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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

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on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE  
BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH  
AND MELCOMBE REGIS FOR  
THE YEAR 1958



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







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Health and Sanitary Circumstances

of the Borough of Weymouth and

Melcombe Regis for the year 1958.

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

*Medical Officer of Health*



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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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THE MAYOR (Alderman Mrs. I. A. LEGH)

Alderman A. BILES, O.B.E., J.P. (*Chairman*)

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

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Councillor L. T. NORTHCOTT

Councillor C. PRICE

Councillor R. RICHMOND

Councillor Mrs. F. G. THOMAS



## STAFF — PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

### Medical Officer of Health :

E. J. GORDON WALLACE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.  
Health Centre, Westham Road, Weymouth. Tel.: Weymouth 1645

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

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

### Chief Public Health Inspector :

†\*‡ H. HANDSCOMB, M.A.P.H.I.

### District Public Health Inspectors :

†\* R. G. S. NEWBOULD

†\* A. L. HARRIS, M.A.P.H.I.

### Assistant :

Mr. A. R. SMITH

† 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 K. S. HERON—Resigned 22nd August, 1958

Miss L. SAUNDERS—Appointed 11th August, 1958

HEALTH CENTRE,  
WESTHAM ROAD,  
WEYMOUTH

August, 1959

*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 1958 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

So far as notifiable infectious diseases were concerned, it was a quiet year—there being only 160 notifications of measles and 40 of whooping cough.

For the first time for some years there was no case of poliomyelitis in the Borough and with the energetic attention which is being given locally to vaccination against poliomyelitis, it is to be hoped that this scourge of the post-war years will shortly be eliminated. During the year the age groups eligible for polio vaccination were extended to include those up to 25 years of age and there was at once an encouraging response. At the present time well over 80% of the children and approximately 56% of the 15—25 age group have been given protection. Although this latter figure is double the national acceptance rate, every effort must continue to be made to convince the remainder of the advisability of being vaccinated against polio.

I sometimes wonder if the amount of work which is involved in the planning and carrying out of a polio vaccination programme is fully realised. I think it may be fairly said that our efforts locally have so far been successful. My own staff have been magnificent. The local *Dorset Evening Echo* has maintained an active interest in the polio vaccination programme and has kept the public fully informed; business firms, cinemas and factory managements have played their part—to all of them I am deeply grateful.

During the year close attention was given to the proposals of the U.K.A.E.A. to discharge radio-active waste into the sea off Arish Mell from the new Atomic Energy Establishment at Winfrith. Various points were taken up for clarification with



the Ministry of Housing and Local Government which is responsible centrally for these matters and I am satisfied that there should be no danger to public health from this effluent.

As is usual the Annual Report gives details of the many duties carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. All this work has been done thoroughly and conscientiously under the able and energetic direction of Mr. H. Handscomb, Chief Public Health Inspector, to whom I am again most grateful for his help in compiling this Report.

During the year the Department lost two members of the staff—Miss K. S. Heron on her marriage and Mr. M. G. Fox who died after many years of valuable service.

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 (31st Dec., 1958)	11,906
Rateable Value (31st March, 1958) ... ..	£583,421
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1958-59) ...	£2,342

## 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

	1956			1957			1958		
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
March	146	110	256	249	130	379	289	132	421
June	68	13	81	139	13	152	119	43	162
September	100	19	119	135	46	181	225	62	287
December	163	104	267	277	125	402	295	154	449

The main industries in this area are :—

- Building and Civil Engineering
- Nationalised Industries
- Local and National Government Services
- Scientific Research
- Engineering
- Distributive
- Hotel and Catering
- Transport
- Docks, Shipping and Ship Repairing
- Railways
- Laundries
- Breweries
- Bakeries
- Television and Radio Equipment Manufacture
- Agriculture
- Garages



# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF BOROUGH SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR 1958

Total Birth: 607.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 16.07

Comparability Factor: 1.03

Standardised Birth Rate: 16.55

Live Births: 598

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	284	283	567
Illegitimate	...	20	11	31
Total	...	304	294	598

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 15.83

Stillbirths: 9

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	4	4	8
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
Total	...	5	4	9

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births: 15.05

**Deaths:** 487. Males: 259. Females: 228.

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population: 12.89

Comparability Factor: 0.91

Standardised Death Rate: 11.73

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age:

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	5	5	10
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Total	...	5	5	10

## Infant Mortality Rates:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	16.72
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	17.63
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	13.37
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	1

# **TOTAL DEATHS, 1958** (Registrar General's Official Returns)

All Causes: 487

Males: 259

Females: 228

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis—Respiratory ... ..	1	—
2. Tuberculosis—Other ... ..	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	5	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ... ..	13	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	26	18
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	2	2
16. Diabetes ... ..	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	37	43
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	48	29
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	3	2
20. Other heart disease ... ..	41	49
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	11	8
22. Influenza ... ..	—	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	9	10
24. Bronchitis ... ..	16	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	4	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	1
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	20	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	3	—
34. All other accidents ... ..	5	4
35. Suicide ... ..	3	2
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>259</b>	<b>228</b>



## COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

### Birth Rate

The standardised birth rate of 16.55 was very slightly higher than that of the previous year.

Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 111.

### Deaths

The total number of deaths was 487—259 males and 228 females, giving a crude death rate of 12.89 per thousand population. By applying the comparability factor the standardised death rate is found to be 11.73. (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.)

Of the 10 deaths of infants under one year, 8 occurred during the neo-natal period of under four weeks of age.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 160 notifications of measles; 40 of whooping cough and 10 of scarlet fever. No deaths occurred from these infectious diseases.

### Immunisation against Poliomyelitis

This is the responsibility of the Dorset County Council as Local Health Authority.

In the South Dorset Area during 1958, a total of 7,807 persons received two injections. In the autumn, the age groups were extended to include those aged 15—25 years and up to the end of the year 1,197 persons in this age group had been given two injections—these are included in the figure given above.

In the first six months of 1959, an additional 6,117 persons received two injections—of these 2,173 were in the 15—25 year age group. During this period 6,158 “third” injections were also given.

### Immunisations against Diphtheria

It is gratifying to be able to report that despite the amount of time and effort devoted to the polio vaccination programme, a very high proportion—98.6%—of our school children are fully protected against diphtheria. This has been maintained over the years as the following table—taken from School Medical Inspection returns—shows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Percentage of children examined who were fully protected</i>			
1947	...	...	...	98.8
1953	...	...	...	97.17
1955	...	...	...	96.42
1958	...	...	...	98.6

I would like to pay tribute to the good sense of parents for their co-operation in this important aspect of preventive medicine.

### **Superannuation**

During the year 17 persons 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 very much appreciated.

## **INFESTATION**

### **Scabies and Head Infestation**

The tables which follow show that the incidence of Scabies and head-lice remains low.

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

<b>Scabies</b>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. notified</i>	<i>No. Notified by Practitioner</i>	<i>No. Notified by Public Health Dept.</i>	<i>Total Number of Treatments (incl. contacts)</i>
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
1955	6	2	4	10
1956	3	3	—	4
1957	6	1	5	6
1958	6	6	—	7



### Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during 1958

[illegible][illegible]



### Head Infestation

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Infested Persons</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Under 5</i>	<i>Total No. of Treatments</i>
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
1955	35	1	32	2	53
1956	52	5	43	4	56
1957	28	—	28	—	32
1958	29	3	26	—	36

### Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis, 1948-1958

<i>Year</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
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
1955	4	—	26	1
1956	5	—	25	3
1957	3	1	20	4
1958	—	—	22	1

### 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.

During November, 13 cases of scabies were notified—all in one household. These included 12 members of one family many of whom were also infested with headlice. All the children in the family were treated at the Health Centre but there

was some reluctance on the part of four of the adults to attend the Health Centre for examination and disinfection. It was necessary to report this to the Health Committee and, after the adults had received written notifications that it was proposed to apply to the Court for their compulsory removal to the Cleansing Station, they eventually agreed to attend for treatment and disinfection.

Disinfection and cleansing of this family was completed during February, 1959.

### **Verminous Premises**

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

The number of houses disinfested was 32, a decrease of five on the previous year.

Types of infestation were as follows:—

Bed bugs	...	...	...	2
Fleas	...	...	...	19
Flies, cockroaches or beetles				11
				<hr/> 32

### **Disinfectant Station**

1958 was the first full year of use of the new Disinfectant Station adjoining the Health Centre. There is no doubt that the new premises have effected a saving in administration expenses and have also greatly facilitated the day-to-day working of the Department. During the year quite a large amount of disinfection and disinfection of blankets and mattresses was carried out on behalf of Government establishments at Portland.

The number of blankets, mattresses, etc., dealt with in the Disinfectant Station during 1958 was 1,076.

### **Food Poisoning**

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year but 17 single cases were reported and investigated. In only two instances (husband and wife) was it possible to discover the causative organisms, which were a combination of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium welchii*.

In the majority of cases reported above, no specimens of the suspected food, faeces or vomit were available for examination and it was not possible to ascertain the causative organisms.



## **Humane Killer for Cats and Dogs**

Early in 1958, the apparatus for dogs was found to be faulty and its use was discontinued. The apparatus, which was on loan from the R.S.P.C.A. was eventually found to be unserviceable and the Society agreed to replace it by a newer type. By the end of the year, however, the replacement had not been received and for this reason no dogs could be dealt with during 1958.

I must again record my thanks to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for their continued co-operation with the Health Department in connection with the humane disposal of animals.

Details of animals dealt with during 1958 are as follows:

Dogs	...	...	...	Nil
Cats	...	...	...	228
				<hr/> 228 <hr/>

## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

Mr. F. Horner, the Local Inspector for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, continued in his appointment as an honorary officer of the Corporation for the purpose of the Act until he was transferred by his Society to another district and I should like to place on record the outstanding service which he has given to the Corporation from 1952 to 1958. The total number of inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and Mr. Horner for the purposes of the Pet Animals Act, 1951, was 25.

Three applications for renewal of licences to keep Pet Shops were received and granted.

All licences granted were subject to appropriate conditions relating to the humane treatment of animals.

## **Mortuary**

The Town Mortuary in Commercial Road was not used during the year and all post-mortem examinations were carried out at the Weymouth and District Hospital where more satisfactory facilities are available.

I consider that it is still necessary to retain the Town Mortuary for use in any special emergencies which might arise.

## **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 eight cases were dealt with but it was not necessary to take any statutory action. In four of these cases, regular Home Help was provided and the old people were so enabled to remain in their own homes. In two instances the old people were able to carry on at home with the help of neighbours and relatives and the two remaining cases continued at home without any special assistance. All these old people were visited regularly by the Health Visitors and Public Health Inspectors.

I am pleased to report once again that the County Council's Home Help Service proved of inestimable value during the year. It is, of course, the wish of nearly all old people to continue living in their own homes and in many cases, without the Home Help Service, this would not be possible.

The majority of visits to old people are made by the Health Visitors but the Public Health Inspectors made forty-four visits in cases where it was possible that action might have to be taken under the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47. All cases dealt with by the Health Department were kept under periodic review.

During the year, eight Old Person's bungalows were built on the Littlemoor Road estate and arrangements were completed for 36 more to be commenced early in 1959.

At the end of the year the Town Council had 56 Old Person's Bungalows and plans had been made for 79 more as follows:—

Sussex Road	...	...	36
Downclose	...	...	19
Radipole House Site	...	...	17
Camp Road	...	...	4
Leamington Road	...	...	3

There were 150 applications for Aged Persons Bungalows on the registers of the Housing Department at the end of 1958.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

The water supply in the Borough is provided by Weymouth Waterworks Company. The main source of supply comes from springs at Empool and Sutton Poyntz. The water is fairly hard as will be seen from the Chemical Analysis printed below.

During the year the Waterworks Company carried out certain works to improve the water supply to houses in Wyke Road and Lanehouse Rocks Road where supply difficulties had been experienced in previous years.

Both quality and quantity of the supply were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year and no outbreaks of illness which could be attributed to water have occurred. The supply continues to be very good for drinking and domestic purposes and shows a high degree of purity.

I am pleased to report once again that the usual close co-operation was maintained with the Engineer and Manager of the Weymouth Waterworks Company, Mr. S. E. Barrett, A.M.Inst.C.E., and the exchange of sample results between the Health Department and the Company continued during 1958.

## SUMMARY OF BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

<i>Total Samples Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>
50	50	—	—

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Samples taken on 7th October, 1958

<b>Physical Examination :</b>	<i>Empool</i>	<i>Sutton Poyntz</i>
Colour ... ..	None	None
Appearance ... ..	Bright	Bright
Taste and Smell ...	Normal	Normal

### General Chemical Examination:

Reaction ... ..	pH 7.2	pH 7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	<i>Parts per million</i>	
as CO <sup>2</sup> ... ..	29	10.5
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	0.003	Less than .003
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	0.003	0.005
Nitrous Nitrogen as N	Absent	Absent
Nitric Nitrogen as N ...	2.5	2.3
Hardness as CaCO <sup>3</sup> ...		
Temporary ... ..	228	190
Permanent ... ..	29	16

### (Calc. for Mineral Analysis)

Permanganate figure		
(4 hrs. @ 80° F) as O	0.30	0.18
Alkalinity as CaCO <sup>3</sup> ...	228	190
Total Solids ... ..	355	290
Calcium as CA ... ..	92	77
Magnesium as Mg ... ..	6.5	3.5
Sodium Na ... ..	16	16
Carbonate CO <sup>3</sup> ... ..	137	114
Chloride Cl ... ..	21.5	23
Sulphate SO <sup>4</sup> ... ..	11.3	7.2
Nitrate NO <sup>3</sup> ... ..	11.3	10
Iron ... ..	0.06	Not detected: less than 0.01



## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

### **1. Preston Drainage Scheme**

In my last report I mentioned that the Preston Drainage Scheme was completed during the summer of 1957 and, during 1957, 359 houses previously served by cesspools were connected to the new sewer. During 1958, 111 houses were connected to the new sewer. This number includes 35 houses on Long's estate which were formerly served by a private pumping station.

The separation of surface water from the soil drains was necessary in 24 cases and this was carried out by the owners who were re-imbursed for the additional cost of the work by the Corporation. The cost of surface water separation averaged £17-17-10d. for each of the 24 houses. This cost, though higher than the average figure during 1957, is nevertheless considered to be very reasonable and helps to cut to a minimum the volume of storm water which has to be pumped from the West-ham Pumping Station during times of heavy rainfall.

The supervision of new drainage works, together with the work entailed in conversion from cesspool to main drainage, occupied a considerable part of the Department's time and by the end of the year 2,575 visits were made in connection with drainage works as compared with 2,602 for the previous year. By the end of 1958, 470 houses in the Preston drainage area had been connected to the new sewer since its completion. This number includes houses built in the area during the year. There are approximately 700 houses in the drainage area and so a total of 470 houses drained to the sewer within 18 months of its completion can be regarded as very satisfactory progress. Efforts continue to be made by the Department to persuade as many owners as possible to carry out re-drainage to the new sewer and advisory visits to owners on this subject are generally very much appreciated.

I have mentioned in my previous reports that the Preston Drainage Scheme does not cover the area of the Jordan Valley and so the majority of the caravan sites in Preston are not served by the new sewer. This problem continues to cause me grave concern and I hope that the Town Council will soon give this matter further consideration as the existing system of sanitation in most of the camping sites in Preston is far from satisfactory.

### **2. Storm Water Outfalls to Portland Harbour**

In my report for 1957 I mentioned that the Minister of Housing and Local Government had approved the construction of Outfall No. 1 but had asked that the Consulting Engineers should give further consideration to the necessity for Outfalls



Nos. 2 and 3. The Consulting Engineers were of the opinion that, if both Outfalls Nos. 2 and 3 could not be provided, then it would be preferable to construct Outfall No. 2 only and this was agreed by the Minister.

A further report from the Consulting Engineers was forwarded to the Minister who was informed that the Council were extremely anxious for authority to be given for the construction of all three Outfalls but, if owing to financial restrictions the Minister insisted on one Outfall being omitted, then the Council desired that Outfall No. 3 (Wyke Regis) should not be proceeded with at the present.

In February, 1958, it was reported that the Minister was prepared to allow the construction of both Outfalls Nos. 1 and 2.

During the latter part of the year negotiations were in progress between the Town Council and other authorities concerned in the scheme. In October, the British Transport Commission gave consent for the construction of a surface water pipe beneath the Weymouth/Portland Railway north of Rylands Lane.

By the end of the year, however, the actual construction of the new sewer Outfalls had not been commenced.

### **3. Conversion to Main Drainage**

In the first section of this report I have mentioned the considerable amount of work carried out by the Department in arranging for existing and new houses to be connected to the sewer, particularly in the Preston area. For the past two years this aspect of the Department's work has received increased attention, as will be seen from the table of statistics, and this is likely to continue for the next two years. There are still a number of houses not connected to the sewer in parts of the town which have been sewered for many years and efforts are still being made, when the opportunities arise, to persuade owners of such houses to redrain to the sewer.

During the year 49 cesspools, 29 pail closets, 1 privy and 1 pumping station were abolished—generally as a result of the redrainage of houses to the sewer in the Preston area.

### **4. Drainage of Houses in Mayfield Close and Radipole Lane**

In my last report I gave details of a scheme which had been drawn up for sewerage this area. The scheme required the co-operation of owners who were asked to provide accommodation sewers which would be connected to a 9-in. main sewer to be provided by the Corporation. Unfortunately the scheme could not be carried out as in only seven cases did owners agree to the Council's proposals and 23 owners did not reply.



No further action was taken in this matter during 1958 but conditions continued to be unsatisfactory and there is no doubt that serious public health nuisances will arise in the future. When these do arise the Corporation will be faced with the question of taking Statutory action against the owners concerned. In most cases, cesspools in this area have overflows which discharge to streams and serious pollution of these streams occurs, particularly during the summer months.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN BOROUGH

Total number of houses in the Borough	...	...	11,906
Number of properties not connected to sewer	...	...	623
Number of properties with cesspools	...	...	486
Number of cesspools	...	...	403
Number of properties with pail closets	...	...	151
Number of properties with privies	...	...	1
Number of properties with other forms of drainage	...	...	—

*These are estimated figures only*

### Particulars of Conversion from Conservancy to Main Drainage System during 1958

Number of premises converted	...	...	83
Number of cesspools abolished	...	...	49
Number of pail closets abolished	...	...	29
Number of privies abolished	...	...	1
Number of private pumping stations abolished	...	...	1
Number of septic tanks abolished	...	...	—

## HOUSING

### Unfit Houses

Again this year good progress was made in dealing with unfit houses and the following paragraphs give details of work carried out under the five-year programme for the years 1955/60.

Because of special public health problems which arise during the holiday season most procedure in connection with unfit houses has to be carried out between the months of October in the one year and May the following year so that the Department can be free to deal with special seasonal problems which invariably arise during the busy summer months.

Action taken during the year was as follows :

#### 1. Clearance Areas—Housing Act, 1957, Part III

##### (a) The Weymouth (Stewarts Court/Governors Lane) and (East Street/Governors Lane) Clearance Area and Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957

The above Order, which was in respect of 25 separate properties, was confirmed without modification in October, 1957, and Compulsory Purchase procedure was completed during 1958.



Tenders for demolition of the whole area were considered by the Council at the end of October but the actual work of demolition had not been started by the end of the year.

**(b) The Weymouth (Quebec Place) Clearance Area and Order, 1958**

In June, 1958, I represented Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 Quebec Place as a Clearance Area. The Clearance Order was confirmed by the Minister on 11th December, 1958, but demolition of the houses had not been commenced by the end of the year.

**2. Demolition Orders—Housing Act, 1957, Part II**

No Demolition Orders were made during the year.

**3. Closing Orders made under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957**

The following houses were represented as unfit for habitation and made subject to Closing Orders :

29 High West Street  
"Rose Cottage," Silver Street, Sutton Poyntz.  
4 Radipole Lane  
101 and 103 Sutton Road, Preston  
2 and 3 Spring Cottages, Upwey  
3 Belmont Street

**4. Houses Demolished**

The following houses were demolished during the year :—  
3 & 4 Alma Place, Radipole (Owned by Weymouth Corporation)  
122 High Street, Wyke Regis (Demolition Order, 1957)  
1, 2, 3 & 4 Albert Cottages, Park Street (Dem. Orders, 1956)  
68 Lower St. Edmund Street (Demolition Order, 1956)  
168, 168a, 168b, 170, 170a & 170b Chickerell Road (Clearance Area, 1955)

**5. Houses made fit following action under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, and Closing Orders determined or Undertakings carried out**

"Roman Cottage," 215 Preston Road, Preston  
56 Sutton Road, Preston  
3 Belmont Street

**6. Houses made fit after Informal or Statutory Action**

Thirty-five houses were made fit during the year following service of Informal or Statutory Notices.

**7. Housing Act, 1957—Section 27. Contravention of Undertaking to make fit.**

**(a) "Roman Cottage," 215 Preston Road, Preston**

In my last report I mentioned that "Roman Cottage," 215 Preston Road, Preston, had been let to a tenant in contravention



of an Undertaking and, as provided under the Housing Act, 1957, a Demolition Order was made on the property. A reconstruction scheme was, however, carried out and it was possible to revoke the Demolition Order before the end of the year.

**(b) 54 High Street, Wyke Regis**

This property, which was the subject of a Closing Order made in 1956, was used as a greengrocer's depot in contravention of the Closing Order. The matter was taken up with the owner and occupier and the premises were vacated before the end of the year. No legal proceedings were necessary in this case.

**8. Overcrowding**

One serious case of overcrowding came to the notice of the Department at the end of the year. The circumstances were such that the Health Committee decided that statutory action should be taken against the occupier. The case was heard early in 1959 and details will be given in my next annual report.

**Position at 31st December, 1958**

**HOUSING ACT, 1936**

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Still occupied as dwellings</i>	<i>Used as Store or work-places</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Total</i>
Houses subject to Demolition or Clearance Orders not yet demolished ... ..	5	6	30	41
Parts of Buildings subject to Closing Orders ... ..	—	7	4	11
Houses subject to Closing Orders ... ..	4	4	20	28
Houses subject to Undertaking not to re-let for human habitation ... ..	—	2	13	15

**RENT ACT, 1957**

**Certificates of Disrepair**

The Rent Act, 1957, came into operation on 6th July, 1957, and in my last report I mentioned that only five applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received. During 1958, however, seventeen applications were received and dealt with as follows :



Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	14
Owner's Undertaking accepted	...	3
Applications from owners for Cancellation of Certificate	... ..	5
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	...	5

### **Applications for re-housing**

As in previous years a considerable amount of time was devoted to the investigation of claims by housing applicants for priority recommendations on grounds of overcrowding or ill-health. 282 visits were made in connection with these applications.

Very few applications were received from large families and the majority were from young married couples with one or two children, usually living in two rooms, more often than not with their "in-laws." The Housing Allocation Sub-Committee have a rule that applicants should be registered with the Council for a minimum period of 18 months before they can be considered for rehousing and very few cases considered by the Committee had been registered much longer than the requisite period of 18 months.

The Housing Allocation Sub-Committee gives very sympathetic consideration to all cases reported to them by the Health Department on grounds of ill-health or overcrowding. The Health Department works in close co-operation with the Borough Treasurer who is responsible for administration in connection with houses owned by the Town Council.

Each applicant who calls at the Health Department is given a sympathetic hearing, a report is prepared following a home visit, and a departmental discussion is held to assess the real need in each case.

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

## **MOSQUITO AND MIDGE CONTROL**

### **(1) Radipole Lake**

The introduction of sea water into Radipole Lake in an endeavour to reduce mosquito and midge breeding was continued during the Spring of 1958. Surveys of the lake were carried out during the summer months and no evidence of widespread mosquito breeding was found. There is no doubt, however, that breeding on a small scale does occur in isolated parts of the lake which are generally difficult of access. The clearing



of the main channels in the early part of 1957 helped to keep the water in the lake moving freely and in this way breeding along the main channels has been kept to a minimum.

Tipping operations north of the railway viaduct had been completed during the previous year and it does not appear that this work has in any way affected the mosquito problem generally in the lake. During the year, the Town Council sold quantities of reeds from the lake for thatching and I think it probable that the removal of these reeds assisted in keeping the water on the move and contributed to some small extent to the control of mosquito breeding.

Midges were a problem as usual though perhaps not on so great a scale as in previous years. Midge invasions usually appear after long periods of favourable weather and it cannot be said that in 1958 conditions were ideal for their purpose.

During the year minor works, such as clearing out small waterways and ditches, were carried out and this type of work on the marshy borders of the western side of the lake is essential for keeping mosquito and midge breeding to an absolute minimum.

## **(2) Lodmoor**

During 1957 considerable works in connection with the drainage of the main channels in Lodmoor were carried out and I reported on this in 1957. During 1958, no major drainage works were carried out but quite considerable maintenance work at the Greenhill Gardens sluice was completed and regular maintenance of the sluice valves continued throughout the year. This sluice is now extremely effective in keeping the water level in Lodmoor to an absolute minimum and during the summer months it was noticeable that considerable areas of Lodmoor normally under water had completely dried out. This work, in conjunction with the controlled tipping of refuse, and reclamation of land has proved of great value in reducing mosquito breeding. It cannot be said, however, that areas bordering on Lodmoor were free from the mosquito nuisance but the problem should be reduced year by year as work progresses on Lodmoor.

There is no doubt that mosquito breeding on a reduced scale must continue on Lodmoor for many years to come but the Corporation's policy of control by drainage and land reclamation is the only solution and temporary measures are not possible on this vast tract of marshy land.

Controlled tipping operations continued satisfactorily and it appears that present methods are effective in controlling fly breeding.



## CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

The licensed camping sites in the Borough were as popular as in previous years and once again unlicensed fields in Preston were used, perhaps more than ever before, for tented camps by various organisations and touring holidaymakers.

Each year I have expressed my serious concern regarding the lack of main drainage facilities in the Preston camping sites and the pail closet type of sanitation used on all but one of the sites in this area continues to give me some anxiety.

The Preston drainage scheme was completed towards the end of the summer of 1957 but, unfortunately, the scheme provides drainage by gravity for only two of the five large licensed sites. Last year one licensee in Preston was able to provide modern water-borne sanitation but until some comprehensive scheme is prepared by the Town Council to serve the remaining four sites, it appears that pail closet sanitation must continue in use. This is a most unsatisfactory form of sanitation and the main subject of complaints made to the Health Department. It is understandable that visitors coming from the large towns, having had no previous experience of this out-moded and unsatisfactory form of sanitation, find it most distasteful and many have their holidays completely spoiled through having to endure such conditions.

In April, 1957, I reported to the Health Committee that the problem of camp sanitation was not one which could be dealt with by individual licensees but was a question of a comprehensive drainage scheme. Until the Town Council is able to make sewers available to serve the large sites in this area, complaints will continue to be received. I must report, however, that licensees again co-operated with the Health Department in every possible way and when complaints were brought to their notice immediate action was always taken. The licensees themselves are anxious to provide modern sanitation and it is indeed unfortunate that they are quite unable to proceed with any plans until the Corporation provides some comprehensive scheme whereby sewers can be made available to them.

At the beginning of the summer season a check was made on caravan sites to ascertain whether licensees were complying with their conditions of licence relating to the number and spacing of caravans. I am pleased to say that no contraventions were found.

An application was received from the licensees of a site in Preston where the density of caravans was limited to 20 to the acre for an increase of this number to 29 per acre subject to



their providing modern sanitary conveniences connected to the sewer. The Health Committee did not, however, grant this application.

An application was received from the licensee of another site in Preston, where modern sanitation had just been provided, for an amendment of a condition of his licence in connection with the siting of caravans in proximity to conveniences. The condition relating to pail closets required that no caravan should be stationed within one hundred feet of a convenience and the Health Committee agreed that the figure should be amended to thirty feet now that satisfactory water closets had been provided.

Another licensee of a site in Preston asked whether the Corporation could assist him by making a sewer available so that pail closets could be replaced by water closets. He stated that, if the Corporation made a sewer available, he was prepared to install modern sanitation but also asked that the number of caravans per acre should be increased from 20 to 25 when the conveniences had been completed. The Health Committee would not agree to either request.

Inspections of caravans and camping sites numbered 231 as against 509 for the previous year. The reason for this apparent reduction is that in the previous year a large proportion of the total was accounted for by daily visits to sites where licences under the Public Health Act had not been issued.

In July it was reported that there was a large increase in the number of caravans stationed on a certain unlicensed site and the Health Committee directed that consecutive daily inspections should be made to ascertain whether the period of use of the land exceeded that permitted under the Public Health Act, 1936. These daily inspections were duly carried out but the use of the site did not exceed 42 consecutive days.

In conclusion I must mention once again that the main difficulty with which the Public Health Department has to deal in connection with caravan sites is the very unsatisfactory system of pail sanitation used on sites where there are as yet no main drainage facilities. Until all sites in the Borough have been provided with modern sanitation complaints will continue to be received and I am aware that many holidaymakers have criticised the Health Department for allowing such conditions to continue. I have mentioned earlier in this report that licensees of the unsewered sites in Preston are unable to provide what they are quite well aware is needed until the Corporation comes to their assistance.



## **Applications for Licences under the Public Health Act, 1936**

One application to station and use two caravans on land at Broadway was received. In this instance, the caravans were stationed on a site where the applicant was building a house for his own occupation and a licence was granted for a period of six months.

## **FOOD HYGIENE**

### **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955**

Duties under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, received considerable attention throughout the year and particularly during the summer season. The total number of inspections of food premises, including stalls and vehicles, was 534. This figure represents a considerable amount of work by the District Public Health Inspectors and I have to thank owners and employees alike in food premises for their ready co-operation with the Health Department.

In my report for the previous year I mentioned that the Corporation were reviewing their own food premises to ensure full compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations and, during the year, final details of major reconstruction works at the Pier Bandstand Cafe were completed. The old cafe in Greenhill Gardens was demolished and an entirely new building provided in time for the summer season. It is anticipated that the reconstruction works at the Pier Bandstand Cafe and Vanity Fayre Cafe will be completed in time for the summer season of 1959.

Many inspections of stalls, mobile refreshment vans and ice-cream vehicles were carried out after normal office hours and, generally speaking, no serious contraventions were found.

The majority of owners and employees in food premises are now fully aware of the Food Hygiene Regulations and I believe that the general standard of food hygiene in the Borough shows an improvement each year.

It was necessary to serve 36 Informal Notices in respect of contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Food Hygiene Regulations. These Notices dealt with 65 separate items.

### **Food Hygiene—Educational Activity**

It was not possible, in view of additional public health duties in other directions, to carry out any special educational activities. There is no Clean Food Guild in operation in the Borough.



## Disposal of Condemned Food

All unsound food is disposed of by burial at the Corporation's Controlled Tip.

### Details of Food Premises in the Borough:

Number of licensed premises	...	...	...	...	106
Number of off-licences	...	...	...	...	10
Number of registered clubs	...	...	...	...	21
Number of chemists' shops	...	...	...	...	18
Number of butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	29
Number of bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	21
Number of fishmongers' shops	...	...	...	...	18
Number of grocers' shops	...	...	...	...	124
Number of bakehouses	...	...	...	...	18
Number of other food premises	...	...	...	...	214

### Registered Premises:

Number of premises registered for manufacture of preserved foods	29
Number of premises registered as fried fish shops	14
Number of premises registered for manufacture or sale of ice-cream	225

## ICE-CREAM

The number of inspections made of premises where ice-cream was manufactured, stored or on sale to the public was 108—a slight decrease in number as compared with the previous year.

The number of samples taken was 50 and I am pleased to say that 88% were satisfactory. Adverse samples were always followed up by visits to the premises concerned.

At the end of the year 225 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream in the Borough. This number includes five premises where ice-cream is manufactured.

### Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952

Routine inspections were made of the five premises where ice-cream is manufactured. Generally speaking the standard of hygiene maintained in these premises and in the manufacture of ice-cream was extremely good and I have to thank the manufacturers for their continued efforts in this direction.

### Ice-Cream Sampling

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		1	Grades			Void
	Passed	Failed		2	3	4	
50	44	6	43	1	4	2	—

### Summary of Results

Grade 1 and 2	...	...	88% satisfactory
Grade 3 and 4	...	...	12% unsatisfactory

## MILK SUPPLIES

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

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order 1954 which came into operation on the 1st April, 1954, no undesignated milk may be sold within the Borough.

The designations of milk which may be sold in Weymouth are :

Tuberculin Tested  
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised  
Pasteurised  
Sterilised

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

### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54

Distributors of milk with premises within the Borough	51
Distributors of milk with premises outside the Borough but retailing within in the Borough	2
Dairy farms distributing from within the Borough	1
Premises registered as Dairies	9

### 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	47
Tuberculin Tested Milk	47
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Supplementary)	1
Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	1
Sterilised Milk	1

### Milk Sampling

The number of samples taken by the Department for bacteriological examination was 362. Samples of heat treated milk taken in the Borough by Sampling Officers of the Dorset County Council numbered 221.

Dorset County Council is the licensing authority for Dealers who pasteurise or sterilise milk. There is one pasteurising plant in the Borough.

Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops during the year	170
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Details of samples taken are as follows :

Sample Designation	No. taken	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. ...	145	103	42	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	261	261	—	—	261	—
Pasteurised	177	177	—	—	177	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—

It will be seen from the foregoing table that there were 42 failures of methylene blue test from 145 samples of T.T. milk.

The majority of these unsatisfactory samples were from one dealer and special action had to be taken by the Department. Continued unsatisfactory reports were received on samples of T.T. milk bottled by this particular dairyman and it was apparent after continued inspections of the dairy that the dairyman concerned was quite unable to carry out the requirements of the Milk and Dairy Regulations and his standard of dairy hygiene was unsatisfactory. The Health Committee were finally obliged to commence action under Section 30 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and made a recommendation to the Town Council that a Notice be served upon the dairyman inviting him to attend a meeting when he would be asked to show cause why his registration should not be cancelled.

This recommendation was, however, withdrawn at a meeting of the Town Council as the dairyman submitted a written undertaking that he would forthwith discontinue bottling milk and in future sell only milk which had been bottled in approved registered premises. This undertaking was duly carried out and all subsequent samples passed the prescribed tests.

In the second case, periodic samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failed the prescribed tests and the dairyman was informed of the Committee's concern. Subsequent samples taken from churns on arrival at the dairy indicated that the quality of milk was not satisfactory at the time of delivery to the dairyman and this matter was taken up with the County Milk Production Officer.

#### Summary of Results

Total number of samples taken	...	...	583
Total number classed as satisfactory	...	...	541
Total number classed as unsatisfactory	...	...	42
Number of samples taken for biological examination	...	...	9
(all of which were satisfactory)			
Number of churn rinse samples taken	...	...	2
(both of which were satisfactory)			
Number of bottle rinse samples taken	...	...	11
(eight of which were unsatisfactory)			



## FOOD SUPPLIES

### (I) MEAT INSPECTION

The number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during 1958 was slightly lower than the number slaughtered in the previous year. The majority of home killed meat for Weymouth comes from slaughterhouses in the Borough of Dorchester and the area of Dorchester Rural District Council. In both areas all animals are inspected at the time of slaughter.

#### Weymouth—Slaughterhouse/Bacon Factory

This slaughterhouse/bacon factory is licensed annually and slaughtering is carried out on two days each week. Every animal slaughtered on these premises during the year was inspected. The number of visits to the slaughterhouse during 1958 was 77.

#### Animals Slaughtered

<i>Cows</i>	<i>Other Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1979	1979

#### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number killed	...	...	...	...	1979
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	1979

#### All Diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	128
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	6.47 %

#### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcase condemned	...	...	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	38
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	1.92 %

#### Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouse/Bacon Factory

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Weight (lbs.)</i>
Tuberculosis	539
Pleurisy and Pericarditis	98
Cirrhosis	92
Pneumonia	100
Abscesses	123
Parasites and Cysts	27
Peritonitis	25
Wounds	4
Bruising	3

#### Summary

	<i>Weight (lbs.)</i>
Tuberculosis	539
Other Diseases	472

Total weight condemned—9 cwt., 3 lbs.

Number of visits made to slaughterhouse — 77



## 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 not less than two weeks.

Although no cattle are slaughtered in the Borough, the cold store owned by Messrs. Cosens and Co., Ltd., in West Street, Weymouth, is used by slaughterhouses outside the Borough for the refrigeration of infested carcasses.

In 1958, 23 carcasses were sent to the cold store. The figures for the previous four years were as follows:—

1954	...	...	...	10
1955	...	...	...	40
1956	...	...	...	17
1957	...	...	...	16

It is rather disturbing to find the numbers of infested carcasses to be on the increase. It is believed that cysticercus bovis was introduced into this country during the war years and, from the statistics relating to the incidence of this parasite, it appears that it is becoming well established and likely to present a public health problem in future years.

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 Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are rigorously carried out.

## Licensing of Slaughtermen

During the year five applications were made for renewal of slaughtermen's licences and all were granted subject to conditions as laid down in the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

## (2) OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

### Canned Goods

Meat Products	...	...	...	...	123	tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	15	tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	21	tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	322	tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	94	tins
Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...	...	5	tins
Soups	...	...	...	...	12	tins
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	1	tin
Frozen Liquid Egg	...	...	...	...	11	tins
Other foods	...	...	...	...	10	tins

## Meat

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	104 lbs.
Minced beef	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	91 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	32½ lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs., 13 ozs.
Picnic Shoulder	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Dripping	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.

## Fish

Fish	...	...	...	...	...	138 lbs.
Smoked fish	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.

## Other Foods

Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	19 lbs.
Grapes	...	...	...	...	...	216 lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	...	31 lbs.
Toffee	...	...	...	...	...	82 bars
Cartons of cheese	...	...	...	...	...	Six
Pots of paste	...	...	...	...	...	One

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

In my last report I mentioned that part of this Act came into operation on the 31st December, 1956. The Act gave Local Authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution. The provisions which came into force at that time dealt with the installation of new furnaces, heights of chimneys, smoke control areas, pollution from colliery spoil-banks, research and publicity and the making of building bye-laws.

Under the Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, 1958, the remaining provisions of the Act, including provisions relating to the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys, measures for dealing with grit and dust from furnaces, abatement of smoke nuisances and the application of the Act to railway engines, vessels and Crown premises came into operation on 1st June, 1958.

Section 3 of the main Act requires that any person proposing to install a furnace shall give notice of intention to do so to the Local Authority and failure to give notice is an offence.

Section 10 provides that when plans in connection with the installation of furnaces are submitted, the Local Authority has to be satisfied that the heights of chimneys are such that no smoke nuisances will be likely to arise.

Three notifications under Sections 3 and 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, were received during the year. All three notifications were in respect of new oil burning furnaces and the firms concerned co-operated fully with the requirements of the



Health Department. Matters relating to the Clean Air Act, and particularly smoke nuisances which were occurring in the Borough, were under discussion at almost every meeting of the Health Committee during 1958.

In March the Town Council made application for membership of the National Society for Clean Air and it can be said that the Town Council, through the Health Committee, has shown great interest and activity in the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

During the year a number of complaints were received relating to smoke nuisances from railway locomotives operating within the Borough and in March, the District Motive Power Superintendent together with the Weymouth Shed Master and a Fuel Efficiency Officer, attended the meeting of the Health Committee to discuss this problem. The British Railways representatives assured the Committee that all possible steps were being taken to reduce the amount of smoke from locomotives to a minimum.

Complaints were also received in connection with smoke from steamers lying at Cove Row Berth. This matter was of considerable concern to the Committee and, though the Authorities concerned took action to minimise the nuisance, similar complaints were still being received at the end of the year.

For many years, complaints have been received with regard to smoke nuisances from one particular factory and, towards the end of the year, the Town Council was informed that the firm concerned proposed to install a new furnace early in 1959. In view of this undertaking the matter was left in abeyance and, in the meantime, the firm co-operated fully with the Health Department and kept smoke nuisances to an absolute minimum.

A number of complaints were also received regarding one particular oil burning installation in the Westham area. The firm concerned arranged for their technical advisor to visit and certain modifications were carried out. Although the emission of soots from this chimney has not been entirely eliminated, the position has been much improved and it is hoped that matters will finally be put right early in 1959.

In April, the Health Committee considered the model building byelaw under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. This byelaw relates to domestic appliances but it was decided that it was not really essential for Weymouth and the Plans Committee subsequently concurred with the opinion of the Health Committee.

During the year, 95 visits were made in connection with the Clean Air Act, 1956. The figure for the previous year was only four and so it can be clearly seen that the Department was very



active in smoke abatement duties throughout 1958. There is no doubt that this aspect of the Department's work will continue to occupy a considerable part of the Public Health Inspectors' time in following years.

## RODENT CONTROL

Two Rodent Operators are employed in the Department and statistics relating to their work are given below.

The number of complaints received during the year was 636. Although the figure for the previous year was only 545, I do not think that the number for the current year shows an increase in the rate of infestation but rather that the service is so well known that residents more readily take advantage of it and call for the help of the Department immediately the first signs of an infestation appear.

When complaints are received a survey of the area in which the infestation is notified is always carried out and in this way treatments usually prove very effective. Statistics show the large amount of work involved, and I am well satisfied with the way in which this service is carried out.

The Borough receives a grant of 50% of its expenditure on rodent control from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and it was learned during the year that under the new block grant scheme, such grants would be discontinued from the 31st March, 1959.

I am pleased 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 ...	636
Number of premises visited for Survey ...	1950
Number of premises given first treatment ...	618
Number of premises given second treatment ...	75
Number of premises given third treatment ...	2
Number of premises given routine treatment ...	13
Number of premises given re-infestation treatment	11
Number of visits made (Survey and Treatment)	4735
Number of pre-baits laid ... ..	5341
Number of pre-baits taken ... ..	4216
Number of poison baits laid ... ..	2881
Number of poison baits taken ... ..	1401

## Control of Rats in Sewers

As in previous years two treatments of the sewers were carried out. The first treatment was followed by test baiting of those sewers which previously showed no signs of infestation.



The second treatment was carried out in November using Paranitrophenol as a bait preservative. The period during which bait was available was much extended—an average of 11 days—and the results of this treatment show that the infestation in the sewers remains fairly static. Very good weather conditions prevailed during the period of the treatment and results are regarded as a reasonably accurate picture of the extent of infestation in the Borough sewers.

The sewers in Weymouth are in many cases old and defective and many of them afford good harbourage and escape for rats. For this reason it is essential that routine sewer treatments are continued and this work, though expensive in time and money, is absolutely necessary for the effective control of rats.

A summary of the results of the second treatment is recorded below :

#### November, 1958—Sewer Treatment, No. 22

<i>System or Section of System</i>	<i>No. of Manholes</i>	<i>No. baited</i>	<i>No. of M.H's showing prebait taken</i>	<i>No. of M.H's. showing complete prebait taken (on one or both days)</i>	<i>No Takes</i>
Rodwell ...	271	54	18	5	36
Westham ...	285	53	27	5	26
Park ...	152	52	32	23	20
Town ...	77	48	13	8	35

#### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

I am pleased to report that it was not necessary to institute any legal proceedings during the year.

Two Statutory Notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served during 1958 and both were complied with by the end of the year.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The supervision of public conveniences continued to be the responsibility of the Health Department. There are 49 public conveniences under the control of the Department and a maintenance workman was employed for the first time to deal with the considerable day to day maintenance and repair of buildings and fittings.

I am pleased to say that the conveniences were maintained to a good standard throughout the year and the few complaints received were in respect of nuisances which had arisen at conveniences where full-time attendants are not employed.



In my last report, I mentioned that the Health Committee were considering the purchase of an existing building on the Esplanade for reconstruction as public conveniences. The purchase was completed during the year and plans were approved by the Health Committee for the adaption of the building.

The work had not been commenced by the end of the year but it is anticipated that these new conveniences will be in use for the summer season of 1959.

A separate water supply was provided to the conveniences in Melcombe Gardens where periodic failure of the supply was experienced in previous years. The use of these small conveniences has increased tremendously since the Swannery Car Park has been opened and the Health Committee considered the possibility of providing new conveniences to serve both Melcombe Gardens and the Swannery Car Park. In the meantime it has become necessary to employ a full-time seasonal attendant in the ladies convenience.

Children are admitted free of charge at the discretion of attendants at public conveniences where attendants are employed.

### **Wilful Damage**

Each year I have to report that considerable wilful damage in public conveniences continues to occur in spite of the many precautions taken by the Health Department.

Reports were made to the Health Committee on this subject from time to time and considerable expenditure was incurred in making good damage to buildings and fittings.

Conveniences in Westham Coach Park, which are closed during the winter months, were again subjected to considerable damage and all the windows were broken on a number of occasions.

Weighing machines in seven conveniences also suffered damage and I regret to say that hooliganism in public conveniences appears to be on the increase. The co-operation of the public in dealing with this problem is essential and it is the responsibility of each one of us to try to stop wilful damage when we can and so save unnecessary waste of public money.

### **Free Hand Washing Facilities at Public Conveniences**

The facilities for free hand washing in public conveniences where attendants are employed was continued throughout 1958. This scheme was started in 1955 and has worked very successfully. In view of the limited size of the wash and brush-up rooms in the conveniences on the sea front it was not possible to operate the scheme during the months of July, August and September.



## Bowleaze Cove

In my 1956 report, I mentioned that the proprietor of Cove Cafe had provided a public convenience near his cafe and during 1958 the proprietor of the Beach Cafe on the opposite side of the River Jordan provided a second public convenience. Both conveniences drain to septic tanks.

The provision of these conveniences by the owners of the cafes concerned has been of great service to the town and complaints are no longer received regarding nuisances which previously occurred along the banks of the River Jordan.

## Supervision of Public Conveniences

A considerable amount of time is devoted by the Health Department to the supervision of public conveniences and this is absolutely necessary if they are to be maintained to a satisfactory standard. Seasonal attendants are employed at many of them during the summer months and, though this is not a pleasant duty, the attendants have carried out their work conscientiously at all times.

The volume of work in connection with public conveniences has increased tremendously and continues to do so. During 1958 the number of inspections of conveniences made by the Public Health Department Staff was 2,416 as compared with 1,582 (1957) and 534 (1956). These figures show the greatly increased work involved in supervision and control and the Department continues to do all it can to maintain the conveniences to as high a standard as possible.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

<i>Reason for Inspection</i>	<i>No. of premises visited</i>	<i>Number of visits including re-visits</i>	<i>Nuisances or defects found</i>	<i>Nuisances or defects remedied</i>
Premises under Public Health Act ...	331	1031	139	91
Drainage Works Only :				
(a) New Buildings	332	994	—	—
(b) Existing Buildings	140	1581	54	51
Camping Sites, Vans, Tents ...	14	231	2	2
Food Premises ...	401	534	65	91
Dairies and Milk Shops	48	170	4	4
Factories Act ...	110	189	29	41
Shops Act ...	71	85	2	4
Public Conveniences	50	2416	—	—
Number of complaints received — 287				

## OTHER VISITS

Number of visits re rehousing applications	...	...	282
Number of visits re Section 16/18 Housing Act, 1957			561
Number of visits re Section 42 Housing Act, 1957	...		150
Number of visits re Council houses	...	...	4
Number of visits re Rent Act, 1957	...	...	124
Visits to offensive trade and marine store premises	...		16
Visits re Smoke Abatement (Clean Air Act, 1956) and observations	...	...	95
Visits re Mosquito and Midge Breeding Grounds	...		24
Inspections of licensed premises (Public Houses and Bars)			9
Visits by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	91
Visits under National Assistance Act, 1948	...	...	44
Visits to Corporation Controlled Tip	...	...	42
Visits to Mortuary	...	...	12
Visits under Pet Animals Act	...	...	15
Visits to Verminous Premises	...	...	6
Number of visits re Improvement Grants	...	...	33
Number of visits re Section 9 Housing Act, 1957	...		18
Number of visits re Overcrowding	...	...	8
Number of visits re Local Land Charges	...	...	1
Visits re ditches at Littlemoor	...	...	54
Visits to Outworkers' Premises	...	...	6
Visits re Jellyfish on Beaches	...	...	20
Visits re drainage of Lodmoor	...	...	3
Visits to Caravans and Camping Sites	...	...	231
Visits re Food Poisoning	...	...	44
Miscellaneous	...	...	641

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

Roof repairs	...	...	12
Eaves guttering and rainwater pipes renewed, repaired or cleansed	...	...	6
Walls rendered, repaired or pointed	...	...	12
Plasterwork renewed or repaired	...	...	19
Windows repaired	...	...	8
Grates renewed or repaired	...	...	5
Floors renewed or repaired	...	...	11
Chimneys repaired	...	...	2
Doors repaired	...	...	7
Dampness remedied	...	...	24



Drains renewed, repaired or cleared	...	...	104
Repairs to Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	9
Cesspools emptied	...	...	5
Sinks and waste pipes repaired	...	...	5
Foodstores provided	...	...	2
Cleansing of premises	...	...	3
Offensive accumulations or deposits	...	...	4
Nuisances from animals	...	...	4
Yard surfaces repaired	...	...	1
Other miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	4

## SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

NOTICES					
		<i>Served</i>		<i>Complied</i>	
		<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act, 1936					
House Defects	...	36	—	31	—
Other Defects	...	45	2	28	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938		36	—	50	—
Factories Act, 1937	...	24	—	31	—
Housing Act	...	—	2	2	2
Prevention of Damage by					
Pests Act, 1949	...	2	—	—	—
Shops Act, 1950	...	2	—	2	—
Milk Regulations, 1949-54		2	—	2	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

Twenty-eight visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors in connection with the investigation of infectious diseases and forty-four visits in connection with food poisoning cases.

## DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of houses treated for disinfection (infectious diseases)	1
Number of rooms involved	...
Number of houses treated for disinfestation	...
Number of rooms involved	...
Number of articles of bedding, etc., disinfected	...
Number of articles destroyed	...

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

## **Survey of action during year**

### **(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health**

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(a) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	20	10	6	—
(b) Factories not included in (a) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	141	149	11	—
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	31	30	7	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>192</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>—</b>

### **(2) Cases in which defects were found**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>No. of Cases in which Defects were found</i>				<i>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspec.</i>		
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sanitary Conveniences :</b>						
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	6	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	26	38	—	21	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



### (3) Outworkers

(a) Number of lists received from employers ...	...	4
(b) Number of employees concerned	...	—
(c) Number of outworkers involved	...	7
(d) Number of outworkers living outside the Borough ...	...	—
(e) Number of lists received from outside Authorities ...	...	14
(f) Number of outworkers involved ...	...	23

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

<i>No. of Premises visited</i>	<i>No. of visits including re-visits</i>	<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects remedied</i>
101	195	29	41

### DEALERS IN OLD METALS

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

**Borough of Weymouth & Melcombe Regis**

# **METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**

*Summary for the Year  
1958*

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Lat. 50° 36' 20" N. Long. 2° 26' 50" W.  
21 feet above Sea Level

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

**Meteorological Station**  
**Weymouth**





# Remarks

## GENERAL

The weather during the year can be described as "most unsettled."

The summer months were generally very disappointing to the general public, the sunshine being very much below average and a considerable amount of rainfall occurring fairly frequently.

March and April were very dry months and were slightly above average for sun hours.

Although the temperature was very varied, there was only a slight fall in the yearly average.

## SUNSHINE

A total of 1607.7 hours was recorded, this being 131 hours below the average of 1739 hours.

## RAINFALL

Again the rainfall was above the average, 32.62 inches being recorded.

Heavy daily falls occurred in June, July, September and December—1.21 inches fell on December 18th, this being the heaviest of the year.

## TEMPERATURE

March, April and June were well below the monthly average, but February, September and October were well above. The remaining months were normal.

The hottest days were July 8th and September 5th, when 75° was reached.

The coldest day was 23rd January with 22°.



# METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Highest Shade Temperature (° Fah.)	83	78	84	78	84	75
Lowest Shade Temperature (° Fah.)	23	18	24	17	23	22
Mean Maximum Temperature (° Fah.)	57.1	57.2	57.9	56.8	58.7	57.1
Mean Minimum Temperature (° Fah.)	46.1	45.8	44.8	44.6	47.1	46.1
Mean Temperature (° Fah.)	52.2	51.5	51.4	50.7	52.9	51.6
Total Rainfall (inches)	22.6	32.2	34.47	27.61	31.80	32.62
Hours of Bright Sunshine	1916.5	1709.0	2009.4	1879.4	1851.3	1607.7
Number of Days with Sunshine	203	288	308	307	295	291
Greatest daily amount of sunshine (hours)	14.7	14.4	14.4	14.9	15.1	14.3
Highest Barometer Reading (inches)	30.762	30.641	30.661	30.731	30.741	30.720
Lowest Barometer Reading (inches)	29.271	28.572	28.840	29.232	29.090	28.740

# **PRESSURE (Inches) 9.00 a.m. G.M.T.**

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

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# THE WINDS

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

Month	N.	N.E.	DIRECTION				S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
			E.	S.E.	S.					
January	0	2	3	3	1	7	3	8	4	
February	2	4	2	1	2	9	3	2	3	
March	4	9	4	3	1	2	3	2	3	
April	3	7	3	1	1	2	6	4	3	
May	0	1	3	1	3	15	5	2	1	
June	1	2	7	1	2	9	4	3	1	
July	0	2	4	2	4	14	2	2	1	
August	0	1	1	2	2	14	6	1	4	
September	1	1	5	4	4	7	5	0	3	
October	1	6	0	2	0	8	9	1	4	
November	1	9	6	1	0	2	1	2	8	
December	0	6	0	1	1	6	5	0	12	
Year	13	50	38	22	21	95	52	27	47	

# BRIGHT SUNSHINE

1958 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	65.4	104	7.4	13th	20	11	6.0
February	52.3	66	9.7	26th	18	10	7.3
March	118.5	100	9.9	7th	22	9	5.8
April	185.7	103	13.3	29th	26	4	4.9
May	221.6	101	14.3	27th	31	0	4.8
June	208.5	89	14.1	28th	26	4	5.2
July	218.5	102	13.1	24th	30	1	4.7
August	143.4	68	12.3	27th	27	4	6.8
September	164.8	106	10.8	10th	27	3	5.5
October	115.8	100	9.3	17th	25	6	6.1
November	66.8	79	8.0	13th	19	11	5.9
December	46.4	101	6.9	1st	20	11	4.7
Year	1607.7	93.2	14.3	27th May	291	64	5.6



# RAINFALL

1958	TOTAL FALL Inches	m/m	Percentage of Average	Days of 0.2 m/m or more	Wet Days of 1.0m/m or more	Greatest fall in 24 hours (inches)	Date
January	2.88	73.2	90	15	13	0.39	4th
February	2.82	71.6	122	16	12	0.68	23rd
March	1.17	29.7	39	7	5	0.33	27th
April	0.5	12.5	29.5	5	3	0.22	4th
May	1.95	49.5	100	14	13	0.37	15th
June	2.54	64.7	176	13	8	0.94	6th
July	2.33	59.2	108	10	7	0.92	25th
August	2.53	64.3	116	19	16	0.56	23rd
September	4.32	109.8	173	16	13	0.98	2nd
October	3.26	82.8	102	13	12	0.69	4th
November	3.63	92.3	112	11	11	1.21	1st
December	4.64	117.9	133	20	18	0.90	18th
Year	32.62	827.6	108	159	131	1.21	1st Nov.

# TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR (Fah.)

1958 Month	9 a.m. Mean	Max. Mean	Min. Mean	Max & Min. Mean	Difference from Average	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	41.6	47.1	37.1	42.1	-0.6	54	6th	22	23rd
February	44.9	50.1	40.0	45.1	+2.6	57	14th	28	18th
March	41.4	47.4	36.6	42.0	-2.3	59	30th	24	10th
April	47.3	54.3	39.4	46.8	-2.2	66	28th	29	4th
May	53.9	62.7	47.8	55.2	-1.5	70	2nd	42	13th
June	58.8	62.2	52.1	57.1	-2.0	70	12th, 18th	47	24th
July	62.5	67.4	56.3	61.8	-0.4	75	8th	49	24th
August	61.8	66.8	56.5	61.7	-0.3	71	10th	48	26th
September	61.7	66.9	56.0	61.4	+2.1	75	5th	45	26th
October	55.2	59.7	50.5	55.1	+3.1	63	8th, 23rd	41	18th
November	47.2	51.6	41.9	46.7	-1.3	60	6th, 7th	33	25th
December	43.3	48.5	39.8	44.1	+0.6	56	19th	30	8th
Year	51.6	57.1	46.1	51.6	-0.18	75	8th July 5th Sept.	22	23rd Jan



## WEYMOUTH SUNSHINE HOURS RECORD SINCE 1895

<i>Year</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hours</i>
1895 ...	1953.7	1911 ...	2090.9	1927 ...	1692.7	1943 ...	1769.0
1896 ...	1904.0	1912 ...	1582.4	1928 ...	1898.9	1944 ...	1741.1
1897 ...	1827.5	1913 ...	1583.7	1929 ...	2024.1	1945 ...	1564.9
1898 ...	1828.4	1914 ...	1826.8	1930 ...	1803.7	1946 ...	1648.2
1899 ...	2030.2	1915 ...	1729.8	1931 ...	1582.8	1947 ...	1626.2
1900 ...	1624.7	1916 ...	1677.5	1932 ...	1554.4	1948 ...	1877.5
1901 ...	1675.9	1917 ...	1653.5	1933 ...	1987.3	1949 ...	2055.3
1902 ...	1421.4	1918 ...	1804.9	1934 ...	1807.0	1950 ...	1820.6
1903 ...	1554.0	1919 ...	1803.5	1935 ...	1706.2	1951 ...	1828.3
1904 ...	1675.6	1920 ...	1523.4	1936 ...	1549.3	1952 ...	1895.5
1905 ...	1706.9	1921 ...	1934.6	1937 ...	1628.5	1953 ...	1916.5
1906 ...	1908.3	1922 ...	1748.0	1938 ...	1646.6	1954 ...	1711.0
1907 ...	1784.1	1923 ...	1695.6	1939 ...	1786.4	1955 ...	2009.4
1908 ...	1875.9	1924 ...	1687.6	1940 ...	1883.3	1956 ...	1855.4
1909 ...	1938.3	1925 ...	1710.1	1941 ...	1669.0	1957 ...	1851.2
1910 ...	1693.7	1926 ...	1554.4	1942 ...	1663.0	1958 ...	1607.7

Greatest amount of Sunshine in one year : 2090.9 in 1911

Least amount of Sunshine in one year : 1421.4 in 1902

Average for 30 years : 1739 hours





