off-licences, many of which sell other foods)					
No. of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed pickled or preserved food intended for sale	...	...	...	...	27
No. of fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	17

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

No. of visits to food premises	...	...	...	...	544
No. of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	34
No. of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	37
No. of defects found	...	...	...	...	53
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	56

ICE CREAM

The number of inspections made of premises where ice cream was manufactured, stored or on sale to the public was 196.

Samples of ice cream sent to the Laboratory for routine tests numbered 72 and I am pleased to record that the percentage of satisfactory results for the year has increased by 17 per cent. over 1953. All adverse samples were followed up by visits to the premises concerned and in most cases it was possible to find the reason for the unsatisfactory result. In all cases follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

At the end of the year 189 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream in the Borough. This number includes seven premises where ice cream is manufactured.

The number of ice cream manufacturers on the register for 1954 shows a decrease of two compared with the previous year.

Ice Cream Sampling

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test Passed	Failed	Grades			
			1	2	3	4
72	63	9	54	9	4	5

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Grade 1 and 2	...	...	87.5% satisfactory
Grade 3 and 4	...	...	12.5% unsatisfactory

MILK SUPPLIES

(1) The responsibility for registration of dairy farms and farmers and the supervision of milk production at farms remained with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, except insofar as the Regulations relate to diseases communicable to man.

In my Report for 1953 I mentioned that the Minister of Food was considering the inclusion of the Borough in a "Specified Area" and on the 1st April, 1954, the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, came into operation and included the Borough of Weymouth in a new specified area. After 1st April, 1954, no undesignated milk could be sold within the Borough. When the Order came into operation all vendors of undesignated milks within the Borough made arrangements for their milk supplies to be pasteurised.

The designation "Accredited" ceased on the 1st October, 1954, as laid down in the Food and Drugs (Milk Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and so after this date the designations of milk which might be sold in Weymouth were:

Tuberculin Tested
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised
Pasteurised
Sterilised

It is interesting to note, however, that no sterilised milk is being sold within the Borough.

At the end of the year entries on the Department's Register were as follows :

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Distributors of milk with premises within the Borough	27
Distributors of milk with premises outside the Borough but retailing within the Borough	1
Dairy farms distributing from within the Borough ...	3
Dairy farms distributing from outside the Borough ...	1
Premises registered as Dairies	8

(2) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and 1950. The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1953.

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows :

Pasteurised Milk	24
Accredited Milk (up to 30th September, 1954) ...	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	24
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Supplementary) ...	1
Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	1

(3) Milk Sampling

The number of samples taken by the Department for bacteriological examination was 260. This shows an increase of 68 over the previous year. Samples of heat treated milk taken in the Borough by Sampling Officers of the Dorset County Council numbered 261. Dorset County Council is the licensing authority for Dealers who pasteurise or sterilise milk.

There is one pasteurising plant within the Borough.

Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops during the year ... 135

Milk Sampling

Details of samples taken are as follows :

Sample Designation	No. taken	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Undesignated	11	11	—	—	—
T.T.	107	89	18	—	—
Accredited	11	7	4	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	151	151	—	151	—
Pasteurised	241	241	—	239	2

I am pleased to report that results during 1954 showed a great improvement over those for the previous year. It will be seen

that there were 18 failures of the Methylene Blue Test from 89 samples of T.T. milk. Almost all of these failures were from one dealer to whom special attention was paid and the Milk Production Officer very kindly co-operated with the Health Department by investigating this dealer's supplies at the farms of production.

Summary of Results

Total number of samples taken	...	...	521
Total number classed as satisfactory	...	...	497
Total number classed as unsatisfactory	...	...	24
Number of samples taken for biological examination	...	...	11
(all of which were satisfactory)			
Bottle rinse samples taken	...	...	12
Churn rinse samples taken	...	...	12

FOOD SUPPLIES

(1) MEAT INSPECTION

1954 was a notable year from the point of view of the meat trade generally. The Government made it clear in January, 1954, that control of meat would cease when rationing ended on 29th June, 1954. The report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses was issued in January, 1954 and the Government announced in a Memorandum issued on the 24th February, 1954, that almost all of this Committee's recommendations were to be adopted. Paragraph 4 of this Memorandum was most important as it placed a new responsibility on Local Authorities:

"As it is the Government's intention that local authorities shall be responsible for ensuring that sufficient slaughtering accommodation is accessible to traders to meet the needs of each district, the Minister would be grateful if, in advance of the issue of a letter of guidance on general principles, local authorities would without delay start consultations with the organisations representing farmers and meat traders in their districts to ascertain what slaughtering facilities will be required to enable the distribution of home killed meat to proceed smoothly on decontrol."

It will be seen that very little time was given to local authorities to meet the new situation and, as all the slaughterhouses in use in the Borough up to the outbreak of the War were either converted to other uses or quite unsatisfactory from the public health point of view, it appeared that the needs of Weymouth would still have to be met by the large slaughterhouse at Dorchester which was under the control of the Ministry of Food.

The Health Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the situation and this Sub-Committee met representatives of the local meat trade to discuss requirements as to slaughtering

facilities after decontrol. It was agreed that there were no suitable slaughterhouses within the Borough and it was decided that an approach be made to the Borough of Dorchester to ascertain what arrangements could be made to continue the use of existing facilities at the Dorchester Slaughterhouse.

A meeting was then arranged by the Borough of Dorchester to which were invited representatives from all local authorities and traders whose meat was supplied from the King's Road Slaughterhouse at Dorchester. At this meeting it was made known that a licence for the King's Road Slaughterhouse had been granted. The licensee said that he would be prepared to meet the slaughtering needs of all traders engaged in the retail meat trade within the Borough of Weymouth.

On the receipt of a written statement from the licensee to this effect the Weymouth Corporation was satisfied that local retail needs would continue to be met at King's Road Slaughterhouse.

Shortly after this arrangement was made an application was received for a slaughterhouse licence in respect of premises at Broadway, Weymouth, which were formerly licensed as a slaughterhouse. These premises had been used as a slaughterhouse up to the outbreak of the last War and again used for a period during the War in an emergency after the slaughterhouse attached to a Weymouth bacon factory was damaged by enemy bombing. The premises were not considered suitable from a public health point of view and the Town Council refused to grant a licence. The applicant subsequently appealed to the Magistrates who, after visiting the premises, upheld the Town Council's decision. The same applicant subsequently made two further applications for a slaughterhouse licence in respect of the same premises but both of these applications were also refused by the Town Council.

Private slaughtering commenced in accordance with the Government's plan on 2nd July, 1954, and it is understood that for a brief period immediately after decontrol there was a tremendous increase in slaughtering at King's Road, Dorchester. A number of complaints were received from local traders using the facilities at Dorchester Slaughterhouse to the effect that the facilities provided were not satisfactory and these complaints were dealt with.

From September, 1951, the Weymouth Corporation had contributed to the Dorchester Corporation a sum towards the salary of an Inspector engaged in meat inspection duties at King's Road Slaughterhouse. The Weymouth Town Council was informed by the Borough of Dorchester in November, 1954, that it would be necessary to revise the rates of local authorities' contributions to meat inspection at Dorchester in view of the new slaughtering figures which were available, showing the revised distribution of

meat to local authority areas. These figures showed a reduced allocation of meat to the Weymouth area from Dorchester and so a reduction in Weymouth's contribution towards meat inspection at this slaughterhouse was agreed.

During the year the following new legislation affecting slaughterhouses came into force :

Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1953.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954.

Weymouth—Slaughterhouse/Bacon Factory

I recorded in my Annual Report for 1952 that the number of pigs killed in the slaughterhouse/bacon factory had increased considerably each year. In 1953 the number of pigs killed was 5,918 and for 1954 there was a slight reduction to 5,564. The number of visits to the slaughterhouse during the year was 185 and I am pleased to record that every animal slaughtered was inspected.

From this figure it will be seen that meat inspection in the Borough occupies a considerable amount of time and again during 1954 one Sanitary Inspector was engaged on meat inspection for almost two full days every week.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5564	5564

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Number killed	...	...	...	...	5564
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	5564

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	315
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	5.73%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	146
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	2.66%

Licensing of Slaughtermen

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1954, provides new conditions with regard to the licensing of slaughtermen.

During the year four new slaughtermen's licences were granted and two slaughtermen's licences were renewed.

Cysticercus Bovis

Carcases infested with localised cysticercus bovis must be placed in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of not less than three weeks, or at a temperature not exceeding 14 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of not less than two weeks.

During 1954 the carcasses of ten beasts infested with cysticercus bovis were sent from the Dorchester Slaughterhouse to Messrs. Cosens and Co., Ltd., Cold Store in Weymouth for the requisite treatment.

My thanks are due to Messrs. Cosens and Co., Ltd., for their co-operation in dealing with such carcasses and for ensuring that the recommendations of the Ministry of Food are rigorously carried out.

MEAT CONDEMNED AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE/BACON FACTORY

Disease	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis	3777
Cirrhosis	630
Abscesses	35
Pleurisy and Pericarditis	871
Parasites and Cysts	166
Peritonitis	193
Swine Erysipelas	152
Broncho-Pneumonia	38
Emaciation	116
Bruising	23
Septicaemia	70
Necrosis	18
Fatty Infiltration	10
Nephritis	2

MEAT CONDEMNED—SUMMARY

	Weight (lbs.)
Tuberculosis	3777
Other Diseases	2324

Total weight condemned—2 tons, 14 cwts., 1 qtr., 1 stone., 11 lbs.

No. of visits made to slaughterhouse—185.

(2) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

CANNED GOODS

Meat Products	148 tins
Fish	30 tins
Milk	101 tins
Fruit	349 tins
Vegetables	247 tins
Jam and Marmalade	16 tins
Cream	6 tins
Soups, etc.	12 tins
Pudding	1 tin
Eggs	4 tins
Spaghetti	1 tin

MEAT.

Beef, Pork and Offal	...	...	...	828 lbs.
Bacon, Hain, Tongue and Sausage Meat	...	...	...	146 lbs.

FISH.

Mixed Fish	...	...	...	63 stones
Shell Fish	...	...	...	1 barrel

OTHER FOODS

Dried Peas	...	...	...	38 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	1 jar
Flour	...	...	...	4 packets
Icing Sugar	...	...	...	1 packet
Eggs	...	...	...	71
Sponge Mixture	...	...	...	1 packet
Cheese	...	...	...	39 sections
Chutney	...	...	...	36 jars
Cereals	...	...	...	1 packet
Cakes	...	...	...	433

RODENT CONTROL

Two Rodent Operatives were employed during the year and statistics relating to the work carried out are given below.

In addition to the large number of inspections made by the Rodent Operatives, 90 inspections in connection with rodent control were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The number of complaints received was 479 which is 64 more than the previous year, but I am inclined to believe that the reason for this very large number is that the service is getting more widely known and householders now readily take advantage of the service. From the following statistics it will be seen that a tremendous amount of work has been carried out and I am satisfied that the Rodent Control service provided is by no means the least important of our duties in safeguarding public health.

I am glad to say that it was not necessary to take any Statutory action during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of complaints received re rats and mice	...	479
Number of premises visited for Survey	...	1985
Number of premises given first treatment	...	560
Number of premises given second treatment	...	127
Number of premises given third treatment	...	—
Number of premises given routine treatment	...	12
Number of premises given re-infestation treatment	...	11
Number of visits made (Survey and Treatment)	...	5590
Number of pre-baits laid	...	10,698
Number of pre-baits taken	...	6655
Number of poison baits laid	...	2619
Number of poison baits taken	...	1576

Control of Rats in Sewers

Two treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. The first treatment was followed by test baiting of sewers which previously showed no signs of infestation.

The second treatment was carried out in November during a period of exceptionally heavy rainfall when the sewers were often running to capacity. For this reason results of the treatment cannot be interpreted with accuracy. It was clear, however, that the infestation still existed in the sewers of the Park area and these sewers will continue to receive special attention from the point of view of rodent control. A summary of the results of the second treatment is recorded below.

November, 1954—Sewer Treatment No. 14

System or Section of System	No. of manholes	No. baited	No. of M.H's showing prebait taken	No. of M.H's showing complete prebait taken (on one or both days)	No Takes
Rodwell ...	251	69	29	11	40
Westham ...	279	64	13	3	51
Park ...	135	70	31	14	39
Town ...	63	41	19	16	22

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

It was necessary to take legal proceedings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on two occasions against a licensee of a caravan site who had not complied with conditions of licence in respect of sanitary accommodation, water supply, etc. It was also necessary to take proceedings under Section 140 of the Public Health Act, 1936, against the owner of a field in which campers were allowed to use an unsatisfactory water supply. These two cases are reported in detail in the section dealing with Caravans and Camping Sites.

In my report for the previous year I referred to the service of a Statutory Notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owner of a house requiring her to carry out works to remedy dampness. The Magistrates made a Nuisance Order and when the owner failed to comply the Magistrates made a further Order after which daily penalties were to follow. The owner failed to comply with the further Order of the Court and in January, 1954, the Corporation decided to carry out the work and recover the cost from the owner.

Two Statutory Notices under Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring owners to make satisfactory provision for the drainage of houses, were served in October, 1953. The Notices were not complied with and it became necessary to institute legal proceedings against the owners in both cases. The cases were heard on the 23rd July, 1954, and Orders were made by the Court as follows :

- (1) Requiring the owner to execute the necessary works (provide drainage system and cesspool) within three months, defendant to pay costs. The Magistrates stated that in the event of default the question of a continuing penalty would arise.
- (2) Requiring the owner to execute the works (provide drainage system and cesspool) within one month. A fine of £3 and costs was imposed. The Magistrates mentioned in the event of default in carrying out the works within the specified period the question of a continuing penalty would arise.

In case (1) above the owner did not complete the work within the three months specified but in view of the difficult nature of the work and the inclement weather during the period no further action was taken. In case (2) the work was carried out within the period specified.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The supervision of public conveniences continued to be the responsibility of the Health Department. Considerable difficulty was experienced with the ejector at Brunswick Terrace conveniences and, unfortunately, almost always at the very busiest periods during the season. Break-downs were reported almost every week-end during the summer and the conveniences were closed to the public for varying periods on every Bank Holiday. Various adjustments were made in the hope that the ejector would function satisfactorily but none of these measures proved effective.

The Borough Engineer was aware of the mechanical difficulties experienced with this ejector and I asked that some special consideration should be given to providing more efficient arrangements in time for next summer season.

Again in 1954, it was very obvious that additional public conveniences were necessary on the sea front and it is to be hoped that the Town Council will soon be able to agree on suitable sites.

The number of inspections made at public conveniences was 526. Again this year receipts increased and supervision and control of public conveniences occupied a very great proportion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Reason for Inspection	No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Nuisances or defects found	Nuisances or defects remedied
Premises under P.H.A. Drainage Works Only	302	1362	147	148
(a) New Buildings	190	310	—	—
(b) Existing Buildings	106	439	55	63
Camping Sites, Vans, Tents	16	276	33	33
Food Premises	209	544	53	56
Dairies and Milk Shops	25	135	1	1
Factories Act	88	92	4	4
Shops Act	84	106	1	1
Public Conveniences	48	526	—	—
Number of complaints received—279				

OTHER VISITS

Visits to houses of T.B. patients	28
Visits to houses for the purpose of the Housing Act, 1936 (Houses already subject to Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders)	206
Visits to houses following applications for Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)	20
Visits to houses for measurements of permitted number (Housing Act, 1936)	11
Visits to houses in connection with applications for Certificates of Disrepair (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)	13
Inspections in connection with action under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	29
Inspections in connection with action under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936	16
Visits to offensive trade and marine store premises	21
Visits re smoke abatement	37
Visits to mosquito and midge breeding grounds	55
Visits to piggeries	8
Inspections of places of entertainment	1
Inspections of licensed premises (public houses and bars)	6
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with Rodent Control	90
Visits under National Assistance Act, 1948	41
Visits to Schools	5
Visits to Corporation Controlled Tip	25
Inspections of Rivers and Streams	7
Visits under Pet Animals Act	33

Visits re Seaweed Flies	...	...	...	...	23
Visits re Flooding	...	...	...	...	72
Visits to Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	13
Visits to Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	418

A brief summary of some of the more important defects remedied is given below.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	39
Eaves guttering and rainwater pipes renewed, repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	7
Walls rendered, repaired or pointed	...	...	...	...	11
Plasterwork renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Grates and ranges renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Conveniences insufficient or defective	...	...	...	...	11
Waste pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Drains renewed, repaired or cleared	...	...	...	...	74
Cesspools emptied after Notice	...	...	...	...	10
Nuisances abated at Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	33
Other miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	12

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	NOTICES			
	Served		Complied	
	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936	95	12	98	10
Shops Act, 1950	1	—	1	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	34	—	37	—
Factories Act, 1937	3	—	5	—
Housing Act	—	1	—	—
Milk & Dairies Regulations	1	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Forty-one visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the investigation of infectious diseases and thirty-six visits in connection with Food Poisoning cases.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of houses treated for disinfection (infectious diseases)	28
Number of rooms involved	61
Number of houses treated for disinfestation	31
Number of rooms involved	130
Number of articles of bedding, etc., disinfected	300
Number of articles destroyed	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Survey of action during year.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	18	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	137	74	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	157	92	4	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	5	—	4	—

(3) Outworkers.

(a) Number of lists received from employers	...	5
(b) Number of employees concerned	... ..	—
(c) Number of outworkers involved	... ..	29
(d) Number of outworkers living outside the Borough		13
(e) Number of lists received from outside Authorities		11
(f) Number of outworkers involved	... ..	36

(4) Total inspections for all purposes (including outworkers).

No. of premises visited	No. of visits including re-visits	Defects found	Defects remedied
88	92	4	4

DEALERS IN OLD METALS

Eight dealers in old metals are registered by the Council under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907. Sixteen visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are three rag and bone dealers' premises in the Borough, two of which were established prior to the operation of the Public Health Act, 1936. The third was established in 1948 and is subject to the consent of the Town Council being obtained annually.

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BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE
REGIS.



**METEOROLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT**

*Summary for the Year
1954*

Lat.— $50^{\circ} 36' 20''$ N. Long.— $2^{\circ} 26' 50''$ W
21 feet above Sea Level.

J. N. HAMBLY, M.B.E.,
Lt.Cdr. R.N. (Ret.)
Borough Meteorologist

Meteorological Station,
Weymouth

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LIBRARY

OF THE

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

CHICAGO

1950

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Remarks.

GENERAL

Except for the month of April, the year has been most disappointing.

A very severe cold spell occurred between 27th January and 8th February when the Maximum temperature never exceeded 35° and the Minimum 27° , falling as low as 18° on the 2nd of February. Snow fell only once during this period, to a depth of 2.3 inches.

April was a glorious month with 28 days without rain and the most sunshine hours on record.

RAINFALL

The year produced 32.28 inches, being 3.3 inches above the average.

Apart from April, the longest dry spell was only eight days without rain.

The wettest month was July with 3.24 inches, which was nearly double the average. A thunderstorm caused 1.79 inches to fall on the 25th. This was the only heavy fall for the year.

TEMPERATURE

Although we had such a cold spell in January and February, the temperature balanced itself by the mean 51.5° , the average being 52.8° .

The mean temperature for October, November and December was 2.4° , 1.8° and 3.9° above normal.

SUNSHINE

Hours recorded were 1709.0, being 80 hours below average. Nevertheless, this total made Weymouth the sunniest spot on the mainland for the year 1954.

METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Highest Shade Temperature (° Fah.) ...	86	83	77	87	83	78
Lowest Shade Temperature (° Fah.) ...	29	22	28	25	23	18
Mean Maximum Temperature (° Fah.) ...	60.6	—	57.5	57.8	57.1	57.2
Mean Minimum Temperature (° Fah.) ...	46.8	46.2	46.4	45.8	46.1	45.8
Mean Temperature (° Fah.) ...	53.7	—	52.9	51.8	52.3	51.5
Total Rainfall (inches) ...	27.5	35.46	40.3	29.36	22.6	32.2
Hours of Bright Sunshine ...	2055.3	1824.0	1829.0	1885.3	1916.5	1709.0
Number of Days with Sunshine ...	301	286	306	312	302	288
Greatest daily amount of Sunshine (hours)	15.5	14.9	15.0	15.0	14.7	14.4
Highest Barometer Reading (inches) ...	30.843	30.633	30.622	30.830	30.762	30.641
Lowest Barometer Reading (inches) ...	28.616	29.101	28.587	29.090	29.271	28.572

PRESSURE (Inches) 9-00 a.m.

Barometer Readings at 0900 hours G.M.T., corrected for Temperature and Altitude

1954	Month	Mean Inches	Highest Inches	Date	Lowest Inches	Date	Relative Humidity %
	January	...	30.169	1st	29.54	29th	79.2
	February	...	29.85	3rd	29.32	11th	77.9
	March	...	29.80	17th	28.77	3rd	78.2
	April	...	30.27	17th	29.79	1st	62.3
	May	...	30.02	19th	29.30	2nd	71.9
	June	...	29.99	30th	29.37	9th	85.2
	July	...	30.04	20th	29.60	26th	81.7
	August	...	29.89	30th	29.58	8th	84.0
	September	...	29.96	29th	29.66	26th	80.7
	October	...	29.96	7th	29.36	24th	85.0
	November	...	29.98	16th	29.10	30th	87.6
	December	...	30.00	3rd	28.57	8th	85.0

RAINFALL

1954	TOTAL FALL		Percentage of Average	Days of		Wet Days of 1.0 m/m or more	Greatest fall in 24 hours		Date
	Inches	m/m		0.2 m/m or more	or more		inches	inches	
January	...	1.66	42	68	11	8	0.35		13th
February	...	3.11	79	144	15	11	0.87		17th
March	...	3.91	99	190	18	15	0.50		19th
April	...	0.02	1	1	1	0	0.02		3rd
May	...	1.37	35	85	12	9	0.30		1st
June	...	2.40	61	135	12	7	0.83		7th
July	...	3.24	82	180	14	8	1.79		25th
August	...	2.60	66	121	10	9	0.52		8th
September	...	2.93	74	140	22	13	0.63		23rd
October	...	2.36	60	64	22	15	0.64		23rd
November	...	5.47	139	178	21	18	0.75		29th
December	...	3.21	82	93	16	8	0.85		8th
Year	...	32.28	820	116	174	121	1.79		25th July

Average—28.91

TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR (Fah.)

1954 Month	9 a.m. Mean	Max. Mean	Max. & Min.		Difference from Average	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
			Max.	Min.					
January	41.1	44.5	36.0	40.3	-2.4	55	15th & 21st	23	29th
February	41.8	45.7	36.0	40.9	-1.6	53	24th	18	2nd
March	46.7	51.4	40.3	45.9	+1.1	61	24th	23	2nd
April	50.9	56.3	40.1	48.2	-0.4	67	15th	33	8th
May	57.7	61.9	46.9	54.4	-0.7	77	31st	38	8th
June	58.1	63.5	51.9	57.7	-1.4	72	2nd	46	14th & 30th
July	59.6	64.8	53.8	59.3	-2.9	74	14th	47	7th
August	60.3	67.1	54.1	60.6	-2.0	78	4th	47	27th
September	59.6	64.1	52.5	58.3	-1.2	73	1st	40	23rd
October	56.8	60.3	52.1	56.2	+2.4	66	2nd	36	26th
November	50.7	54.8	43.7	49.2	+1.8	60	16th	30	18th
December	47.9	51.7	43.2	47.4	+3.9	59	3rd	27	11th
Year	52.6	57.2	45.8	51.5	-0.17	78	4th Aug.	18	2nd Jan.

Average Temperature—52.8°

THE WINDS

Observed daily at 0900 G.M.T. to 8 points of the Compass

Month	DIRECTION									
	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm	
January	...	2	13	1	2	1	4	5	1	2
February	...	3	7	1	—	2	8	3	1	3
March	...	1	8	4	2	1	8	4	1	2
April	...	—	14	3	—	—	2	6	—	5
May	...	3	6	3	2	2	5	6	3	1
June	...	1	5	2	1	1	10	9	1	—
July	...	—	2	1	—	1	13	10	2	2
August	...	2	3	1	—	1	9	6	2	7
September	...	—	2	1	—	4	7	10	4	2
October	...	2	3	1	—	1	12	10	2	—
November	...	—	5	1	1	4	8	5	2	4
December	...	—	1	1	1	2	4	10	4	8
Year	...	14	69	20	9	20	60	84	23	36

BRIGHT SUNSHINE

1954	Month	Actual Sunshine (Hours)	Percentage of Average	Greatest Daily Amount (Hours)	Date	Number of Days with Sunshine Recorded	Sunless Days	Cloud Amount 1—8 9 a.m.	
	January	...	80.5	108	7.9	30th	21	10	4.5
	February	...	89.6	103	8.1	20th	18	10	5.3
	March	...	132.8	83	9.9	30th	23	8	5.2
	April	...	262.3	145	12.6	29th	28	2	2.7
	May	...	200.2	81	13.1	6th	27	4	4.5
	June	...	189.5	81	14.4	27th	26	4	5.4
	July	...	164.3	77	13.9	7th	27	4	5.7
	August	...	192.2	90	12.2	13th	30	1	5.3
	September	...	181.1	104	11.1	7th	27	3	4.6
	October	...	104.5	88	8.5	6th & 11th	23	8	6.3
	November	...	57.7	78	8.3	9th	19	11	6.0
	December	...	54.3	97	6.7	3rd	19	12	6.1
	Year	...	1709.0	95	14.4	27th June	288	77	5.01

Average—1789.0

April Sunshine is the highest on record

WEYMOUTH SUNSHINE HOURS RECORD SINCE 1895.

Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours
1895 ...	1953.7	1910 ...	1693.7	1925 ...	1710.1	1940 ...	1883.3
1896 ...	1904.0	1911 ...	2090.9	1926 ...	1554.4	1941 ...	1669.0
1897 ...	1827.5	1912 ...	1582.4	1927 ...	1692.7	1942 ...	1663.0
1898 ...	1828.4	1913 ...	1583.7	1928 ...	1898.9	1943 ...	1769.0
1899 ...	2030.2	1914 ...	1826.8	1929 ...	2024.1	1944 ...	1741.1
1900 ...	1624.7	1915 ...	1729.8	1930 ...	1803.7	1945 ...	1564.9
1901 ...	1675.9	1916 ...	1677.5	1931 ...	1582.8	1946 ...	1648.2
1902 ...	1421.4	1917 ...	1653.5	1932 ...	1554.4	1947 ...	1626.2
1903 ...	1554.0	1918 ...	1804.9	1933 ...	1987.3	1948 ...	1877.5
1904 ...	1675.6	1919 ...	1803.5	1934 ...	1807.0	1949 ...	2055.3
1905 ...	1706.9	1920 ...	1523.4	1935 ...	1706.2	1950 ...	1820.6
1906 ...	1908.3	1921 ...	1934.6	1936 ...	1549.3	1951 ...	1828.3
1907 ...	1784.1	1922 ...	1748.0	1937 ...	1628.5	1952 ...	1895.5
1908 ...	1875.9	1923 ...	1695.6	1938 ...	1646.6	1953 ...	1916.5
1909 ...	1938.3	1924 ...	1687.6	1939 ...	1786.4	1954 ...	1709.0

Average—1789.0

Weymouth had the most sunshine hours for Mainland Towns in 1954.

