

## **Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for Woolwich.**

### **Contributors**

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MacMillan, J.

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# Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

## WOOLWICH.

—  
**1919.**  
—

BY

J. MACMILLAN, D.S.O., M.C., M.B., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Woolwich :

PRYCE & SON, LTD. (T.U. Federation), 31, 33 & 35 Powis Street.

—  
1920.

**Public Health and Housing Committee  
to November, 1919.**

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman H. S. SYER, J.P.)

**Aldermen—**

A. J. WALKLIN (*Chairman*).      W. C. MARTIN (*Vice-Chairman*)  
J. P. JACKSON.

**Councillors—**

R. M. W. ALLEN.	W. MARLOW.
W. W. BULLWORTHY.	E. J. MAYES.
L. C. CHASTEAUNEUF.	J. NEWMAN.
W. E. HUGHES-NARBOROUGH	F. PENNY.
C. H. LANGHAM.	Miss S. TURNBULL.
V. LISTER.	Miss G. E. WALTERS.

**Public Health and Housing Committee  
from November, 1919.**

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor A. M. TYNEMOUTH, J.P.)

Councillor Miss G. E. WALTERS (*Chairman*).

Councillor A. E. SMITH (*Vice-Chairman*).

**Aldermen—**

Mrs. E. DORMER.      J. P. JACKSON.      W. C. MARTIN.

**Councillors—**

W. W. BURR.	S. H. CUFF.	T. SCOBLE.
W. C. MONTANO.	H. A. HART.	Mrs. M. E. T. SMITH.
Miss M. CROUT.	V. LISTER.	Miss S. TURNBULL.
	J. NEWMAN.	

**Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.**

Comprising the Members of the Public Health and Housing  
Committee.

**Visiting Sub-Committee—Home for Ailing Babies,  
Co-opted Members to November, 1919.**

Lady KATHLEEN LINDSAY.	Mrs. MELVILLE SMITH.
Mrs. A. CALLAGHAN.	Miss H. E. GRINLING.

Miss A. S. GREGORY.





## Staff of Public Health Department.

### Chief Sanitary Inspector—

ALBERT G. DUCK, F.S.I.A.

### Sanitary Inspectors—

JOHN W. RANCE.	WILLIAM TEDHAM.
WILLIAM LITTLE.	THOMAS POWELL.
WILLIAM WOOD.	HARRY SHAW.
ALFRED G. POTTER.	Miss ALICE MIDDLEBROOKE.

### Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors—

Mrs. MARGARET GARSIDE.	Miss CATHERINE WARE.
------------------------	----------------------

### Health Visitors—

Miss KATE LATHAM.	Miss WINIFRED BURNETT.
Miss ELEANOR TIBBITTS.	

### Clerks—

AMYAS BRITTER.	HAROLD M. COLLYER.
HARRY S. SMITH.	HERBERT T. PRESCOTT.
Miss W. SMITH ( <i>temporary</i> ).	

### Mortuary Keeper—

FRANK LEASON.

### Public Analyst—

SIR WILLIAM R. SMITH, M.D., D.Sc.

### Assistant Medical Officer of Health—

Miss RACHAEL MACKENZIE, M.B., D.P.H.

---

### Home for Ailing Babies—

<i>Visiting Physician</i>	- -	Dr. FREDERICK DODD.
<i>Matron</i>	- - -	Miss JANET RAYMOND.



## Summary of Statistics, 1919.

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<b>Area of Borough</b>	..	..	..	<b>8,276·6 Acres</b>
<b>Population—Census, 1911</b>	..	..	..	<b>121,376</b>
do.	estimated to middle of 1919—for birth rate		..	<b>141,918</b>
do.	do.	for death rate	..	<b>136,237</b>
<b>Persons to an acre—Census, 1911</b>			..	<b>14·7</b>
do.	do.	do.	1919	.. <b>17·2</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	..	..	..	<b>1,350</b>
<b>Births</b>	..	..	..	<b>2,737</b>
<b>Birth Rate</b>	..	..	..	<b>19·3</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	..	..	..	<b>1,679</b>
<b>Death Rate</b>	..	..	..	<b>12·3</b>
<b>Deaths under one year</b>	..	..	..	<b>235</b>
<b>Infantile Death Rate</b>	..	..	..	<b>86</b>

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## PREFACE.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Nineteenth Annual Report on the health of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich.

The duties of Medical Officer of Health of this Borough were performed by Dr Sidney Davies until the 31st August, 1919, but although I only assumed responsibility on the 1st September, the Report for the year has been prepared by me for the sake of uniformity in the presentation of the records. I wish to acknowledge, however, the kindness of Dr. Davies in assisting to prepare this report.

The Minister of Health issued in January, 1920, a Memorandum, in which a general outline was laid down for the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health. The suggestions put forward there have been carried out so that the form of this Report varies somewhat from the previous reports on the Health of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich.

I desire to thank the Public Health and Housing Committee, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, for their help, and for their keen and kindly consideration of the various Health problems brought to their notice during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MACMILLAN.



# Nineteenth Annual Report

ON THE

## HEALTH OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WOOLWICH.

Year ending 31st December, 1919.

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### STATISTICS.

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#### POPULATION.

1. The population of the Borough of Woolwich, as estimated at the Census of 1911, was 121,376. This number included 5,743 soldiers. The estimated population adopted by the Registrar-General for the calculation of the birth-rate and death-rate of the Borough of Woolwich for the year 1919, is as follows :

For the death-rate	...	136,237
For the birth-rate	...	141,918

The following extract from a circular letter from the General Register Office explains how these figures are arrived at :—

“ The death-rate population excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad. This is necessary for the purposes of local death-rates, because it has proved impossible to transfer the deaths of non-civilians to their areas of residence, or to deal in any other satisfactory manner with the local mortality



of this element in the population. These estimates are based mainly upon the rationing returns, kindly placed at the disposal of the Department by the Ministry of Food.

“The birth-rate (and marriage-rate) population, on the other hand, is intended to include all the elements of the population contributing to the birth and marriage rates. It consists therefore of the death-rate or civilian population *plus* all non-civilians enlisted from this country, whether serving at home or abroad. This non-civilian element has been distributed over all the districts in the country in proportion to their estimated civilian population.”

The estimated population for the different parishes of the Borough is as follows :—

Parish.	For the Death-rate.	For the Birth-rate.
Woolwich ...	31,250	32,553
West Plumstead	40,078	41,749
East Plumstead	36,661	38,190
Eltham... ..	28,248	29,426
	<hr/> 136,237	<hr/> 141,918

The above figures are those which have been used throughout the Report for calculating the various rates in the Borough and in the different parishes, and have been mainly based on the rationing returns obtained from the Executive Officer of the Local Food Control Committee.

During the preceding three years the population of the Borough was estimated by the Registrar-General as follows :—

Year.	For the Death-rate.	For the Birth-rate.
1916 ... ..	130,313	141,783
1917 ... ..	131,942	147,078
1918 ... ..	134,453	150,650
1919 ... ..	136,237	141,918

The chief vital statistics of the Borough during 1919, and during the preceding five years, are shown in the next Table.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1919 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Regis- tered in the District.	Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.			of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Yr. of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1914	128,556	2824	22.0	1505	61	246	239	84	1690	13.2
1915	134,828	2815	20.9	1725	117	233	268	95	1841	13.7
1916	136,723	3074	21.7	1628	158	213	215	70	1683	12.3
1917	146,503	2698	17.1	1450	150	235	214	79	1550	10.6
1918	146,503	2578	16.5	1949	151	294	268	104	2092	14.3
1919 <i>a</i>	136,237	2737	19.3	1519	116	276	235	86	1679	12.3
<i>b</i>	141,918									

\* Estimate of Registrar General.

*a* Population for Death Rate.*b* Population for Birth Rate.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. 8239.7

Census, 1911.	{	Total Population, all ages ..	..	..	121,376
		Number of Inhabited Houses ..	..	..	21,463
		Average Number of Persons per House..	..	..	5.6

## BIRTHS.

2. The number of births was 2,737, and the birth-rate calculated on the estimate of the Registrar General was 19.3.

A case of quadruplets falls to be recorded during the year. Unfortunately, all the children died within a few hours. It is estimated that quadruplets occur once in 385,000 births.

Notification of a birth within 36 hours of birth is a statutory duty of the father of the child, and of any person in attendance on the mother.



During the year, 2,645 births were notified. This is at the rate of 97% of the registered births, and is, as will be seen from the following table, the highest ever recorded in the Borough. 1,642 notifications were received from midwives, 343 from medical practitioners, 153 from the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, and 507 from other persons. Cautionary letters were sent to parents, midwives or medical practitioners in each case where no notification had been received of a birth subsequently registered in the Borough.

The following table, No. 1, shows the number of births in each year since 1901, the birth-rate for the same period for Woolwich, London, and England and Wales, and the number of live and still births notified each year since 1908, when the notification of births became compulsory in Woolwich.

TABLE No. 1.

Year	WOOLWICH.		London Birth-rate	England & Wales Birth-rate	WOOLWICH.		Percent- age of births notified
	No. of births	Birth- rate			No. of live births notified	No. of Still- births	
1901	3535	30.0	29.0	—	—	—	—
1902	3730	29.9	28.5	28.6	—	—	—
1903	3691	30.0	28.4	28.4	—	—	—
1904	3531	28.1	28.0	27.9	—	—	—
1905	3549	28.2	27.1	27.9	—	—	—
1906	3524	28.5	26.6	27.0	—	—	—
1907	3295	26.5	25.8	26.3	—	—	—
1908	3082	24.9	25.2	26.5	2194*	62	—
1909	2937	23.8	24.3	25.6	2598	72	88
1910	2844	23.0	23.6	24.8	2653	94	93
1911	2814	23.2	25.5	24.4	2543	68	91
1912	2747	22.3	24.7	23.8	2639	64	96
1913	2876	22.5	24.5	23.9	2637	79	92
1914	2824	22.0	24.3	23.6	2506	59	89
1915	2815	20.9	22.6	21.8	2445	75	87
1916	3074	21.7	23.0	21.6	2642	77	86
1917	2698	17.1	17.4	17.8	2550	88	95
1918	2578	16.5	16.1	17.7	2418	70	94
1919	2737	19.3	18.3	18.5	2645	67	97

\* 10 months only in 1908.



# NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION.

3. The natural increase of the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1917, it was 1148 ; in 1918, it was 486 ; while in 1919, it was 1,058.

The next Table, No. 2, below, shows the number of births in each Parish in 1919, and the respective Birth-rates (after correction for Institutional births) for Quinquennial periods, and for the last four years.

TABLE No. 2.

Period.	Woolwich	West Plumstead	East Plumstead	Eltham	The Borough
1901-1905 ..	29·0	30·1		24·0	29·2
1906-1910 ..	27·9	24·7		21·6	25·3
1911-1915 ..	25·2	20·7	22·7	17·3	22·2
1916 .. ..	21·5	21·6	20·5	23·5	21·7
1917 .. ..	19·6	17·4	18·7	18·2	17·1
1918 .. ..	19·7	15·4	18·0	17·8	16·5
1919 .. ..	21·4	16·9	19·1	20·6	19·3
No. of Births 1919	696	708	730	603	2737

4. **Illegitimate Births.** The following Table, which is partly compiled from statistics given in the Annual Reports of the Registrar General on Births, Deaths and Marriages, shows the number of illegitimate births each year since 1914, and the illegitimate Birth-rate per 1,000 births.

TABLE No. 3.

Year.	No. of illegitimate births.	Illegitimate birth-rate per 1,000 births.
1914	74	26·1
1915	98	34·5
1916	106	34·5
1917	146	53·7
1918	162	63·6
1919	151	55·2

## MARRIAGES.

5. There were 1,350 marriages. The marriage rate was 19·8 as compared with 27·1, 23·7, 19·7 and 20·2 in the four preceding years.

## DEATHS.

6. Table No. I. shows the gross and nett deaths and death-rates in 1919, and each of the last five years, and shows how the nett death figure is obtained.

The nett deaths were 1,679, and the nett death-rate 12·3. In 1918, the death-rate was 14·3.

The following Table, No. 4, shows the death-rate of Woolwich as compared with certain other districts in 1917, 1918 and 1919:—

TABLE No. 4.

	1917.	1918.	1919.
England and Wales	14·4	17·6	13·8
96 Great Towns	14·6	18·2	13·8
London	15·0	18·9	13·4
Greenwich	15·1	18·8	13·5
Lewisham	11·6	13·6	11·4
West Ham	14·5	19·9	13·3
East Ham	11·4	14·5	9·7
Erith	9·6	12·7	10·7
<b>Woolwich</b>	<b>10·6</b>	<b>14·3</b>	<b>12·3</b>



The following Table, No. 5, shews the Death-rate in each registration district of the Borough in Quinquennial periods and during the last four years.

TABLE No. 5.

Periods.		The Borough	Woolwich Parish	West Plumstead	East Plumstead	Eltham
1886-1890	..	—	20·4	16·4		—
1891-1895	..	17·2	19·3	16·0		13·0
1896-1900	..	16·9	20·1	15·1		14·6
1901-1905	..	13·9	16·5	12·9		10·2
1906-1910	..	12·5	14·8	12·0		10·1
1911-1915	..	12·7	14·9	13·2	11·8	8·9
1916 ..	..	12·3	14·3	12·6	10·2	8·5
1917 ..	..	10·6	13·9	11·8	8·4	8·0
1918 ..	..	14·3	18·1	15·5	12·4	10·8
1919 ..	..	12·3	16·2	12·7	10·3	10·1

The above table shews that ever since 1911, the death-rates in Woolwich parish and West Plumstead have been above the death-rate of the Borough.

In 1917 the Death-rate in Woolwich was the lowest of all the Metropolitan Boroughs, and in 1918 three Boroughs, Hampstead, Lewisham and Wandsworth, had a lower death-rate. In 1919 four Boroughs, viz., Lewisham, Wandsworth, Hampstead, and Fulham, had lower death-rates than Woolwich.

The next Tables are self-explanatory.



TABLE No. 6.

## Deaths at various Ages.

Year.	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over	All ages.	Percent- age over 45
1903	399	155	56	70	251	329	377	1637	43 %
1904	479	174	77	69	248	340	376	1763	41 %
1905	366	139	79	78	261	310	372	1605	42 %
1906	396	139	75	69	249	365	373	1666	44 %
1907	372	207	65	95	204	308	364	1615	42 %
1908	293	134	72	69	219	300	424	1516	48 %
1909	240	163	75	77	223	348	411	1537	49 %
1910	240	105	60	60	208	333	404	1410	52 %
1911	273	136	64	60	217	379	432	1561	52 %
1912	201	119	54	66	205	369	406	1420	55 %
1913	229	93	59	92	243	385	479	1580	55 %
1914	239	141	85	82	244	409	490	1690	53 %
1915	268	136	90	88	266	459	534	1841	54 %
1916	212	108	73	78	259	424	529	1683	57 %
1917	214	113	62	74	212	400	475	1550	56 %
1918	268	169	137	162	438	440	478	2092	44 %
1919	235	85	75	99	265	426	494	1679	55 %

TABLE 7.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.

(Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purpose of this Table).

	Birth rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civil Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths. *			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping- cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years)	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ..	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3
96 Great Towns, in- cluding London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5
London .. ..	18.3	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2
WOOLWICH .. ..	19.4	12.3	0.04	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.19	0.30	6.58	86	31.8	91.8	8.1	0.1

\* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.



TABLE II.

Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year 1919, classified by age and cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of " Residents " whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
All causes .. .. .	1679	235	38	47	75	99	265	426	494
Enteric Fever .. .. .	5	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	..
Small-pox .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Measles .. .. .	7	..	3	3	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	3	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. .. .	11	4	3	3	1	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .. .. .	28	1	2	9	15	..	1	..	..
Influenza .. .. .	124	8	1	6	5	17	56	20	11
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .. .. .	171	2	..	1	8	38	72	43	7
Tuberculous Meningitis.. .. .	9	1	1	2	5	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .. .	16	1	..	1	2	7	4	1	..
Cancer, malignant disease .. .. .	157	..	..	1	..	1	13	80	62
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Meningitis .. .. .	13	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	..
Organic Heart Disease .. .. .	164	..	..	1	5	7	19	64	68
Bronchitis .. .. .	114	14	3	1	..	1	..	23	72

TABLE II.—*continued.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of " Residents " whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	125	27	16	9	11	5	21	20	16
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	15	1	..	..	1	..	3	4	6
Diarrhœa and Enteritis .. ..	32	18	..	..	1	1	3	4	5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. ..	16	..	1	1	3	5	..	5	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Alcoholism .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .. ..	39	..	..	..	1	..	4	22	12
Puerperal Fever .. ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. ..	8	..	..	..	..	1	6	1	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	110	110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. ..	41	4	2	3	1	3	6	17	5
Suicide .. ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	1
Other defined diseases .. ..	440	41	2	3	12	10	41	107	224
Diseases ill-defined, or unknown .. ..	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..



TABLE IIa.

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1919 classified  
in districts, corrected for Institutional deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.	Woolwich.	Plumstead.		Eltham.
				West.	East.	
All causes .. ..	875	804	507	508	378	286
Enteric Fever .. ..	2	3	2	..	1	2
Small-pox .. ..	1	1	..	..	2	..
Measles .. ..	5	2	1	2	3	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	2	1	2	..	1	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	5	6	2	..	2	7
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..	12	16	8	10	6	4
Influenza .. ..	65	59	27	38	38	21
Erysipelas .. ..	1	1	1	1	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) .. ..	94	77	65	41	43	22
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	5	4	2	2	3	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..	12	4	5	6	3	2
Cancer, malignant disease .. ..	76	81	46	44	39	28
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Meningitis .. ..	7	6	4	6	1	2
Organic Heart Disease .. ..	88	76	44	60	41	19
Bronchitis .. ..	63	51	31	44	32	7
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	58	67	52	27	25	21
Other diseases of respiratory organs .. ..	9	6	6	5	2	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .. ..	14	18	8	9	9	6
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. ..	9	7	4	3	5	4
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	3	3	1	3	2	..
Alcoholism .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .. ..	25	14	18	13	3	5
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	5	1	2	..	2
Other accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. ..	..	8	3	1	3	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	63	47	29	38	20	23
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. ..	25	16	17	9	10	5
Suicide .. ..	9	3	4	3	3	2
Other Defined Diseases .. ..	220	220	123	140	81	96
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .. ..	2	1	1	..	..	2

### Causes of Death.

7. Table No. II. shews that 171 deaths were due to pulmonary tuberculosis, 157 to cancer or malignant disease, 164 to heart disease, 125 to pneumonia, 114 to bronchitis, 110 to congenital debility, and 41 to violence.

### Cancer and Malignant Disease.

8. The number of deaths due to cancer or malignant disease (including sarcoma) each year since 1901 is shewn in the next Table:—

TABLE No. 8.

		Deaths.		Total.	Death-rate.
		Males.	Females.		
1901	...	—	—	82	0·70
1902	...	—	—	104	0·83
1903	...	39	54	93	0·75
1904	...	34	59	93	0·74
1905	...	42	44	86	0·70
1906	...	59	56	115	0·90
1907	...	44	63	107	0·83
1908	...	39	57	96	0·75
1909	...	53	66	119	0·93
1910	...	47	59	106	0·82
1911	...	62	62	124	1·02
1912	...	63	56	119	0·97
1913	...	55	72	127	0·99
1914	...	62	75	137	1·06
1915	...	50	71	121	0·90
1916	...	54	76	130	0·95
1917	...	57	72	129	0·88
1918	...	79	82	161	1·10
1919	...	76	81	157	1·15



From the preceding table it will be noted that the death-rates from cancer in 1918 and 1919 are the highest ever recorded in the Borough.

Deaths from carcinoma (excluding other malignant tumours) have been classified, according to situation, in the Annual Reports each year since 1903. The details for 1919 are shewn in the next Table No. 9.

TABLE No. 9.

Seat of Primary Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tongue .. .. .	7	—	7
Pharynx .. .. .	2	1	3
Œsophagus .. .. .	5	1	6
Stomach .. .. .	22	10	32
Liver and Gall Bladder .. .. .	6	10	16
Intestines .. .. .	5	8	13
Rectum .. .. .	10	4	14
Uterus .. .. .	—	23	23
Vagina and Vulva .. .. .	—	3	3
Breast .. .. .	—	14	14
Skin .. .. .	—	2	2
Larynx .. .. .	1	1	2
Pancreas .. .. .	3	—	3
Kidneys .. .. .	1	—	1
Bladder .. .. .	6	—	6
Other specified Organs .. .. .	3	2	5
	71	79	150

### Respiratory Diseases.

9. 114 deaths were due to bronchitis, 125 to pneumonia, and 15 to other respiratory diseases. The corresponding figures for 1918 were:—bronchitis 108, pneumonia 208, other respiratory diseases 5.

The next table shews the number of deaths classified according to age grouping.

TABLE No. 10.

	Under 5 years of age.			Over 5 years of age.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Bronchitis ... ..	11	7	18	52	44	96
Pneumonia (all forms)...	26	26	52	32	41	73
Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1	8	6	14
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	38	33	71	92	91	183
	—	—	—	—	—	—

From the above table it will be seen that 71 or 27·9 % of the deaths occurred in children under five years of age. The percentage for 1918 was 33·9.

### Influenza.

10. The number of deaths due to influenza was 124 (65 males and 59 females). 15 of these occurred in children under five years of age. The number of deaths ascribed to this disease in 1918 was 454, and it will be seen from the following table that most of the deaths occurring in 1919 are due to the tail end of the epidemic which swept over England in 1918.

TABLE No. 11.

Quarter.	Deaths from influenza.	
	1918.	1919.
January to March ...	4	103
April to June ...	6	15
July to September ...	27	—
October to December ...	417	6
	—	—
	454	124
	—	—

### Violence.

11. Forty-one deaths, 25 of males and 16 of females, occurred from violence, apart from suicide. Twelve deaths were due to suicidal causes, 9 of males and 3 of females.



### Inquests.

12. There were 135 inquests held in the Borough compared with 146, 180, 181, 131 and 112, in the preceding five years.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

13. The deaths under one year were 235, as compared with 268 in 1918. The infantile mortality rate (deaths under one year per 1000 births) was 86.

The Infantile Mortality rate for London was 85; for England and Wales it was 89. In Lewisham the rate was 60, in Stoke Newington 64, in Wandsworth 72, in Battersea 73, in Stepney 79, in Chelsea 80, in Hampstead 81, in Camberwell and Hackney 82, in Fulham and Poplar 83, in Bethnal Green 84, and in Deptford and Lambeth, 85. From the figures in the preceding sentence and from the note after table 5, it will be seen that, although in the general death-rate Woolwich had the fifth lowest rate, in the infantile death-rate it is bracketed for the fourteenth place with two other Boroughs.

The following table, No. 12, gives the infantile mortality rate in each registration district of the Borough in quinquennial periods and during the last four years:

TABLE No. 12.

Periods.		The Borough.	Woolwich Parish.	Plumstead West.	Plumstead East.	Eltham.
1886-1890	..	—	151	121		—
1891-1895	..	140	157	120		163
1896-1900	..	146	170	132		160
1901-1905	..	119	134	113		97
1906-1910	..	97	109	91		89
1911-1915	..	86	101	75	81	67
1916	.. ..	70	84	54	65	83
1917	.. ..	79	97	70	84	67
1918	.. ..	104	125	99	85	109
1919	.. ..	86	96	82	68	92

14. **Illegitimate Deaths.** The number of deaths amongst illegitimate infants was 28. A comparison of the infantile mortality rates of legitimate and illegitimate children shows that the rate for legitimate was 80, and for illegitimate children, 186.

15. **Causes of Death.**—The number of deaths under one year of age, 235, compares with 268 last year.

A decrease occurs in deaths from Diphtheria, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and Enteritis. Figures for deaths due to other causes are practically the same.

16. **Age at Death.**—The age at death is shown in Table III. 117 or 49% of infant deaths were under four weeks of age. In 1918, 109 or 40·7% occurred under four weeks.



TABLE III.—INFANT MORTALITY.

1919. Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under  
One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
{ Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	4
{ Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
{ Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
{ Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
{ Convulsions ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	2	3	7
{ Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	2	2	14
{ Pneumonia (all Forms) ..	..	2	1	..	3	5	5	4	10	27
{ Diarrhœa ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis ..	..	2	1	..	3	2	4	4	2	15
{ Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
{ Syphilis ..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
{ Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
{ Suffocation, overlying ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
{ Injury at Birth ..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
{ Atelectasis ..	9	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	9
{ Congenital Malformations ..	7	..	2	1	10	1	..	..	..	11
{ Premature Birth ..	49	4	4	6	63	5	..	..	..	68
{ Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ..	11	1	4	..	16	8	5	2	..	31
{ Other causes ..	2	2	1	..	5	11	4	7	3	30
	85	11	14	7	117	42	27	25	24	235

Nett Births registered during the calendar year { Legitimate .. 2586.  
Illegitimate .. 151.

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of { Legitimate Infants, 207.  
Illegitimate Infants 28.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### SCAVENGING.

#### Removal of House Refuse.

17. There has been no alteration in the system of the removal of house refuse during the year. House refuse is collected by contract in the Parishes of Plumstead and Eltham, and by the Works Committee in the Parish of Woolwich. In Eltham it is disposed of by tipping, and in Woolwich and Plumstead by a destructor. The Council's contractors are Messrs. Tuff & Hoar. In Plumstead 14,846 loads, in Woolwich 6,969 loads, and in Eltham 5,995 loads (estimated), were collected and disposed of. The total cost of collection and disposal in Eltham was £2,495 12s. 5d., as compared with £2038 16s. 5d. in 1918. In Plumstead the cost of removal was £5,137 11s. 5d., compared with £4360 12s. 7d. in the preceding year. The frequency of removal is weekly, although in certain parts of Woolwich and Plumstead it is twice weekly. The number of dustbins which it was found necessary to renew was 609, compared with 434 in 1918, and 447 in 1917.

#### Removal of Trade Refuse.

(a) **In-offensive.** The arrangements for the removal of trade refuse are similar to those for house refuse, with the exception that it is removed in Plumstead mainly by the Works Department. In Woolwich 169 loads, in Plumstead 359 loads, and in Eltham 16 loads were removed. All trade refuse, with the exception of 41 loads, was removed by the Borough Engineer. The charge made for the removal is 2s. per load.



(b) **Offensive.** Offensive trade refuse is removed by the Borough Engineer. The Borough Council make a systematic collection principally from butchers and fishmongers. For this purpose specially prepared airtight receptacles, of a capacity of two bushels, are provided, and in the scheme an empty one is left with the dealer whenever a full one is removed. These receptacles are collected regularly, and whenever a lorry load (18) is obtained, the refuse is carted to a guano manufacturer in Poplar. Soiled receptacles are cleansed externally and internally by scalding and scrubbing before re-issue. The charge made per receptacle is 3d., payable quarterly in advance. There are 39 tradesmen from whom this refuse is collected, and during the year 4,222 receptacles were removed, compared with 2,317 in the preceding year.

### Cleansing of Earth-closets, Privies, and Cesspools.

18. In the outlying parts of the Borough, where the sewers are not within the statutory distance of the houses, it is still necessary to resort to the temporary expedient of earth-closets and cesspools.

Under the provisions of the Bye-laws of the London County Council, where cesspools are constructed they are made watertight, and where earth-closets are in use the receptacle is of galvanised iron.

The Borough Council, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, undertake the cleansing and emptying of earth-closets and cesspools. For the emptying of cesspools the Works Department has an equipment of tank carts and pumps and, where necessary, carry this work out during night time.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

19. This part of the report, which has been largely prepared by your Chief Sanitary Inspector, deals with the work of the District Inspectors and of the Lady Sanitary Inspector. During the year, as last year, two Sanitary Inspectors have been acting under the Food Control Committee and, in consequence, have not been available for general sanitary work, although they have been extremely useful in dealing with the supervision of food.

Tables 13 to 16 shew in detail the work of the Inspectors.

20. The number of complaints received and attended to was 719, as compared with 492, 630 and 599, in the three preceding years. 27 of these complaints related to the non-removal of dust: 2 of these were from Woolwich, 10 from Plumstead and 15 from Eltham.

21. Tables Nos. 13 and 14 below shew the number of the various inspections carried out during the year.



TABLE No. 13.

PREMISES INSPECTED.	Sanitary Inspectors' Districts.								Total.
	St. Mary's and Dockyard.	River.	Herbert.	Central and St. Margaret's.	St. Nicholas.	Burrage and Glyndon.	Eltham.	St. George's.	
No. of Houses inspected, house to house ..	291	229	..	64	414	224	478	480	2180
„ Re-inspections after service of Notice (estimated) ..	1424	1512	1064	950	2306	1076	2826	1328	12486
„ Houses and premises specially inspected, including infectious diseases and complaints ..	421	527	532	411	739	314	935	184	4062
„ Houses where drains have been tested by smoke test ..	5	5	9	6	1	6	23	6	61
„ Houses where drains have been tested by water test ..	3	6	5	5	2	0	17	4	42
„ New Houses inspected for Water Certificates ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
„ Inspections of Registered Houses ..	172	251	6	23	84	48	..	114	698
MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.									
No. of Observations <i>re</i> Smoke Nuisance ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	5
„ Tents, Vans &c., Inspected ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	50	..	51
„ Urinals accessible to Public Inspected ..	72	164	7	55	26	20	42	20	405
„ Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance ..	6	1	2	..	3	2	12	..	26

TABLE No. 14.

No. of Inspections of Shops and Market <i>re</i> Food (estimated)	..	450
„ Inspections of Premises where food is prepared ..	..	118
„ Inspections of Milkshops .. .. .	..	76
„ Inspections of Bakehouses.. .. .	..	92
„ Inspections of Cowhouses and Slaughterhouses, &c.	..	125
„ Inspections of Outworkers' Premises ..	..	98
„ Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	..	502
„ Inspections of Homes, <i>re</i> Verminous Cases ..	..	416
„ Inspections of Houses on Defective Combined Drains	..	88
„ Inspections <i>re</i> Scabies Cases .. .. .	..	403
„ Inspections <i>re</i> Women's Lavatories .. .. .	..	104
„ Miscellaneous (unclassified), including Re-inspections	..	1560

As compared with 1918, the number of inspections, house-to-house, has diminished (2,180 as against 2,754), but the number of re-inspections has increased (12,486 as against 6,530). Difficulty in securing the prompt attention to notices served, caused mainly by the increased cost of both material and labour, has necessitated the giving of increased time to re-inspections by your Inspectors. The mere inspection of defective conditions, although valuable, is relatively futile if the necessary repairs are not carried out. The number of drains tested was 103 compared with 59 in 1918.

22. In accordance with the provisions of the Metropolis Management Act, plans are submitted where the repair of drains is of an extensive nature, and the information is likely to be of use for future reference. It is not insisted that an elaborate drawing should be provided, but a plan reasonably interpreting the drains that have been attended to, is accepted. There have been during the year, 32 plans submitted, Nos. 335 to 366.

23. Notices for the repair and reconstruction of 17 combined drains, relating to the connections of 88 houses, were served on the owners. These compare with 3 and 23 respectively in the previous year.

In four cases in the present year the owners were in default, and these were referred to the Borough Engineer to carry out the necessary work and recover the cost.



TABLE No. 15.

24. Table No. 15 below shows the various nuisances abated during the year in the various wards of the Borough.

NUISANCES ABATED.	Sanitary Inspectors' Districts.								Total.
	St. Mary's and Dockyard.	River.	Herbert.	Central and St. Margaret's.	St. Nicholas.	Burrage and Glyndon.	Eltham.	St. George's.	
Waste-pipe from baths, lavatories, and wash-house sinks, repaired or disconnected ..	9	10	12	12	37	6	16	10	112
Choked and defective drains ..	28	53	41	32	68	19	44	7	292
Defective traps.. ..	..	..	3	..	1	2	7	..	13
Defective and unventilated soil pipes ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	4	..	8
W.C.'s repaired, new traps or pans provided ..	30	25	33	29	36	44	34	29	360
Water supply apparatus repaired or renewed ..	46	31	20	40	116	35	66	32	386
Foul pans cleansed .. ..	6	22	5	7	19	19	26	9	113
Additional w.c.'s provided to Factories and Workshops, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Additional w.c.'s provided to dwelling houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Underground rooms not in accordance with Act..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Interiors cleansed and defective roofs repaired ..	175	245	238	158	321	336	313	363	2149
Damp walls remedied .. ..	20	59	51	20	51	59	38	77	375
Paving in yards and wash-houses repaired ..	12	10	13	20	37	12	15	13	132
Improved ventilation provided .. ..	..	12	2	..	2	16	5	6	43
Wash-houses provided with sinks and outlets for waste water .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6

TABLE No. 15—continued.

NUISANCES ABATED.	Sanitary Inspectors' Districts.								
	St. Mary's and Dockyard.	River.	Herbert.	Central and St. Margaret's.	St. Nicholas.	Burrage and Glyndon.	Eltham.	St. George's.	Total.
Defective guttering and rain-water pipes ..	35	20	23	26	113	40	37	23	317
Dustbins supplied .. ..	21	80	21	51	170	43	90	133	609
Cases of overcrowding remedied .. ..	4	8	5	..	8	4	9	11	48
Deficient light—windows supplied, or enlarged, or other works .. ..	12	..	1	11	1	2	16	..	43
Dampness in premises from defective water pipes ..	11	4	11	3	22	16	7	6	80
Accumulations of manure removed .. ..	6	..	17	6	15	11	12	..	66
Dung pits provided .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Defective and foul cisterns used for dietary purposes .. ..	..	1	..	..	4	..	6	..	11
Defective and foul rain-water tanks remedied ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	4
Insufficient supply, and water cut off by Water Board .. ..	7	8	3	6	4	7	14	..	49
Additional water supply for two or more families ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Smoke Nuisances .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Verminous rooms cleansed .. ..	9	13	5	5	6	14	9	13	74



25. The total number of intimation notices served was 2,470, as compared with 2,308 in 1918. It was found necessary to serve 846 statutory notices, as compared with 810 in 1918. The number of cases reported to the Town Clerk for legal proceedings was 79; 7 summonses were taken out, the necessary work in the other cases being done.

26. The following table shows the number of summonses taken out during the year, and the result of the proceedings :—

TABLE No. 16.

Prosecutions under the Public Health, Housing, Town Planning, &c., and London County Council (General Powers) Acts.

No.	Date of Hearing.	Offence.	Situation.	Result.
1	1919 April 16	Filthy and unwholesome top room, and an accumulation of offensive refuse	38 Warwick Street	Order to abate in 7 days. 4/- costs
2	May 22	Defective roof ..	80 Bannockburn Road	£1 1s. 0d. costs
3	Dec. 4	Dirty conditions and defective roof	5 High Street, Plumstead	£1 1s. 0d. costs
4	" 4	No dustbin ... ..	Do. do. ...	8/- costs
5	" 4	Defective w.c. apparatus	Do. do. ...	£1 1s. 0d. costs
6	" 4	Dirty conditions of house	77 Tewson Road ...	£1 1s. 0d. costs
7	" 31	Dirty conditions of house	6 Vicarage Road ...	Order to abate in 14 days. 11/- costs

### HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

27. Detailed statistics with regard to the number of these on the register are given in Table 20 on page 43, and with regard

to their inspection in Table 13 on page 30. These houses have been regularly inspected during the year by the Lady Sanitary Inspector.

The difficulties in obtaining the prompt abatement of nuisances in houses let in lodgings have been similar to those experienced in the routine house inspections, the costs of labour and materials being the trouble, thereby necessitating increased supervision. There is always a greater tendency to overcrowd in these houses, but the difficulty in abating this is obviously the shortage of houses. The circumstances are, as far as possible, mitigated by a re-distribution of the occupants on the advice of the Inspector.

28. Power is given under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act of 1919, Section 26, to the London County Council to prepare bye-laws—

- (a) for fixing and from time to time varying the number of persons who may occupy a house or part of a house which is let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, and for separation of the sexes therein ;
- (b) for the registration and inspection of such houses ;
- (c) for enforcing drainage and promoting cleanliness and ventilation of such houses ;
- (d) for requiring provision adequate for the use of and readily accessible to each family of—
  - (i) closet accommodation ;
  - (ii) water supply and washing accommodation ;
  - (iii) accommodation for the storage, preparation, and cooking of food ;
 and, where necessary, for securing separate accommodation as aforesaid for every part of such house which is occupied as a separate dwelling ;
- (e) for the keeping in repair and adequate lighting of any common staircase in such houses ;



- (f) for securing stability, and the prevention of and safety from fire ;
- (g) for the cleansing and redecoration of the premises at stated times, and for the paving of the courts and courtyards ;
- (h) for the provision of handrails, where necessary, for all staircases of such houses ;
- (i) for securing the adequate lighting of every room in such houses ;

and when these bye-laws come into force, the anomalous position at present existing in the Borough (no bye-laws operating in the parish of Eltham) will automatically come to an end.

## CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

29. The station for cleansing verminous persons was opened in November, 1906. It is situated in White Hart Lane, Plumstead, in premises adjoining the Disinfection Station.

An agreement was entered into with the London County Council in August, 1911, to allow the London County Council to use the Borough Council's Cleansing Station for cleansing school children. The station is now reserved for the use of these children every day between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., except Saturday and Sunday. Girls are cleansed in the morning and boys in the afternoon. The Borough Council must cleanse the children to the reasonable satisfaction of the London County Council, which pays 1/- for each cleansing.

During the year, the London County Council pointed out that the accommodation provided was inadequate, and, in consequence, the premises are now being enlarged by the addition of a waiting room, so that at least 125 cases can be dealt with per week. A new agreement has been entered into with the London County Council whereby, as soon as these alterations are com-

pleted, they guarantee a minimum payment of £275 per annum to the Borough Council.

The Borough Council employs a female attendant to cleanse the children, who acts under the supervision of a London County Council School Nurse, who is responsible for the treatment of the children at the Station.

The children with verminous heads are given a box of Staves-acre ointment and printed instructions as to its use.

The names and addresses of all children are entered in a book, and the Lady Sanitary Inspector visits the children's homes and makes the necessary arrangements for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous bedding and rooms.

Table No. 17 below shows the extent to which the Station has been used in the last five years.

TABLE 17.

CHILDREN.				ADULTS.			Grand Total.
Year.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	
1915	315	551	866	72	16	88	954
1916	625	440	1065	44	15	59	1124
1917	1131	1652	2783	9	8	17	2800
1918	1930	1737	3667	14	3	17	3684
1919	1919	1816	3735	13	8	21	3756

It will be noted that, for the years 1917-18-19. the numbers cleansed have considerably increased. The increase is partly due to an arrangement entered into in 1917, whereby cases of scabies are treated.



## UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS.

30. No underground rooms were found to be occupied for sleeping contrary to the regulations.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

31. There are no offensive trades in Woolwich.

## FACTORIES, WORK-SHOPS & WORK-PLACES.

32. The total number of factories, workshops, and work-places on the register at the end of the year was 314.

The total number of inspections made, 502, compares with 570 last year; it was found necessary to serve 67 notices compared with 37 in 1918. 98 inspections of home-workers' premises were made, and 7 notices were sent and attended to.

The Lady Sanitary Inspector devoted a large amount of her time to the inspection of workshops, factories and houses where women are employed.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified as having occurred in the homes of outworkers.

The houses of outworkers are subject to the regular inspection that takes place as the routine work of the Sanitary Inspectors in house-to-house inspection, and in connection with complaints, and are therefore maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

The following Tables, Nos. 18A and 18B, are in the form suggested by the Home Office for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health so as to ensure uniformity in the presentation of statistics.

TABLE 18A.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and  
Homeworkers' Premises.1.—*Inspection.*

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories .. .. . (Including Factory Laundries)	142	30
Workshops .. .. . (Including Workshop Laundries)	242	10
Workplaces .. .. .	118	27
Homeworkers' Premises ..	98	7
Total .. .. .	600	74

2.—*Defects found.*

Description.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under Public Health Act :</i>		
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	39	39
Want of Ventilation .. ..	4	4
Overcrowding .. .. .	3	3
Want of Drainage of floors ..	—	—
Other nuisances .. .. .	4	4
Sanitary Accom- modation {	insufficient ..	1
	unsuitable or defective }	4
	not separate for sexes }	1
Total .. .. .	56	56



TABLE 18A.—*continued.*3.—*Other Matters.*

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act. (S. 133) .. .. .	1
Action taken in matters remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5).	Notified by H.M. Inspector .. 2
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors 3
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
In use during 1903 .. .. .	24
Certificates granted {	in 1906 .. .. . 1
	in 1910 .. .. . 1
In use during 1919 .. .. .	10
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at end of 1919 :—	
Workshop Laundries .. .. .	13
,, Bakehouses .. .. .	46
Other Workshops .. .. .	242
Total number of Workshops on Register ..	301

TABLE 18B.  
4.—Home Work.

Out Workers' Lists, Section 107.									Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.	Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.			Outwork in Infected Premises, Sections 109, 110.		
Nature of Work.	Lists received from Employers.				Number of Addresses of Outworkers received from Other Councils.	Number of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to Other Councils.	Prosecutions.			Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (Sec. 109).	Prosecutions (Secs. 109, 110).
	Twice in the year.		Once in the year.				Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists.	Failing to send lists.							
	Lists. 1	Outworkers. 2	Lists. 3	Outworkers. 4											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wearing Apparel	28	105	7	22	36	18	..	..	30	..	3	..	..	..	..
Tennis Balls, etc.	6	552	..	..	..	105	..	..	68	..	4	..	..	..	..
Artificial Flowers	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	34	657	7	22	37	123	..	..	98	..	7	..	..	..	..



TABLE 19.

## 33. LIST OF CERTIFIED UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES.

NAME.	ADDRESS.
A. B. Adams .. ..	223, High Street, Plumstead
J. Werner .. ..	1, Park Road, do.
F. Cox .. ..	46, Hudson Road, do.
Virgoe & Sons .. ..	13, Eton Road, do.
J. Colver .. ..	57, Plumstead Road, do.
A. E. Sims .. ..	24, St. James's Place, do.
H. M. Goss .. ..	30, Burrage Road, do.
F. Wilkening .. ..	72, Henry Street, Woolwich
W. C. Clothier .. ..	51, Albion Road, do.
Irons & Co. .. ..	15, New Road do.
— (unoccupied) ..	50, Herbert Road, Plumstead
— (unoccupied) ..	16, Armstrong Place, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	2, Crescent Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	33, Eglinton Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	14, Westdale Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	58, Pattison Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	14, Conway Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	165, Sandy Hill Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	57, Burrage Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	31, Beresford Street, Woolwich
— (unoccupied) ..	16, Woolwich Common, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	23, George Street, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	21, Albion Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	32, Church Street, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	81/82, Brookhill Road, do.
— (unoccupied) ..	8, Hill Street, do.

## MILK PREMISES, COW-SHEDS, ETC.

34. The following Table, No. 20, shews the number of milk premises, etc., on the various registers at the beginning and end of the year; the number of inspections, number of notices served, and proceedings instituted.

TABLE 20.

Proceedings, etc., during 1919.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF PLACES.				Number of Inspections.	Number of Notices.	Number of Prosecutions.
	On Register at end of 1918.	Added in 1919.	Removed in 1919.	On Register at end of 1919.			
Milk Premises ..	84	4	12	76	76	0	0
Cowsheds ..	14	0	0	14	52	5	0
Slaughter-houses ..	9	0	0	9	27	0	0
Ice Cream Premises ..	46	0	0	46	46	0	0
Registered houses let in Lodgings }	448	5	10	443	678	510	0

The number of milk retailers has been reduced by eight during the year. The reduction is mainly due to the difficulties of small dealers in obtaining their supplies, and to the narrow margin of profit during the operation of the milk prices orders of the Food Controller. There is no reason to regret this diminution, as those who have discontinued were keepers of small general shops where the facilities for keeping the milk were not ideal.

The Cow-houses are systematically inspected, and the sheds are maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition. Efforts are made to obtain an observance of cleanliness by the cowmen, both of himself and the animals. A reasonable standard of cleanliness is maintained, but there are still possibilities of improvement. There has been an average of 458 cows in the Borough. The milk from these is mainly consumed in this area.



The Slaughterhouses are subject to systematic inspection, in addition to which they are constantly seen during the inspection of unsound or diseased meat. The slaughterhouse belonging to the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society is the one most extensively used in the Borough.

TABLE 21.  
LIST OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No.	Name of Owner.	Situation.
1	Harry Chaston .. ..	168, High Street, Eltham
2	H. Reed & Co., Ltd. ..	6, High Street, Plumstead
3	William Francis Bartlett ..	Rear of 14, Church Street, Woolwich
4	H. Reed & Co., Ltd. ..	Love Lane (rear of Wellington Street), Woolwich
5	James & George Mitchell ..	25, Hare Street, Woolwich
6	Hedley Vicars .. ..	30, Hare Street, Woolwich
7	H. Reed & Co., Ltd. ..	38, Plumstead Common Road, Plumstead
8	Henry Fretter .. ..	33, Herbert Road, Plumstead
9	Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society	Bostal Farm, Plumstead

There was not a large amount of Ice Cream manufactured in the Borough, due to the shortage of sugar, but an allowance of sugar was granted to six ice cream makers. The list of ice cream premises is still being maintained.

## MORTUARIES.

35. There are two Mortuaries in the Borough, one in Sun Street, and one in Eltham. The one in Eltham is only regarded as a place for the temporary deposit of a body, the accommodation being limited to one apartment. At Sun Street there is separate accommodation for non-infectious and infectious bodies. There is no Coroner's Court.

The following Table, No. 22, shows the extent these Mortuaries were used during the year.

	Sun Street.	Sun Street	Eltham.
Number of bodies removed—		(Infectious).	
(a) for inquest ...	135	2	3
(b) for custody ...	18	2	5
Total number ...	153	4	8
Number of Post-Mortem			
Examinations ...	80	—	—

## CEMETERIES.

36. The two Borough Cemeteries were well maintained, and no complaints were received. The following statistics relating to interments have been supplied by the various Cemetery Superintendents, and by the Vicar of Eltham :—

TABLE 23.

	Number of Interments.		
	1919.	1918.	1917.
Woolwich Cemetery ...	606	839	701
Plumstead Cemetery ...	740	915	665
Eltham Cemetery ...	192	218	159
Plumstead Churchyard	37	32	36
	1575	2004	1561



## INHABITED HOUSE DUTY.

37. No Certificate under the Inland Revenue Act was granted during 1919.

38. The following matters are dealt with in the Housing part of the Report:—Overcrowding; Fitness of Houses; Action under the Housing Acts.

## RAT DESTRUCTION.

39. There were 75 complaints received as to the existence of rats. These referred to rats that were infesting 141 premises, and related to 38 business premises (including premises where food is prepared and stored), 16 stables and 87 private houses. In the private houses complained of there were always chickens or rabbits kept. The premises were inspected and occupiers advised that they were responsible for the extermination. The occupiers were advised as to the best methods that should be adopted to meet their case. Poisons, traps and varnished boards were recommended. The two principal factors always kept in mind were rat-proofing the premises and killing all rats. In cases where there was any suspicion that the rats were coming from defective drains, the drainage systems were tested and examined.

The complaints received were from all parts of the Borough, and principally related to only a small number of rats in each case. There were, however, two business premises investigated which are largely infested, but in these cases action is continually being taken by the firm to reduce the numbers. In one instance, a rat-catcher is constantly employed, and records are kept of his work.

# FOOD.

## MILK.

40. During the winter months of the year a return was obtained by the Food Control Committee of the amount of milk available each week in the Borough. This is set out below in tabular form, and the maximum price per quart is set out also.

TABLE 24.

Week ending		Amount in gallons.		Cost per quart.
January	4th	...	33,853	8d.
	11th	...	35,124	8d.
	18th	...	35,081	8d.
	25th	...	35,294	8d.
February	1st	...	35,539	8d.
	8th	...	35,314	8d.
	15th	...	36,009	8d.
August	30th	...	35,130	8d.
Sept.	27th	...	32,997	9d.
October	4th	...	23,738	11d.
	11th	...	30,426	11d.
	18th	...	31,380	11d.
	25th	...	30,257	11d.
November	1st	...	30,976	1/-
	8th	...	30,102	1/-
	15th	...	29,968	1/-
	22nd	...	30,288	1/-
	29th	...	29,950	1/-
December	6th	...	30,735	1/-
	13th	...	31,080	1/-
	20th	...	30,934	1/-
	27th	...	31,787	1/-



These figures mean that the average amount of milk coming into Woolwich was approximately a quarter of a pint per head of population per day. Actually during the weeks when the return was obtained, it varied (excluding the railway strike week when it was only  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ozs.) from 5.02 ozs. to 6.04 ozs. The Ministry of Food estimated that the amount of liquid milk available in January and February for the whole country was roughly a quarter of a pint per head of population per day, so that the Woolwich milk supply may be considered an average one, or perhaps very slightly over the average.

This supply is of course insufficient, and the liquid milk must be supplemented from other sources. In London, it is estimated that the number of tins of condensed milk used per head of population per annum is 16. The supply may also be supplemented by the use of dried milk, but no figures are available to show the extent to which dried milk is used.

From the above figures it must be apparent that there is an inadequate supply of pure fresh milk, and it is reasonable to assume that many children do not get fresh milk. This is rather confirmed by the fact, that during the railway strike, 994 priority cards were supplied for condensed milk, and 557 for fresh milk on behalf of children under 6, and invalids, out of a total number of 1,551 cards.

There are eleven farms within the district where milch cows are kept, and the total strength of the herds amounts to 458.

During the summer months there appeared to be a more plentiful milk supply, but the quantity used by those mostly in need of it, viz., the children of the poor, must be regulated in a large measure by their ability to pay the price. This, unfortunately, was on an ascending scale during the year.

### Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.

41. There are 14 licensed cowsheds in the Borough, in which there are approximately 458 cows in milk. These have been regularly inspected quarterly during the year, and are kept in a satisfactory condition. In consequence of their being subject to annual license, a direct stimulus is given to efficient maintenance. There were no objections to the renewal of the licences, but the attention of the London County Council was drawn to an unlicensed shed being used by one of the cowkeepers. This matter was dealt with at the licensing sessions.

TABLE 25.  
LIST OF COWHOUSES.

No.	Name of Owner.	Situation.
1	William Frederick Fisher ..	Cold Harbour Farm, Chislehurst
2	Alfred Low .. ..	Avery Hill Farm, Eltham
3	W. F. Corp .. ..	Lyme Farm, Eltham
4	Charles Umfreville Fisher and William F. Fisher, Crescent Farm, Sidcup	Belmont Park Farm, Eltham
5	James Grace .. ..	Pippinhall Farm, Eltham
6	Charles Umfreville Fisher ..	Chapel Farm, Eltham
7	Thomas W. Keen and Stanley A. Keen	Clay Farm, New Eltham
8	Elizabeth Compton Bayley ..	Middle Park Farm, Eltham
9	Harry Furber .. ..	Southend Farm, Eltham
10	Charles William Killick ..	52, St. James' Place, Plumstead
11	Charles William Killick ..	13, Princes Road, Plumstead
12	Herbert J. Wolsey, George E. Wolsey, Nelson W. Wolsey	50, Francis Street, Plumstead
13	F. G. Cock .. ..	13, Raglan Road, Plumstead
14	Edwards & Sons, Ltd. ..	Rear of 14, 15 & 16, Pellipar Road, Woolwich



At the end of the year there were 76 milkshops on the register, a diminution of 8 from 1918, 12 being removed from the register, and 4 added. There have been no prosecutions, and no notices served.

### **Milk Registration.**

42. The following applications for registration as a retail dealer in milk have been granted since January, 1919, to December, 1919:—

Sidney L. Bartlett, 59 Piedmont Road, Plumstead. 11-3-19.  
(Business taken over from Brown, 40 Garibaldi Street, Plumstead).

William Wells, 164 High Street, Eltham. 11-3-19.  
(Business taken over by F. W. Weeb, 2-3-1920).

L. H. Wise, 6 Herbert Road, Plumstead. 16-6-1919.  
(Business taken over from Large & Sons, 6 Herbert Road, Plumstead).

Thomas H. Craig, 46 Church Street, Woolwich. 8-9-1919.  
(Business taken over from Aldridge, 46 Church Street, Woolwich).

### **MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 and 1917.**

43. All samples of milk were examined for the presence of preservatives and colouring matter. In no case were these reported to be present. The sale of cream was restricted from 12th April to 1st September, 1920.

### **Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.**

44. The Council on the 10th April, 1918, authorised the Medical Officer to supply necessitous mothers and babies with milk at a reduced cost or free of cost, and in November, 1919, at a time when the price of milk was rising, they re-considered

their previous arrangements, and resolved to supply milk free to all eligible applicants who came within the scale set out below. The Medical Officer was authorised in addition to supply milk to applicants above this scale provided he obtained the covering approval of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee at their next meeting.

The scale at present in force is as follows :—

No. in Family.			Average Income	
			per head.*	
			s.	d.
One	...	...	10	0
Two	...	...	10	0
Three	...	...	8	8
Four	...	...	7	9
Five	...	...	7	5
Six or more	...	...	7	2

\* After deduction of rent, fares and insurances.

During the year fresh milk was supplied in 84 cases at a cost of £137 2s. 0d., and dried milk in 57 cases at a cost of £112 10s. 6d.

Dinners have been supplied in 10 cases at a cost of £12 14s. 2d.

Dried milk has been sold at all the Centres during the year to those who cannot afford to pay the ordinary trade price.

## UN SOUND FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION.

45. The District Inspectors when on duty in their districts are always on the outlook for unsound food, but in addition to this, the two sanitary inspectors doing duty with the Food Control Committee, have kept under regular inspection food exposed or deposited for sale in shops, slaughterhouses, and the market stalls.



There were three seizures during the year. These related to 33½ cwt. of mussels. These were delivered direct into the district and did not pass through Billingsgate Market. Samples examined bacteriologically showed that these were polluted. The circumstances, however, did not justify proceedings.

On 120 occasions unsound food was surrendered. Included in the food surrendered <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ 10,380 lbs. of dates; 7,573 lbs. of beef; 3,690 lbs. of bacon; 9 boxes, 7 barrels, 5 bags, and 36 cwt. of fish, and smaller quantities of cheese, rabbits, calves' livers, ox livers, butter and condensed milk. The number of carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned on account of tuberculosis was 13.

On one inspection of the market place in Beresford Square your inspector was obstructed. Legal proceedings followed, and the stall-holder was fined.

The condition of Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses, and the report of the sanitary condition of premises is dealt with in that part of the report dealing with the sanitary inspection of the district.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

46. The following Table, No. 26, shows the nature and number of the various analyses made during the year, and the result of the analyses :—

TABLE 26.

### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

#### List of Articles Analysed during 1919.

Article.	Formal Samples.	Informal Samples.	Number Analysed.	Number Adulterated
Milk	... 209	... 5	... 214	... 7
Margarine	... 31	... 4	... 35	... —
Cocoa	... 40	... 26	... 66	... —
Coffee	... 51	... 14	... 65	... —

TABLE 26—continued.

Article.	Formal Samples.	Informal Samples.	Number Analysed.	Number Adulterated
Pepper ...	8	5	13	—
Vinegar ...	11	3	14	—
Dripping ...	1	3	4	—
Tomato Soup	2	3	5	—
Mustard ...	20	4	24	1
Butter ...	1	6	7	—
Lard ...	3	5	8	—
Drugs ...	—	16	16	—
Cream of Tartar	—	4	4	—
Baking Powder	3	5	8	—
Fish Paste ...	—	1	1	—
	<hr/> 380	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 484	<hr/> 8

The percentage of adulterated samples, 1·6 per cent., is the lowest recorded in the last five years, and compares with 7·3, 7·9, 9·4, 7·2, and 3·2, in the preceding years. None of the informal samples were found to be adulterated. The number of samples taken on a Sunday was 20, and 1 of these was found adulterated.

In the certificate furnished by the Analyst, a fat percentage figure is given in the case of each sample of Milk. The minimum legal standard is 3 per cent. The 214 samples analysed show the following fat percentage figures:—

Above 4·5%	...	2
4%—4·5%	...	20
3·5—4%	...	95
3%—3·5%	...	92
Below 3%	...	5
		<hr/> 214



TABLE 27.

Prosecutions under the Food &amp; Drugs Acts during 1919.

No.	Article.	Nature of Offence.	Name and Address of Vendor.	Result of Proceedings.
1	Milk ..	10.0 % deficient in fat..	Eltham Dairies .. ..	Fine £3; costs £1 11s. 6d.
2	Milk ..	9.3 % added water ..	W. S. Aldridge, 10 Chapel Street ..	Fine £3; costs £1 11s. 6d.
3	Milk ..	38.35 % „ „ ..	Emily A. Gill, 398 High Street, Plumstead	Fine £5; costs £4 11s. 6d.
4	Mustard ..	15.0 % foreign starch ..	Agnes Etherington, 34 Aberly Street ..	Withdrawn on payment of £2 2s. 0d. costs
5	Milk ..	5.41 % added water ..	W. Wren, 9 Elizabeth Street, North Woolwich	Warranty proved
6	Milk ..	5.17 % „ „ ..	Eltham Dairies, High Street, Eltham ..	Fine £5; costs £1 11s. 6d.
7	Milk ..	29.3 % deficient in fat..	S. L. Bartlett, 31 Piedmont Road ..	Fine £1; costs £1 1s. 0d.
8	Milk ..	9.17 % added water ..	F. W. Webb & Co., Lakedale Road ..	Dismissed; Warranty proved

Prosecution under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891.

1		Wilful obstruction of Sanitary Inspector while examining un-sound meat in Beresford Square	Edward Gilder, 2 Wellington Mansions, Charlton	Fine £2; costs £1 1s. 0d.
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## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### Notifications.

47. The total number of Notifications received during the year was 3,461. Table No. IV. below shows these notifications in detail for each disease and in year groups. It also shows the numbers occurring in each parish in the Borough, and the numbers removed to Hospital. For comparative purposes, the number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases occurring in the Borough each year since 1901 are shown in Table 28 on page 57.

During 1919, there was an increase in the incidence of Infectious Diseases, and more particularly in the case of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.



TABLE IV.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1919.

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				Mistaken Diagnosis.	Total Cases removed to Hospital or Sanatorium.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Woolwich.	Plumstead.		Eltham.		
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		West	East			
Small-pox ... ..	4	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	4
Anthrax ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cholera (C), Plague (P) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	398	5	73	244	51	23	2	...	149	108	84	57	24	345
Erysipelas ... ..	63	1	2	5	9	22	16	8	13	20	22	8	...	8
Scarlet Fever ... ..	243	2	52	155	30	4	...	...	82	62	41	58	1	200
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Zymotic Enteritis ... ..	123	57	43	8	4	6	5	...	23	28	37	35	1	8
Enteric Fever ... ..	26	...	3	8	5	8	2	...	17	2	3	4	2	23
Pneumonia ... ..	123	4	12	17	21	47	17	5	35	43	14	31	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	7	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	1	3	...	3	...	5
Cerebro-Spinal Men. ... ..	6	...	1	...	4	1	...	...	2	1	2	1	1	5
Post Basic " ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	34	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	4	8	10	...	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	394	1	8	62	107	154	57	5	103	117	92	82	...	207
Other forms of " ... ..	80	2	10	43	15	7	3	...	14	29	24	13	...	22
Measles ... ..	1886	14	618	1237	9	8	...	...	334	635	550	367	...	...
Malaria ... ..	61	...	...	...	14	45	2	...	18	22	10	11	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	7	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	2	2	...	3	...	...
Total ... ..	3461	121	822	1784	269	340	107	18	806	1078	892	685	29	837

TABLE 28.  
Notification of Infectious Diseases, 1901 to 1919.

Year.	Small-pox.	Diphtheria and Mem. Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Tuberculosis.*	Continued Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Zymotic Enteritis.	Post basic Meningitis.	Anthrax.	Encephalitis.	Malaria.	Dysentery.	Pneumonia.†
1901	21	216	311	68	72	8	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1902	228	233	267	50	98	11	189	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1903	6	186	389	42	58	2	165	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1904	6	163	472	25	74	5	186	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1905	7	273	513	27	83	12	145	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1906	..	387	528	40	97	8	176	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1907	..	275	1023	27	110	6	150	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1908	..	362	596	19	90	6	154	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1909	..	268	1027	13	113	9	206	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1910	1	171	524	10	89	7	196	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1911	..	239	518	16	82	16	375	..	1	3	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1912	3	429	474	20	87	2	689	..	1	3	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1913	..	321	626	14	70	8	675	..	..	1	14	338	..	..	..	..	..	..
1914	..	416	714	18	107	7	498	..	1	..	18	199	..	..	..	..	..	..
1915	..	286	601	31	138	6	489	..	50	2	19	173	..	..	..	..	..	..
1916	1	271	232	9	95	16	469	..	14	..	33	80	3	..	..	..	..	..
1917	..	277	147	12	79	12	543	..	17	1	41	101	5	..	..	..	..	..
1918	..	240	222	12	61	14	660	..	7	2	23	118	4	..	..	..	..	..
1919	4	398	243	26	63	7	474	..	6	1	34	123	1	1	3	61	7	123

\* Voluntary Notification to 1910: partial to 1912: all cases thereafter.

† Includes all forms of Pneumonia.



TABLE 29.

Year.	Small-pox		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Puerperal Fever.		Measles.		Erysipelas		Zymotic Enteritis.	
	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.	Deaths.	Rate.
1901	...	...	19	0.16	5	0.04	13	0.11	3	0.02	21	0.18	1	0.00	96	0.82
1902	...	38 0.30	23	0.18	8	0.06	13	0.10	6	0.05	41	0.33	1	0.00	59	0.48
1903	...	...	13	0.11	4	0.03	6	0.05	1	0.01	25	0.20	...	...	44	0.36
1904	...	...	29	0.23	16	0.13	6	0.05	2	0.02	28	0.22	4	0.03	150	1.19
1905	...	...	18	0.14	10	0.08	7	0.06	6	0.05	13	0.10	5	0.04	65	0.52
1906	...	...	22	0.17	5	0.04	8	0.06	2	0.02	31	0.24	3	0.02	163	0.81
1907	...	...	15	0.12	14	0.11	4	0.03	1	0.01	70	0.54	6	0.04	34	0.26
1908	...	...	26	0.16	9	0.07	2	0.02	2	0.02	10	0.08	7	0.05	46	0.36
1909	...	...	25	0.20	19	0.15	3	0.02	1	0.01	55	0.43	1	0.01	19	0.15
1910	...	...	5	0.04	13	0.10	1	0.01	3	0.02	21	0.16	3	0.02	17	0.13
1911	...	...	11	0.09	3	0.02	0	...	3	0.02	28	0.23	8	0.07	101	0.13
1912	...	1 0.01	20	0.16	4	0.03	2	0.02	1	0.01	30	0.24	3	0.02	10	0.08
1913	...	...	17	0.13	8	0.06	1	0.01	3	0.02	9	0.07	...	0.00	46	0.37
1914	...	...	34	0.26	9	0.07	4	0.03	3	0.02	25	0.19	7	0.05	28	0.22
1915	...	...	20	0.15	8	0.06	5	0.04	3	0.02	45	0.33	8	0.06	30	0.22
1916	...	...	11	0.08	4	0.03	1	0.01	8	0.05	23	0.17	2	0.01	27	0.20
1917	...	...	16	0.11	1	0.01	3	0.02	6	0.04	31	0.21	4	0.03	24	0.16
1918	...	...	25	0.17	4	0.03	2	0.01	9	0.06	21	0.14	2	0.01	26	0.18
1919	...	2 0.01	28	0.21	3	0.02	5	0.04	5	0.04	7	0.05	2	0.01	18	0.13

The following Table shows the number of Deaths and Death-rates from certain Infectious Diseases each year since 1901:—

### Small-Pox.

48. Four cases of Small-pox, in two adjoining houses in West Plumstead, were notified in July. All were removed to hospital, and two of them died there. The source of infection was not definitely traced, but it was probably connected in some way with a case which occurred a short time previously at Gravesend. Considering that these cases were not notified until the disease was well advanced, it is a matter for congratulation that the measures taken by Dr. Sidney Davies prevented any further spread.

The Health Shelter has been maintained during the year, but no contacts entered it during the period. The upper flat remains let on a weekly tenancy of 8/-. Very little use has been made of this Shelter since it was erected, and it seems desirable to consider whether this building could not be devoted to a more useful purpose than at present.

No contacts of Small-pox were vaccinated by your Medical Officer during the year in accordance with the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, but 18 contacts were re-vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator.

Twenty-one contacts of Small-pox, notified as such by Medical Officers of other authorities, were kept under observation for the necessary period during the year.

### Measles.

49. **Notification Statistics.** The number of notifications of measles received during the year was 1,886. Of these notifications 1,214 were by medical practitioners, 487 were by school teachers, 157 were by parents, and 28 were from various other sources.

On the certification of your Medical Officer, two were removed to hospital, as compared with 12 in 1918, and 45 in 1917.



50. **Nursing.** The Council made arrangements in 1916 for the home nursing of measles cases by voluntary nursing associations. During 1919, 98 cases were nursed at home at a total cost of £28 13s. 4d. The number of visits paid by nurses was 1,024, thus averaging 10 visits per case.

All cases occurring in children under 5 were visited by the Health Visitors.

51. **Deaths.** The number of deaths due to measles was 7, as compared with 21 in 1918, and 31 in 1917. Six of these occurred in children under five years of age. The death-rate from measles, namely 0.05, is the lowest which has ever occurred in the history of the borough.

There has been a slight reduction in the death-rate from measles since 1901. The reduction this year is exceptional, but it must be borne in mind that the falling birth-rate was a factor in this reduction. Measles is a disease which affects young children and, generally speaking, the younger the child the graver the prognosis; and owing to the diminution in the number of children living under five years of age, the death-rate has accordingly fallen. The provision of nursing assistance is an additional factor, and probably more important in the reduction of the death-rate.

52. **School Closure.** To prevent the spread of measles in school, the London County Council have continued to close schools or departments (24 in 1919 as compared with 6 in 1918), and to exclude unprotected children from school. The period of exclusion or closure was usually for a few days only, but in some cases for two weeks.

### **Whooping - Cough.**

53. During the year, 129 cases of whooping-cough came to the knowledge of the department through the school services. No

cases were admitted to hospital on the recommendation of your Medical Officer. The number of deaths was 11 as compared with 29 in 1918, and 10 in 1917. Ten of the deaths occurred in children under five years of age.

### Enteric Fever.

54. There were 26 cases of enteric fever notified during the year. One of these cases was ultimately diagnosed as pleurisy, and one as Tuberculosis. The number of deaths was five, giving a death-rate of 0.03.

**Bacteriological diagnosis.** Similar facilities as for diphtheria (q.v.) are provided at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, and during the year, 20 samples of blood were examined for Widal's re-action. A positive result was obtained in 8.

The following table, No. 30, shows the average number of cases notified in each quinquennial period since 1901, and the number of cases notified in the last four years, with the percentage removed to hospital:—

TABLE 30.

	1901-5	1906-10	1911-15	1916	1917	1918	1919
Woolwich	13	8	9	2	5	2	17
Plumstead	21	{ West 11 East —	6 3	3 3	2 1	5 1	2 3
Eltham	9	3	2	1	4	2	4
TOTALS	43	22	20	9	12	10	26
Percentage removed to Hospital...	72%	69%	80%	89%	83%	90%	88%

### Scarlet Fever.

55. **Notifications.** During the year 243 cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with 222 in 1918, and 147 in 1917.



Table No. IV. shows the age distribution, the number in each parish, and the number removed to hospital.

56. **Hospital.** It will be seen that only 200 cases, or 82 per cent. were removed to hospital. This is the smallest percentage removed to hospital in the preceding six years, and is in part attributable to the great demands made on isolation accommodation in the latter months of the year owing to the prevalence of this disease and of diphtheria in London as a whole.

57. **Home Isolation.** The Arsenal authorities require cases to be removed to hospital or a certificate from your Medical Officer of efficient home isolation before their employees are allowed to return to work. During the year 22 such certificates were issued as compared with 21, 15 and 18 in the three preceding years. The cases isolated at home have been frequently inspected by your Sanitary Inspectors, and in no case has there been any ground for supposing that the public safety has been endangered by home isolation.

58. **Return Cases.** The number of return cases was 3. A "Return Case" is defined as a secondary case occurring in a tenement after the return of the primary case from Hospital or from home isolation.

59. **Deaths.** The number of deaths due to scarlet fever was 3. The deaths and death-rate from this disease since 1901 are shown in Table 29.

The following Table, No. 31, shows the case-rate of scarlet fever in each registration district and in the Borough (not corrected for mistaken diagnosis), and the percentage removed to hospital, in each year since 1901. The term "case rate" means the number of cases occurring per thousand of population.

TABLE 31.

Year.	Woolwich.	Plumstead.		Eltham.	The Borough.	Percentage removed to Hospital.
		West.	East.			
1901 .	2.55		2.63	3.42	2.64	85
1902 ..	2.49		1.88	2.45	2.14	86
1903 ..	3.05		3.19	3.40	3.16	84
1904 ..	3.76		4.08	1.44	3.75	84
1905 ..	3.10		4.42	5.34	4.07	80
1906 ..	3.83		4.22	4.71	4.15	78
1907 ..	6.10		8.56	9.65	7.91	85
1908 ..	3.85		5.22	3.94	4.67	80
1909 ..	10.40	8.38	6.47	4.04	7.77	92
1910 ..	3.46	3.94	5.94	1.64	3.94	80
1911 ..	2.89	3.77	7.51	2.09	4.09	79
1912 ..	2.41	4.96	4.88	2.64	3.80	89
1913 ..	5.44	4.68	5.11	4.36	4.80	89
1914 ..	6.11	5.45	4.18	7.45	5.46	88
1915 ..	4.48	4.00	6.55	3.85	4.31	85
1916 ..	1.94	1.30	1.98	1.67	1.69	90
1917 ..	1.19	0.84	0.74	1.38	0.99	85
1918 ..	2.80	1.25	0.99	1.18	1.48	85
1919 ..	2.62	1.55	1.12	2.06	1.78	82

### Diphtheria.

60. **Notifications.** During the year 398 cases of Diphtheria were notified, as compared with 208 in 1918, and 277 in 1917.

61. **Isolation.** Of these, 345 were removed to hospital, giving a percentage rate of 87.0. As in Scarlet Fever, this is the lowest percentage recorded for the last six years, and it is due to the same cause. No untoward effects of home isolation were noted. Cases of diphtheria are removed to hospital for two reasons (a) treatment, (b) isolation. The lack of sufficient accommodation during the latter months of the year was therefore of more serious import than in the case of scarlet fever.

Eleven certificates of home isolation were issued to enable Arsenal employees to resume work.



62. **Contacts.** Contacts of cases were examined during the year as in previous years, and 9 cases presenting no symptoms were discovered as "carriers" of the diphtheria germs. The usual steps were taken in each case. The number of return cases was 2.

63. **Bacteriological Examination.** Since January, 1913, the Council's bacteriological work has been done by the Bacteriological Department of the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich. 749 swabs were examined for Diphtheria bacilli, and 90 were found positive.

64. **Anti-toxin.** Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept at the Town Hall and the Plumstead and Eltham Free Libraries, and supplied to medical practitioners on application at cost price, or free where there is inability to pay. The amount supplied during the year was 204,000 units, at a total cost of £13 12s. 3d., all of which was, with the exception of £3, recovered from medical practitioners.

65. **Deaths.** The number of deaths due to Diphtheria was 28. The deaths and death-rates from this disease each year since 1901 are shown in Table 29.

66. The following Table, No. 32, shows the case-rate in each registration district and in the Borough (not corrected for mistaken diagnosis), and the percentage removed to hospital in each year since 1901.

TABLE 32.

Year.	Woolwich.	Plumstead.		Eltham.	Whole Borough.	Percentage removed to Hospital.
		West.	East.			
1901 ..	1.56		1.90	2.33	1.84	73
1902 ..	1.67		2.09	1.08	1.87	81
1903 ..	1.27		1.67	1.40	1.51	84
1904 ..	1.22		1.47	0.45	1.30	82
1905 ..	2.45		2.22	0.86	2.01	80
1906 ..	3.43		2.26	6.70	2.80	67
1907 ..	1.85		2.36	1.57	1.83	84
1908 ..	3.18		2.88	1.69	2.61	89
1909 ..	1.97	3.08	1.71	0.68	1.88	89
1910 ..	1.06	1.66	1.63	0.50	1.15	81
1911 ..	2.40	1.19	2.33	2.30	1.68	93
1912 ..	4.38	3.79	2.81	1.71	3.09	81
1913 ..	4.43	2.32	1.02	1.29	1.91	85
1914 ..	4.92	2.36	2.39	3.33	2.72	94
1915 ..	2.23	1.99	2.87	0.88	1.77	92
1916 ..	2.80	2.11	1.23	1.72	1.81	91
1917 ..	1.76	1.60	1.50	2.96	1.65	91
1918 ..	2.11	1.74	1.37	1.32	1.42	94
1919 ..	4.77	2.69	2.29	2.02	2.92	87

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Puerperal Fever and Epidemic Diarrhoea.

67. These diseases are dealt with under the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the report.

### Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever.

68. During the year the following number of cases were notified :—

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	123
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	61
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	7
Trench Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	—

These diseases became compulsorily notifiable under the Public Health Regulations of 7th January, 1919. The value of notification without adequate machinery for dealing further with these cases is very doubtful and little or no experience except as to incidence has been gained. Even these figures of



incidence are of doubtful value as although only 123 cases of primary pneumonia were notified, 125 deaths occurred. The fact that these diseases are notifiable requires to be more widely disseminated as without doubt many practitioners, even now, do not realise this fact. Under these regulations medical and nursing assistance may be provided.

### **Anthrax, Glanders and Hydrophobia.**

69. One case of anthrax was notified during the year. The source of infection was traced to an English "string shaver" all samples of which were withdrawn from sale. The patient recovered.

### **Erysipelas.**

70. During the year 63 cases of erysipelas were notified as compared with 95, 79 and 61 in the preceding three years. There were two deaths. The death-rates from this disease since 1901 are shewn in Table 29.

### **Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Post Basic Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, and Encephalitis Lethargica.**

71. Six cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, one of post basic meningitis, one of poliomyelitis, and three of encephalitis lethargica were notified during the year. The numbers notified in previous years are seen in Table No. 28. Five cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis were removed to isolation hospitals, and one was treated at home. The number of deaths was:—cerebro-spinal meningitis, 2; post basic meningitis, nil; poliomyelitis, nil; encephalitis lethargica, 3.

## **TUBERCULOSIS.**

72. **Notification Statistics.** The total number of notifications received was 490. This number includes 16 duplicate notifications but does not include notifications on Forms C and D, viz., notifications from Hospital Doctors, etc., regarding admissions and discharges.

TABLE 33.

Summary of Notifications of Tuberculosis during year ended 31st December, 1919.

Age-periods—	Notifications on Form A.													Notifications on Form B.					Number of Notifications on Form C.	
	Number of Primary Notifications.												Total Notifications on Form A.	Number of Primary Notifications.				Total Notifications on Form B.	Poor Law Institutions.	Sanatoria.
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 & upwards	Total Primary Notifications.		Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	Total Primary Notifications.			
Pulmonary Males ..	1	3	20	12	27	36	58	37	19	14	3	230	241	..	2	..	2	2	36	144
„ Females	..	5	15	13	18	26	43	16	14	10	2	162	166	..	..	..	..	..	15	31
Non-Pulmonary Males ..	2	4	7	10	3	4	3	..	..	1	..	34	34	..	..	1	1	1	6	7
„ Females	..	6	14	9	3	5	4	..	2	..	..	43	43	..	2	..	2	3	3	10



The distribution of the various cases was as follows :—Lung, 409 ; Meninges, 4 ; Intestines, nil ; other forms, 77. The numbers notified in previous years are shown in Table 28 facing page 56. Since 1909, when a limited notification of Tuberculosis became compulsory, 5,269 persons have been notified as suffering from Tuberculosis in one form or another. At the end of 1919, 2,081 were known to be living in the district.

73. The following Table, No. 34, shows the number of deaths from certain forms of Tuberculosis, and the total deaths and death-rates each year since 1901 :—

Year.	Deaths.			Death-rates.		
	All Forms.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	All Forms.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1901 ..	269	215	54	2.29	1.80	0.46
1902 ..	232	183	49	1.86	1.49	0.40
1903 ..	237	171	66	1.92	1.39	0.54
1904 ..	259	206	53	2.06	1.64	0.42
1905 ..	230	185	45	1.83	1.47	0.36
1906 ..	221	164	57	1.74	1.29	0.45
1907 ..	206	154	52	1.60	1.19	0.40
1908 ..	224	156	68	1.76	1.23	0.54
1909 ..	209	150	59	1.63	1.17	0.46
1910 ..	176	133	43	1.40	1.04	0.34
1911 ..	200	146	54	1.65	1.20	0.44
1912 ..	168	124	44	1.34	1.01	0.34
1913 ..	216	182	34	1.69	1.42	0.27
1914 ..	216	163	53	1.68	1.27	0.41
1915 ..	232	201	31	1.72	1.49	0.23
1916 ..	203	167	36	1.48	1.22	0.26
1917 ..	207	172	38	1.41	1.17	0.26
1918 ..	225	194	31	1.54	1.32	0.21
1919 ..	196	171	25	1.44	1.26	0.19

74. **Deaths.** The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 196 : pulmonary 171, other forms 25. The period which elapsed between notification and death is shown below :—

TABLE 35.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.
Death before notification ...	6	3.5	1	4
„ 0—1 months after notification	18	10.5	5	20
„ 1—3 „ „ ...	21	12.3	1	4
„ 3—12 „ „ ...	42	24.6	1	4
„ 1—2 years „ „ ...	16	9.4	2	8
„ 2—5 „ „ „ ...	25	14.6	4	16
„ over 5 years „ „ ...	11	6.4	1	4
„ no information available (Asylum cases, etc.) ...	32	18.7	10	40
	<hr/> 171		<hr/> 25	

It must be understood that tuberculosis is a chronic disease, and that in combating its effects action must be undertaken early. Any action taken must be seriously handicapped by the lateness of the date of notification as is evidenced from the preceding table, and this table of course shows fuller use should be made of the arrangement whereby the tuberculosis officer is available for consultative work.

**75. Source of Infection.** Of the 474 cases notified 70 occurred in families where a previous case had been notified either this year or in preceding years. The primary cases (as notified) in these cases were as follows :—

Father	...	...	...	11
Mother	...	...	...	9
Brother	...	...	...	8
Sister	...	...	...	10
Husband	...	...	...	4
Wife	...	...	...	1
Son	...	...	...	—
Daughter	...	...	...	2
Other relatives	...	...	...	25



76. **Administrative Action.** The administrative action taken was described in the Annual Report for 1915. Dispensary cases are visited by the Dispensary staff for the purpose of ascertaining the home conditions and of searching for contacts. Cases notified by private practitioners are visited by the Sanitary Staff of the Public Health Department. This is an undesirable arrangement and one which calls for change. An endeavour is made to visit each case every six months. Purely sanitary defects discovered are referred to the sanitary inspectors for remedial action. The same routine is followed out when cases return from hospitals or sanatoria, and no effort is spared to encourage the patient to tide over any initial difficulties which may occur, and to see that the value of the lessons learned in institutions is not lost. The number of visits paid by the staff of the Public Health Department was 254, and by the Dispensary Staff, 6,449.

In addition to the above, administrative action includes the distribution of appropriate literature to each notified case, disinfection of infected premises after removal to institutions or after death, and provision of facilities for the bacteriological examination of sputum sent by private practitioners. During the year 190 specimens were examined at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, and 316 at the Voluntary Dispensary.

77. **Shelters.** The Council have provided 11 shelters which are loaned out at a charge of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week.

The shelters have been specially constructed in sections so that they can be taken through houses and easily erected in back gardens. They are open on all sides and are valuable in continuing the open-air treatment in the home. Their use, however, is limited in many cases only to the warmer weather. Patients when away from the sanatorium regulations are disposed to coddle themselves by sleeping indoors during the winter thus undoing the good results obtained by the use of the shelters during the summer time.

During the year the shelters have been in use for 311 weeks out of a possible 572 weeks.

78. **Institution Treatment.** During the year 312 cases were sent to residential institutions, compared with 261 in 1918.

## WOOLWICH VOLUNTARY DISPENSARY.

### Statistics, 1919.

79. **Tuberculosis Dispensary.** A voluntary Dispensary was established in Woolwich in 1911 and in 1916 the Borough Council entered into an agreement with it for the dispensary treatment of tuberculosis. The staff consist of:—One Clinical Tuberculosis Officer—Dr. F. J. Blackmore, Secretary; Assistant Voluntary Secretary; two nurses; one Health Visitor; Nurse-dispenser and one voluntary worker.

The Medical Staff, as will be seen from the statistics published below, requires to be increased by the appointment of another Tuberculosis Officer.

The following is the summary of the work referring to the period 1st January to 31st December, 1919.

Insured persons examined and treated	...	2,402
Uninsured	... ..	4,093
Total attendances, including home visits by staff	...	18,008
Number of new patients examined	... ..	1,719
„ with definite pulmonary tuberculosis	...	244
„ with surgical tuberculosis	... ..	36
„ of suspect and observation cases	... ..	530
„ found non-tuberculous	... ..	909
„ of home visits of medical officers	... ..	733
„ „ nurses	... ..	6,449
„ of sputum examinations	... ..	316
„ found positive	... ..	49
„ of children, new cases	... ..	934
„ of contacts examined	... ..	697



The Medical Officer of Health is Administrative Tuberculosis Officer and is a member of the Tuberculosis Dispensary Committee.

80. **After Care Work.** The after-care work in this Borough has not been very successful as the Interim Tuberculosis Care Committee has had no funds at its disposal to assist patients and great difficulty has been experienced in providing suitable employment for the tuberculous person.

81. **Future Development.** The large question of the treatment of tuberculosis is again being considered by the Ministry of Health and by the London County Council, and it may be that various present arrangements are at the moment subject to revision and re-arrangement. In London the treatment of tuberculosis may be roughly divided into two:—

(a) Treatment within the Borough.

(b) Treatment in residential institutions.

(b) may be dismissed in a few lines as a broad general principle has been laid down that this is the function of the London County Council.

With regard to (a) future development requires to be considered on the following lines:—

(1) Provision of dental treatment.

(2) Provision of more adequate dispensary accommodation.

(3) Establishment of a Tuberculosis After Care Committee.

(4) A more intimate association of the Administrative and Clinical work of the Borough in connection with Tuberculosis.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WITH REGARD TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

82. On receipt of notification the district sanitary inspector visits the house and enquires into the circumstances of each

case with a view to eliciting the source of infection. If the case is to be left at home he reports the home conditions to your Medical Officer who authorises or refuses to allow isolation at home. Generally speaking an effort is made to remove all cases to hospital, although owing to stress on hospital accommodation during the latter months of the year a small proportion of these cases had to be left at home. If the case is removed to hospital, the infected articles, bedding, etc., are removed to the Council's Disinfecting Station at White Hart Lane, the rooms are disinfected, and contacts are excluded from school in accordance with the regulations of the London County Council. If the case is isolated at home, a card of instructions regarding isolation is given, and the process of disinfection is delayed until the medical attendant certifies that the case is free from infection. After diphtheria the contacts attend at the Town Hall for examination and for swabbing whenever, in the opinion of your Medical Officer, this is necessary.

By an arrangement made with the Royal Arsenal, the names of persons employed therein residing in a house where infectious disease has occurred are sent to the Arsenal daily. Certificates of disinfection are issued after removal to hospital or on recovery of a case nursed at home. In the latter case, certificates of efficient home isolation are also issued to workmen if the Medical Officer of Health is satisfied that the conditions are satisfactory.

### Disinfection.

Number of rooms disinfected after ordinary fevers ...	660
Do. do. Tuberculosis ...	384
Do. do. Verminous cases...	58
Number of rooms stripped after Small-pox ...	6
Do. do. for any other reason	—
Total number of articles disinfected ... ..	26,380



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

83. **Staff.** The Maternity and Child Welfare Staff now consists of :—

- (a) One whole time Assistant Medical Officer of Health—Dr. Rachel Mackenzie.
- (b) A part time Medical Officer (in charge of cases at the Council's Home for Ailing Babies)—Dr. F. H. Dodd.
- (c) Five Health Visitors (two of whom hold the combined office of Sanitary Inspector and Health Visitor).
- (d) One temporary female clerk.
- (e) The nursing and domestic staff of the Home for Ailing Babies.

84. **Welfare Centres.** The following Infant Welfare Centres were in operation at the beginning of the year :—

Town Hall	...	Infant Consultations...	Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.
179 Well Hall			
Road, Eltham	do.	...	Thursday, 2.30 p.m.

Ante-natal Clinics and Clinics for Nursing Mothers were as follows :—

Town Hall	...	Maternity Clinics	...	Friday, 2.30 p.m.
Eltham	...	do.	...	Thursday, 11 a.m.

· Owing to the growth of this work, it was found necessary during the year to increase the number of sessions at each of these Centres, and, in addition, the Council opened a Centre at St. John's Church Hall, N. Woolwich, in March, and took over in June the American Red Cross Centre at 289 High Street, Plumstead.

The number of sessions per week during which these Centres were open at the end of the year, was 3 Ante-natal, and 9 Infant Consultations. In detail, this is as follows :—

		Infant Consultations.	Ante-natal, etc.
Town Hall	...	2	1
North Woolwich	...	1	—
Plumstead	...	3	1
Eltham	...	3	1

85. **Treatment.** No arrangements for the treatment of mothers and children at the Centres have yet been made, but, by arrangement with the London County Council and the Woolwich Branch of the British Medical Association, children requiring medical, surgical or dental treatment, are referred to the School Treatment Centre in Brewer Street. The Borough Council pays 5/- for each case so referred. During the year 8 cases were sent there for treatment.

### Voluntary Work.

86. (a) **Infant Welfare Centre.** A Voluntary Centre was opened during the year at 127 High Street, Woolwich, but towards the end of the year this was transferred to the Victory Club, Beresford Street.

The Assistant Medical Officer of Health and a Health Visitor attend there at each session (Mondays 2 p.m.) and assist the voluntary workers.

This Centre was opened for the people living in the North end of the River Ward, as it had been noticed that they could not be induced to attend at the Town Hall, although this is quite close. Possibly the explanation of this is a social one.

The number of children attending this Centre since its opening was 72, and the total number of attendances 404.

87. (b) **Day Nursery.** Dr. Mackenzie acts as Medical Officer in charge of the Woolwich Nursery (a voluntary nursery established by Lady Henry). During 1919, there was an average of 35 infants in the Nursery, viz., 8 under one year, and 27 from one to five years.

87A. (c) **American Nursery, Brent Road.** This Nursery was opened in 1918 for the care of children of women munition workers. In July, 1919, the Women Munition Workers' Rest Committee asked the Council to assume control or make a substantial grant towards its maintenance. Having regard to the fact that this Nursery was carrying out similar work to that



undertaken at the Home for Ailing Babies, which at that time was not fully occupied, the Council decided to take no action in the matter.

The Nursery was then taken over by the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, and is now a Convalescent Home for mothers and infants sent by Municipal and Voluntary Centres and Associations affiliated to the League.

### Maternity Hospitals.

88. (d) **British Hospital for Mothers and Babies.** This is a Maternity Hospital and School for Midwives. The arrangement by which Dr. Mackenzie acted as Medical Officer to this hospital terminated on the 1st September, 1919, owing to the return of the Medical Officer from War service.

The number of beds is 14; the number of indoor cases during the year was 206, and outdoor cases 224. In addition there is an ante-natal and post-natal clinic at which 764 cases attended during the year.

This hospital takes cases from Boroughs other than Woolwich, so that these maternity beds cannot be considered as entirely available for the needs of Woolwich. It is proposed to increase the number of beds to 42, and it is hoped that a building on a new site in Samuel Street will be commenced early in 1920.

89. (e) **Woolwich and Plumstead Maternity Home.** For unmarried mothers there is a small Home at 23 Vicarage Park, Plumstead. The accommodation is for eight mothers and babies. It is practically always full, but the girls are encouraged to stay with their babies as long as possible. The average stay may be taken as  $4\frac{1}{4}$  months, and since its opening on the 25th November, 1918, 29 girls were in the Home. Nearly all these girls attended at the Ante-natal Clinics of the Borough Council.

A grant of £50 was made by the Council during the year toward the funds of the Home.

## HOME FOR AILING BABIES.

90. **Perran Lodge.** The Council assumed responsibility for this Home, which is situated at Perran Lodge, Eglinton Road, Plumstead, on 1st April, 1919. Accommodation is provided for 21 cases.

The staff consists of a Matron, 2 Sisters, 1 Assistant Nurse, and 2—4 Probationers, with 3 domestic staff.

Since April 1st, 49 babies have been treated in the Home. 29 were discharged, 8 died, and 12 remained in residence at the end of the year.

A charge of 10/- per week is made for maintenance. This is reduced if the parent's circumstances so justify. The patients are under the care of Dr. F. H. Dodd and Dr. R. E. Mackenzie.

The following Table shows the reasons for admission, the number of each type, the numbers discharged, and remaining at end of year, the number of deaths, and the average duration of stay (in days) of completed cases for the period 1st April to 31st December.

Reason for Admission.	No.	Im- proved.	I.S.Q.	Died.	Remaining at end of year.	Average duration of stay.
Malnutrition, Marasmus, Debility ..	22	13	1	2	6	47
Bronchitis ..	4	1	..	1	2	31
Broncho-Pneumonia..	2	1	..	1	..	19
Diarrhoea ..	4	3	..	1	..	47
Vomiting, Dyspepsia ..	4	2	..	1	1	66
Congenital Heart Disease ..	2	..	2	..	..	10
For Observation (ultimately diagnosed Tuberculosis) ..	4	..	1	2	1	37
Miscellaneous Skin Conditions, etc. ..	7	5	..	..	2	30
	49	25	4	8	12	41



91. **The Work of the Health Visitors.** The Local Government Board, in a Circular dated August, 1918, has set out the following as the duties of a Health Visitor :—The visiting and supervision of all children under school age needing this attention ; the visiting of expectant mothers who have attended at an Ante-natal Clinic or for whom visits are desirable ; inquiry into still-births, and the deaths of young children, and attendance at the Centre to which women and children come for medical and hygienic advice.

Attendance at the increased number of sessions, which have been found necessary at the Centres owing to the large increase in the number of children attending there, has of necessity curtailed the time at the disposal of the Health Visitors for home visiting, and the number of Health Visitors (five) is below the standard set out by the Ministry in the Circular referred to above. On that standard the number should be seven.

The actual number of infants visited was 1,562 out of 2,737 births. The practice adopted is to send by post, as soon as a notification of a birth is received, suitable literature, and the Health Visitor calls as soon as possible after the baby is ten days old. Visits are not paid earlier unless on request by the midwife or doctor concerned.

During the year, the Health Visitors have been in nearly every case well received, their advice has been carefully listened to, but of course, it has not always been acted on. Any sanitary defects discovered by the Health Visitors in the course of their visits have been referred to the Sanitary Inspectors for remedial action.

The following Table, No. 36, shows a classification of the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the years 1919 and 1918 :—

TABLE No. 36.

			1919.	1918.
Births—Visits	...	...	1,562	1,145
Re-visits	...	...	1,526	1,183
Home visits to expectant mothers	...		74	38
Infants deaths investigated	...		8	0
Still-births investigated	...		0	0
Infectious diseases :				
Puerperal fever	...	...	9	11
Zymotic Enteritis—Visits	...	...	81	82
Re-visits	...	...	28	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Visits			24	22
Re-visits			17	20
Measles—Visits	...	...	992	772
Re-visits	...	...	111	69
Tuberculosis	...	...	254	407
Visits—Unclassified	...	...	327	180
Do. Unsuccessful, no admission			783	873

92. **The Work of the Centres.** The work of the Centres has gradually increased during the year, and the following table shows the attendances during 1918 and 1919:—

TABLE No. 37.

1919.	No. on Roll of Centre.			No. of Attendances.		
	Mothers :		Child- ren.	Mothers :		Child- ren.
	Expec- tant.	Nursing.		Expec- tant.	Nursing.	
Town Hall ..	89	9	450	273	25	2,443
Eltham ..	48	32	340	106	44	2,621
Plumstead ..	41	13	404	57	32	2,014
North Woolwich..	..	..	69	..	..	367
	178	54	1,263	436	101	7,450
1918. Total all Centres..				152		2,212



During the later months, owing to the more general knowledge of the Council's milk scheme, and to the regulation requiring all children requiring extra nourishment to attend the Centres (except in exceptional cases) the numbers attending largely increased, and it is interesting to note that those children who attended the Centres since infancy are in better condition than those who have not been under such observation.

At the Centres advice is given to expectant and nursing mothers, and to children under five years of age. Mothercraft classes, sewing classes, etc., are held at two of the Centres, Eltham and Plumstead.

**93. The Needs of the Borough.** There is a very definite need for the provision of more ante-natal work, for the provision of more maternity beds, for the provision of medical and surgical treatment of young children, and for the dental treatment for children under school age, and for expectant and nursing mothers.

At the present time there are two schemes under consideration to amplify the hospital accommodation of the Borough :—

- (1). The provision of a general hospital for Woolwich, with maternity and children's beds ;
- (2). The extension of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies.

The need of these institutions is urgent, and when completed they will form a very important part in the saving of infant life in the Borough.

### **Infectious Diseases in relation to this Work.**

**94. Puerperal Fever.** During the year, 7 cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, as compared with 14 in 1918. The case-rate per 1,000 births was 2·55, as compared with 5·20, 4·44 and 5·43 in the three preceding years. The number of cases which received hospital treatment was 5. There were 5 deaths.

95. **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.** During the year, 34 cases were notified. The following Table, No. 38, shows in detail the eye condition of each case, and the permanent result :—

TABLE No. 38.

Date of Notification.	Condition of Right eye.	Result.	Condition of Left eye.	Result.	Remarks.
1919.					
Feb. 10	Infected ..	— ..	Infected ..	— ..	Hospital—Died
19	do. ..	Cured ..	do. ..	Cured ..	
26	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
March 29	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
April 4	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
7	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	Left district
June 4	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	do.
21	Infected ..	Cured ..	Infected ..	Cured ..	
26	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	do.
30	Infected ..	Cured ..	Infected ..	Cured ..	
July 11	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	} Twins
11	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
21	Not infected	— ..	do. ..	do. ..	
22	Infected ..	Cured ..	do. ..	do. ..	
August 14	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
21	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
25	do. ..	— ..	do. ..	— ..	Died
27	do. ..	Cured ..	do. ..	Cured ..	
28	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
30	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
Sept. 6	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
13	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
23	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	Not visited
Oct. 10	Infected ..	Cured ..	Infected ..	Cured ..	
Nov. 3	do. ..	Blind ..	do. ..	Eye removd.	
10	do. ..	Cured ..	Not infected	— ..	
12	do. ..	do. ..	Infected ..	Cured ..	
25	do. ..	— ..	do. ..	— ..	Died
Dec. 3	do. ..	Cured ..	do. ..	Cured ..	
4	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
4	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	do. ..	
4	do. ..	— ..	do. ..	— ..	Died
25	do. ..	Cured ..	do. ..	Cured ..	

96. **Measles, Whooping-cough and Poliomyelitis.** These diseases are dealt with in the infectious diseases sections of the report (see pages 59, 60 and 66).



97. **Epidemic Diarrhoea.** Zymotic enteritis or epidemic diarrhoea has been notifiable in Woolwich since 1913. The number of cases notified during the year was 123, and the number notified each year since notification commenced is shown on Table 28.

Notification in Woolwich is not now limited as to season. The quarterly incidence and deaths is shown in Table 39 below :—

TABLE No. 39.

		Notifications.	Deaths under 2.
January to March	...	1	3
April to June	...	13	4
July to September	...	101	7
October to December	...	7	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	122	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The total number of deaths at all ages, 32, compares with 32 in 1918, and 39 in 1917.

98. **Administrative Measures.** Cases of puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum, and epidemic diarrhoea are visited by the Health Visitors. Any insanitary conditions noted by them are reported to the Sanitary Inspectors for necessary action, and during the summer months particular vigilance is exercised by the Sanitary Inspectors for the detection and abatement of nuisances.

In the case of measles, as far as practicable, all cases under 5 years are visited, and, in addition to the procedure shown above, the necessary advice for the prevention of the spread of the disease is given. Care is taken that no child suffers from lack of the necessary nursing assistance. The Council has an arrangement with four voluntary nursing associations in the district whereby trained nursing is available in all cases of children under five years requiring such assistance.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

99. **Sanitary Staff.** The Staff of the Public Health Department is shown in detail on page 3.

100. **Public Analyst.** The detailed results of the various analyses during the year are given under the section on the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

101. **Bacteriological Examinations.** Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, by Dr. Arthur Davies. Each examination costs 4/-. The number and nature of the various examinations made during the year is shown below :—

TABLE No. 40.

Associated disease.	Positive result.	Negative result.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	90	659	749
Enteric Fever ...	8	12	20
Tuberculosis ...	35	155	190
	<hr/> 133	<hr/> 826	<hr/> 959



## HOUSING.

102. **Population.** The population of the Borough is estimated to be 141,918, and is referred to in detail in the General Report. No important changes have taken place during the year, but it is well to bear in mind that history may repeat itself (as after the South African War), and reductions in employment at the Royal Arsenal may affect the population of Woolwich. On the other hand, a large percentage of the additional staff employed in the Royal Arsenal during the War did not reside in the Borough, so that even if discharges are drastic, they will have to be very drastic indeed before their effect is apparent on the numbers included in the present-day population. The general tendency of the population of London to migrate from the centre to the periphery has also a bearing on the population of Woolwich, tending towards its increase.

103. The following table shews in statistical form information relating to the number of houses in the Borough :—

No. of houses	...	...	...	26,211
do.	for the working classes	...	...	22,072
New houses for the working classes erected				
during the year	...	...	...	1
No. of houses for the working classes in				
course of erection	...	...	...	Nil

### Shortage of Houses.

104. The following report which was presented to the Council by the Public Health and Housing Committee, on the 16th July, 1919, shews the extent of the shortage of houses in Woolwich and the measures contemplated to meet that shortage :—

“As desired by the Council, we appointed a Special Sub-Committee to consider the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Bill and the necessity for providing houses in

the Borough, and of submitting a scheme for their erection thereunder.

The Sub-Committee have met on several occasions, and have had before them reports from the Town Clerk and Medical Officer of Health upon the matter, and have viewed suggested sites. They inform us that they have obtained the best information possible to enable them to form an estimate of the number of houses required in the Borough to satisfy the present demand.

The Housing Department of the Ministry of Munitions (Woolwich Estates) has already received over 2,000 applications which they are unable to satisfy ; most of the house agents in the Borough have also been inundated with applications, one firm alone putting the number as high as 2,000 ; and many agents have put up notices in their offices that there are no houses to let, which, of course, has the effect of stopping applications.

The Medical Officer has obtained estimates, through the Sanitary Inspectors, of overcrowding, and informs us that he estimates the new accommodation required will exceed 2,000 houses, and that the general shortage of housing accommodation in the London Area will, no doubt, still further largely increase this demand.

The percentage of empty houses in the Borough is the lowest on record, and amounts to only 0.45 per cent., many of these empty properties being unsuitable for housing purposes.

There are approximately 3,000 acres of land in the Borough upon which houses could be erected.

Of the sites considered, the Housing Sub-Committee unanimously came to the conclusion that that on the Page Estate, Eltham, was the most suitable, and would allow of the most comprehensive scheme. This site extends south from the Greenwich Cemetery on the west side of Well Hall Road to "Harrowfield" in Eltham Road, and runs at the back of the



Government Housing Estate on the west side of Well Hall Road along the Borough boundary, and to the Eltham Road near its junction with Sherard Road, and from there abuts upon Eltham Road and Eltham Green to "Harrowfield." The site is bisected by the Bexley Heath Railway, which affords the accommodation of two railway stations—Kidbrook and Well Hall—and is otherwise supplied by the Eltham trams, which the Council will remember are about to be extended from Well Road to Lee Green.

The area of the site is 334 acres, and it has been surveyed and valued in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, by the District Valuer, and the Committee have had his report at their disposal in considering the price to be paid for the land. A portion of the site (about  $85\frac{1}{2}$  acres) is not suitable for building houses without involving a considerable outlay, and this portion will be dealt with as an open space in connection with the Housing Scheme, and will form part of the cost of the Scheme.

Having visited the site and come to the conclusion that it was in every way suitable for the purpose, we instructed the Town Clerk to negotiate with the owners for its acquisition, and we are glad to be able to inform the Council that these negotiations have been concluded, and that a price has been provisionally agreed, which we consider most satisfactory, for the purchase of the freehold, subject to certain agricultural tenancies which can be determined at short notice and in respect of which there will be some small compensation payable.

The Acting London Housing Commissioner has viewed the site, and approves of it and of the price at which the Council is able to acquire it, and is prepared to recommend it to the Ministry of Health. It is proposed that the Council shall enter into a provisional contract for the acquisition of the land, which will be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health and to the necessary Loan being obtained.



We estimate that the site will afford accommodation for about 3,000 houses, on a layout similar to that adopted on the Government Housing Estate at Well Hall, although the Committee do not propose that the Council should be in any way bound by this type or arrangement of house.

The Ministry of Health recommend that the Council should obtain the services of a competent architect or architects, who will be nominated by the Royal Institution of British Architects by arrangement with the Ministry, for the purpose of laying out the estate and of superintending the erection of the houses.

The Council are aware that their liability in respect of the scheme will be limited to the product of a penny rate, the balance of the amount required being provided out of Imperial Funds. Under Clause 36 of the Bill, any loss which a Metropolitan Borough Council may incur in carrying out a scheme in respect of which financial assistance is available will be repaid to them by the London County Council, and any payments so made by the London County Council will be deemed to have been made as part of the expenses incurred by them, so that the loss on all London schemes will be borne primarily by the London County Council, and so far as they can be met by the proceeds of a penny rate on the County will be defrayed from that source, the excess being borne by the Exchequer. Rate-payers in the Metropolitan Boroughs will not have to pay both in respect of their own schemes and in respect of the County Council schemes, and the maximum they can be called upon to pay, as we have already said, is the product of a penny rate in the pound.

We have given the most careful consideration to this matter, and have unanimously come to the conclusion that the Council should, with the least possible delay, take the necessary steps to acquire the site, particulars of which we have given, and submit a scheme to the Ministry of Health for approval; and we



## RECOMMEND—

- (a) That the Seal of the Council be affixed to a provisional agreement for the acquisition, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health and to the necessary Loan being obtained, of the site referred to, at the price which has been reported to us in Committee.
- (b) That a Housing Scheme be submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval in respect of this site.
- (c) That, notwithstanding Standing Order No. 16, application be made to the London County Council for sanction to borrow the amount required for the purchase of the site.

**Statement of Action taken to 31st December, 1919.**

105. On the 31st July, 1919, the Ministry of Health approved the purchase of the site at Eltham, and the Council thereupon appointed Superintending and Executant Architects.

The lay-out of the site in five sections was subsequently generally, but not finally, approved, and it was decided to start building on Section "D," where accommodation is available for approximately 553 houses.

The types of houses to be built were also approved, and tenders were invited for the first 50 houses.

**Overcrowding.**

106. There is no exact definition of overcrowding, but in actual practice there are two generally accepted standards :

- (a) The Registrar-General, for census purposes, accepts as a standard of overcrowding the occupation of a room by more than two persons ;

(b) Sanitary Officers take as their guide the minimum standard laid down by the Local Government Board in their model bye-laws, viz.:

400 cubic feet per head for rooms where persons live and sleep, and 300 cubic feet per head for rooms used solely for sleeping apartments or for living rooms only.

Any house, or part of a house, so overcrowded as to be injurious or dangerous to the health of the inmates, whether or not members of the same family, is a statutory nuisance, and when a Medical Officer of Health so certifies the Sanitary Authority shall take action for the abatement of such nuisance.

The first standard given above is a more practical one than the second when comparisons are made between different areas.

On the standard of the Registrar-General at the time of the Census (1911), the population in Woolwich living more than two per room was 6·3 per cent. This figure was lower than any other Borough in London with the exception of Lewisham, which was 3·9 per cent. The percentage for the County of London was 17·8.

This percentage of the population occupied 1,000 tenements, and numbered 7,110 persons. In detail, the figures are as shewn below:—

No. of rooms per tenement.	No. of tenements.	No. of persons occupying them.	No. per room.
1 ...	186	625	3·3
2 ...	217	1,184	2·7
3 ...	292	2,205	2·5
4 ...	218	2,068	2·3
5 ...	74	852	2·3
6 ...	11	146	2·1
7 ...	2	30	2·1
	<hr/> 1,000	<hr/> 7,110	<hr/> 2·5



At the present time, the population living thus can only be estimated.

The following table, which is partly compiled from figures supplied by the Rating Department, shews the number of houses used as dwellings in the Borough in 1911 and in 1919, the civil population at these two periods, and the number of persons per dwelling :--

Year.	No. of dwellings.	Population.	No. of persons per dwelling.
1911	... 22,254 ...	115,633	... 5.19
1919	... 26,211 ...	141,918	... 5.41

The above table shews a net increase in the number of houses used as dwellings of 3,957, and an estimated increase in the population of 26,285. If this increase were housed in the new dwellings the number per house would be 6.64, *i.e.*, that the number of houses erected since the Census has not been sufficient to maintain the Censal standard of density of population per house. In 1911, 6.3 per cent. of the population were living more than two persons per room. If the same percentage of the population is living under similar conditions to-day, it follows that at least 8,940 persons are living more than two to a room. This number is probably a low estimate owing to

- (a) The tendency of overcrowding in this sense to move outwards from the inner Boroughs of London ;
- (b) The increased accommodation demanded by workers in better economic circumstances, leaving less room for others less fortunately situated.

There are no unoccupied dwelling houses in the Borough.

The number of houses which are occupied by two or more families, and which have not been specially adapted for this purpose, is estimated to be 4,000.

107. The state of overcrowding in Woolwich is worse than would appear from the above figures. The following examples illustrate the housing conditions at present existing :—

(a) Details of population per house in a street in Woolwich parish :—

Index No.	No. of Families.	No. of Rooms.	Persons over 10.		Children under 10.	Total No. of Persons.	Persons per room.
1.	2.	3.	M.	F.	6.	7.	8.
1	1	3	3	3	3	9	3.0
2	1	3	1	1	3	5	1.8
3	1	3	2	3	..	5	1.8
4	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
5	1	3	2	2	..	4	1.3
6	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
7	1	3	1	1	..	2	0.7
8	1	3	2	1	4	7	2.3
9	1	3	1	1	1	3	1.0
10	1	3	2	2	2	6	2.0
11	1	3	1	1	6	8	2.7
12	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
13	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
14	1	3	2	2	..	4	1.3
15	1	3	1	1	1	3	1.0
16	1	3	2	2	..	4	1.3
17	1	3	1	1	2	4	0.7
18	1	3	2	2	..	4	1.3
19	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
20	1	2	1	1	1	3	1.5
21	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
22	1	3	1	2	2	5	1.7
23	1	3	1	2	5	8	2.7
24	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
25	1	6	3	3	6	12	2.0
26	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
27	1	3	2	2	4	8	2.7
28	1	3	2	2	1	5	1.7
29	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
	1	3	1	1	..	2	0.7



Index No.	No. of Families.	No. of Rooms.	Persons over 10.		Children under 10.	Total No. of Persons.	Persons per room.
			M.	F.			
30	1	3	1	3	.	4	1.3
31	1	3	2	2	2	6	2.0
32	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
33	1	3	2	3	..	5	1.7
34	1	3	1	1	1	3	1.0
35	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
36	1	3	2	3	5	10	3.3
37	1	3	2	1	..	3	1.0
38	1	3	2	2	6	10	3.3
39	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
40	1	3	3	3	..	6	2.0
41	1	3	1	1	..	2	0.7
42	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
43	1	3	1	1	3	5	1.7
44	1	3	1	1	..	2	0.7
45	1	3	1	1	..	2	0.7
46	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
47	1	3	1	1	4	6	2.0
48	1	3	2	1	4	7	2.3
49	1	3	1	1	1	3	1.0
50	1	3	1	1	3	5	1.7
51	1	3	1	1	..	2	0.7
52	1	3	1	1	3	5	1.7
53	1	3	2	1	..	3	1.0
54	1	3	1	2	..	3	1.0
55	1	3	1	1	3	5	1.7
56	1	3	1	1	2	4	1.3
57	1	3	1	1	1	3	1.0
58	1	3	3	4	..	7	2.3
59	{ 1	3	1	1	3	5	1.7
	{ 1	3	1	1	3	5	1.7
60	1	6	2	4	1	7	1.2
61	1	6	2	2	1	5	0.9
62	{ 1	3	1	2	4	7	2.3
	{ 1	3	1	2	4	7	2.3

			Summary
Houses	...	...	62
Families	...	...	71
Rooms	...	...	221
Total number of persons	...	...	356
Number of families living more than two per room	...	...	11

(b) **Summary of housing conditions in another street in the Borough :—**

(a)	Houses	...	...	73
	Families	...	...	110
	Rooms	...	...	352
	Persons	...	...	472
	Number of Families living more than two per room ...			13
	Number of families per house			$1\frac{1}{2}$

(b) **Cases of Overcrowding.** The following reports by the Sanitary Inspectors shew the conditions existing in some houses in the Borough :—

- (1) This house contains 4 small rooms on 2 floors. There are 2 families with a total of 10 persons in the house. The top floor front room is used as a sleeping room by a man, wife and 5 children (2 girls aged 10 and 8 years ; 2 boys aged 6 and 4 years, and a baby 6 weeks old). The wife attends Maxey Road Dispensary for Tuberculosis. This family also has the ground front room as a living room. The other two rooms are occupied by the landlady (who is the wife's mother) and 2 children, as one living and one sleeping room.
- (2) This house contains 4 small rooms on 2 floors. There are 3 families with a total of 10 persons in the house. The top floor front room is used as a sleeping room by a widow and her 4 children (2 girls aged 17 and 14 years, and 2 boys aged 11 and 9 years). This woman is in straitened circumstances and is compelled to let her rooms as she is behind with her rent. She is going to ask the Guardians to take the two boys off her hands. This family also uses the ground floor back room as a living



room. The top floor back room is occupied as a living and sleeping room by a man, wife and baby and the ground floor front room as a living and sleeping room by an elderly man and wife.

- (3) This house is a downstairs flat and contains 3 small rooms, 2 of which are used as bedrooms. There is one family consisting of 7 persons, 5 adult males and 2 adult females (man, wife and 5 children).
- (4) This house contains 5 rooms, 3 rooms on upper floor and 2 rooms on bottom floor. The two bottom floor rooms are living rooms and the 3 upper rooms are sleeping rooms. There are 2 families with a total of 11 persons in the house. There are man, wife and 2 children under 12 sleeping in 1 room and 3 adult males, 3 adult females, 1 child under 12 years sleeping in the other 2 bedrooms. Both these families are relatives.

There are no large empty houses, so that the problem of overcrowding in Woolwich largely resolves itself into the provision of more houses. It is not possible to redistribute the population within its present houses, except in a few exaggerated cases.

108. **Causes.** The Chief Superintendent, Ordnance Factories, Royal Arsenal, states that the average number of employees in the Royal Arsenal before the War was 16,000. At one time the number employed rose to 112,000. Most of these of course were housed outside the Borough, and some no doubt were residents who were engaged on munition work during the War, but from this source there was a large influx of population into the Borough owing to the desire of workers to live near their work. When work at the Royal Arsenal began to diminish, and men were paid off, the difficulty in obtaining accommodation elsewhere meant that the vast majority continued to reside in the Borough.

The return of the military elements of the population is an additional factor, and last of all there is the present shortage of houses.

In the five years previous to the War it is estimated that, on an average, 156 houses per annum were erected. During the War, 3436 houses (including 1930 huts) were erected, but this was insufficient for the abnormal increase of population during that period.

109. **Fitness of Houses.** Woolwich is one of the Metropolitan Boroughs situated on the outer circle of London, and in consequence it would be reasonable to expect that housing conditions would be less congested and in a more satisfactory condition than they would be in the centre of the County. Such is the case except in the older parts of the Borough.

A large number of the houses have been built in the last 30 years, and there has, of course, been no repetition of the condition of affairs which was permitted before the passing of the London Building Act; but it must be borne in mind that some of the houses in the older parts of the Borough are more crowded together than is desirable and will require serious consideration whenever housing conditions improve and accommodation exists for those occupants who are likely to be displaced as the result of the demolition of various small areas.

It is one of the primary duties of a Sanitary Authority to see that the houses of its inhabitants are maintained at such a standard as to render them reasonably fit for human habitation; but in the carrying out of this work it must be borne in mind that the difficulties which the Sanitary Authority have had to contend with in this matter are now greatly increased. There is a legitimate outcry for a better standard of housing, for the provision of houses possessing additional amenities rather than immediate necessities. The changed economic conditions, the increase in cost of labour and materials, and the demand on



labour and materials for new houses, are all part of the housing problem. Difficulty is also experienced in maintaining the pre-war standard of efficiency in the repair work done.

There are no matters, other than those referred to in the general section of the report, requiring special comment in connection with water-supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal.

### UNHEALTHY AREAS.

110. No areas have been represented under Part I. or II. of the Housing Act of 1890, in 1918 and 1919, and no complaints that areas were unhealthy have been made.

### GOVERNMENT HUTMENTS AND HOUSES.

111. The Government Housing Estate is under the control of the London County Council, who act as agents for H.M. Office of Works.

The Government Hutments are under the control of a Government Department which has a Works Department for carrying out the repairs. There are local Estate Managers.

Complaints are occasionally received at the Town Hall relative to defects in these hutments, and a certain amount of overcrowding is beginning to be noticed there.

The hutments, although far from ideal residences, are a reasonable temporary arrangement. They are cold in winter and warm in summer, and in consequence of the material with which they are made being impermeable there are times when there is a great deal of condensation on the internal walls. The extent of this appears to be governed by the situation of the hut.

The adaptability of the hut as a home is, in the main, dependent on the occupier; some are very comfortable and the occupants are quite satisfied with them.

112. The next table shows the details of House-to-House Inspections during the year.

TABLE 40.  
Details of House to House Inspection.

Name of Street.		Number of Houses Inspected.	Number where Defects were found.
RIVER WARD.			
Meeting House Lane	..	5	2
Brookhill Road	..	23	12
Clara Place	..	16	7
Monk Street	..	16	7
Nelson Street	..	12	9
Eleanor Road	..	49	14
Mulgrave Place	..	18	6
Creton Street	..	28	11
Myrtle Street	..	12	4
The Flats, High Street	..	29	13
Globe Lane	..	9	5
Rodney Street	..	12	3
		<u>229</u>	<u>93</u>
			41.0 % Defects.
ST. GEORGE'S WARD.			
Dacey Street	..	36	30
Manor Street	..	24	21
Jackson Street	..	40	26
Engineer Road	..	28	17
Gildersome Street	..	47	29
Milward Street	..	42	26
James Street	..	44	32
Ordnance Road	..	50	39
Keemor Street	..	25	14
Fenwick Street	..	49	36
Nightingale Vale	..	39	28
Sandy Hill Road	..	10	6
Brookhill Road	..	46	23
		<u>480</u>	<u>327</u>
			68.1 % Defects.



TABLE 40.—continued.  
Details of House to House Inspection.

Name of Street.			Number of Houses Inspected.	Number where Defects were found.
GLYNDON WARD.				
Railway Place	..	..	18	7
Ann Street	..	..	52	41
Lenton Street	..	..	21	19
Down Street	..	..	13	11
Down Place	..	..	6	6
Richmond Place	..	..	47	25
Walmer Road	..	..	28	19
Glyndon Road	..	..	39	20
			<u>224</u>	<u>148</u>
				66·0 % Defects.
DOCKYARD AND ST. MARY'S WARDS.				
Rectory Grove	..	..	11	3
" Sheer Hulk " Cottages	..	..	4	4
Church Street	..	..	70	31
Artillery Place	..	..	18	3
Borgard Road	..	..	14	13
Limbrey's Buildings	..	..	8	7
Sims' Buildings	..	..	10	9
Warwick Street	..	..	65	48
Acorn Street	..	..	22	13
St. Mary's Street	..	..	69	51
			<u>291</u>	<u>182</u>
				62·5 % Defects.
ST. NICHOLAS AND CENTRAL WARDS.				
Bannockburn Road	..	..	31	22
Balgowan Street	..	..	36	32
Hylton Street	..	..	45	40
Abbey Grove	..	..	43	27
Grove Road	..	..	20	12
White Hart Road	..	..	20	13
Kashgar Road	..	..	48	23

TABLE 40.—continud.  
Details of House to House Inspection.

Name of Street.	Number of Houses Inspected.	Number where Defects were found.
ST. NICHOLAS AND CENTRAL WARDS—cont.		
Barth Road .. ..	86	54
Salisbury Cottages, High Street	6	5
Lakedale Road .. ..	92	37
Sladedale Road .. ..	51	22
	<u>478</u>	<u>287</u>
		60.1 % Defects.
ELTHAM WARD.		
Merchland Road .. ..	20	10
Novar Road .. ..	26	9
Roper Street .. ..	22	12
Elizabeth Terrace .. ..	22	13
Howitzer Street .. ..	8	4
Grangehill Road .. ..	9	6
Grenade Gardens .. ..	10	1
Bilberry Road .. ..	10	7
Allenwood Road .. ..	8	8
Mortar Gardens .. ..	8	4
Mars Avenue .. ..	13	8
Mercury Road .. ..	11	7
Deansfield Road .. ..	12	10
Battery Road .. ..	4	2
Sherard Road .. ..	9	7
Reventlow Road .. ..	36	25
Osborne Terrace .. ..	12	10
Brentwood Cottages.. ..	25	14
Pelham Terrace .. ..	25	23
Southwood Road .. ..	18	13
Middle Park Cottages .. ..	13	6
Horn Park Cottages.. ..	11	3
Footscray Road .. ..	18	8
High Street .. ..	52	31
Blanmerle Road .. ..	66	61
	<u>468</u>	<u>302</u>
		64.5 % Defects.



## APPENDICES.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation :
- |                     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) by householders | ... | ... | ... | nil |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
- (2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1909 :
- |   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| (a) Number of dwelling-houses inspected   | ... | 2180 |
| (b) Number of dwelling-houses considered to be unfit for human habitation                             | ... | 7    |
| (c) Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders | ... | 4    |
- (3) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919 :
- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| (a) Number of orders for repairs issued  | ... | 2   |
| (b) Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the local authority   | ... | nil |
| (c) Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction | ... | nil |
- (4) Closing Orders :
- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (a) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders                             | ... | 7 |
| (b) Number of closing orders made   | ... | 3 |
| (c) Number of dwelling-houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for human habitation | ... | 2 |
- (5) Demolition Orders :
- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| (a) Number of demolition orders made                              | ... | nil |
| (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | ... | nil |
- (6) Number of dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily
- nil
- (7) Obstructive Buildings :
- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| (a) Number of representations made                      | ... | nil |
| (b) Number of buildings demolished                      | ... | nil |
| (c) Number of representations still under consideration | ... | nil |

