

## **Annual report on the health of the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford.**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## HEALTH

OF THE

Metropolitan Borough of Deptford,

BY

**WILLIAM H. WHITEHOUSE, M.D., D.P.H.,**

*Of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law ;*

*Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, &c., &c.*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1915

DEPTFORD :

Gaylard & Son, 446 New Cross Road, S.E.

## Public Health and Housing Committee.

---

Mayor.

Councillor WILLIAM A. WAYLAND, J.P. (*ex officio*).

Chairman.

Alderman E. J. KNIGHT.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor W. FALKNER.

---

Alderman W. A. SCHULTZ, J.P.

Councillor A. E. BRETT.

Councillor Dr. W. H. BROOKS.

Councillor W. R. CARNELL.

Councillor H. CATTELL.

Councillor W. H. GREEN.

Councillor C. H. KIPPS.

Councillor J. SHEPHERD.

Councillor R. SOPER.



## Staff of the Public Health Department.

### Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM H. WHITEHOUSE, M.D., D.P.H., B.S., Barrister-at-Law.

### Tuberculosis Officer.

MURDOCH MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H., B.Ch.

### Public Analyst.

HENRY G. HARRISON, M.A. (Cantab), F.I.C.

### Sanitary Inspectors.

THOMAS TURNER.	JOHN V. SNOWDON.
*ROBERT D. J. SIMPSON.	ARTHUR G. KEMP.
ALFRED PRIEST.	FREDERICK HEWETT.
PHILIP SHELLEY.	HARRY ALLAM.

### Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors.

Miss F. O'RIORDAN. Miss W. C. SMART.

### Health Visitor.

Mrs. H. DAVIES.

### Chief Clerk.

CHARLES A. CHAPMAN.

### Clerks.

\*HENRY J. L. SMITH. GEORGE NORTHMORE.

### Municipal Dispensary for the Prevention of Consumption,

78 Amersham Vale, New Cross, S.E.

*Administrative Tuberculosis Officer*—W. H. WHITEHOUSE, M.D.

*Clinical Tuberculosis Officer*—MURDOCH MACDONALD, M.D.

*Dispenser Clerk*—Miss G. F. GREIG.

*Nurse*—Miss PORTEOUS.

\**Attendant*—G. ABBOTT.

### Disinfecting Staff.

C. F. DOWSETT (Chief Disinfecter).

\*T. LYONS.

\*F. SMITH.

\*R. G. GLADMAN.

### Council's Shelter, Mortuary and Coroner's Court.

\**Attendant*—G. W. J. WAGNER.

### Cleansing Station.

*Bath Attendant*—Mrs. WAGNER.

*School Nurse*—Miss GILBY.

\* On Service with H.M. Forces.

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# Metropolitan Borough of Deptford.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

NEW CROSS, S.E.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the state of the Public Health and the record of sanitary work carried out during the year 1915.

This Report also gives:—An account of the work done under the Food and Drugs Acts; a general reference to the question of Maternity and Infant Welfare; and a detailed description of our Tuberculosis Dispensary work for the year.

Your attention is drawn to an increase in the death-rate which is not to be accounted for by any epidemic disease but rather to deaths attributed to old age and respiratory diseases, the latter especially in the first four or five months of the year. The large rainfall which occurred particularly in the spring and winter months, was undoubtedly the cause of the increased number of deaths from respiratory diseases.

I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their kind and courteous consideration in connection with matters affecting this department.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the staff of the Public Health Department have carried out their difficult duties in a satisfactory and conscientious manner and to my entire satisfaction.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. WHITEHOUSE.

## Summary of Vital and Mortal Statistics for 1915.

	1915.	1914.
Area ....	1,563 acres	1,563 acres
Population—		
Census 1901 ....	110,398	110,398
Census 1911 ....	109,496	109,496
Estimated to middle of year	110,299	109,182
Number of inhabited houses	16,658	16,696
Average number of persons per house ....	6.6	6.5
Density ....	70 per acre	70 per acre
Length of Public Streets	53 <i>miles approx.</i>	53 <i>miles approx.</i>
Rateable Value ....	£636,361	£636,361
1d. Rate produces (approximately)	£2,542	£2,496
Cost of administration of Public Health Department ....	£1,718	£1,789
Marriages ....	1,262	857
Marriage Rate ....	11.4	7.8
Births ....	2,955	3,121
Birth Rate ....	26.8	28.6
Birth Rate, average for the last 10 years ....	27.4	27.4
Deaths ....	1,962	1,598
Death Rate ....	17.8	14.6
Death Rate, average for the last 10 years ....	14.5	14.6
Infantile Mortality ....	132 per 1,000 births	99 per 1,000 births
Infantile Mortality, average for the last 10 years ....	117 per 1,000 births	122 per 1,000 births
Zymotic Death Rate ...	2.07	1.69



## AREA AND POPULATION.

Acres.	Estimated Population.
1563	110,299

The population of the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford at the census taken April, 1911, was 109,496.

### Estimate of Civil Population, 1915.

The war has made it impossible to adhere to the methods of estimation of local and national populations hitherto in use. Men of military age have been largely drafted to military training centres or sent abroad with the army, and the remainder of the male adult population, as well as, to a lesser extent, the female population, has migrated on an unprecedented scale into areas other than those in which it was enumerated at the last census.

Under these circumstances estimates of local populations based on the census returns were clearly inadmissible, and it became necessary to search for a substitute. Fortunately this was ready to hand in the National Register, which referred to a date only six weeks removed from that for which estimates were required, viz., the middle of the year 1915. No doubt this does not form a perfect record as it is known that a number of persons escaped registration. From investigations however which have been made in another connection it appears that the defects in the register taken as a whole are not on such a scale as to affect seriously the estimates of population based upon it. By the method described below it was possible to derive from these returns estimates of the *civil* population only of each administrative area on August 15th. No attempt has been made to increase these by allowance for members of the fighting forces because, apart altogether from the difficulty of ascertaining the average military population of each district during the year, experience has shown that under present circumstances only civilian deaths can be tabulated for local areas. If military deaths were to be included they would have either to be debited to the area in which they occurred, a course which would render the death-rates of districts containing large military hospitals meaningless, or to the area of residence. An attempt made to pursue the latter course has had to be abandoned owing to military authorities having been unable to furnish to the registrars the necessary information. It has been found necessary therefore to limit the tabulation of deaths by local areas to deaths of



civilians, and under these circumstances the civilian population is obviously the proper one to use for the calculation of death-rates.

An additional advantage in the use of National Register populations is that these consist of habitual residents in each locality and not merely of the persons who happened to be present therein on a certain date. The deaths tabulated from the year 1911 onwards are also those of habitual residents only, and therefore the use hitherto of populations which in certain cases included very large institutional elements chiefly composed of non-residents introduced in these cases serious errors into the rates calculated from them, as pointed out in the Registrar-General's Annual Reports (See page 132, Report for 1913). This source of error now of course disappears for the time being, and in such districts an unavoidable break in the continuity of the previously misleading rates will result. In any case however, the maintenance of continuity is under present circumstances obviously impossible, and it is felt that the present estimates will furnish death-rates calculated to indicate as nearly as may be the health conditions of the civil population.

The method by which the estimates of civil population have been derived from the National Register returns may now be described.

The ratio of the total population less the males aged 15-65 years to the number of females aged 15-65 years at the date of the census was calculated for each administrative area, and this ratio was applied to the number of the civil population of the district. A small adjustment was necessary in order to make the sum of the estimates for the several districts equal to the estimate for the country as a whole made on the same basis. Further, the population in institutions was not registered and this (taken to be the same in the aggregate for England and Wales as at census date) together with a number of persons of no fixed abode, were distributed evenly over the whole country. These two adjustments raised the original estimates by about one per cent.

The question of the population to be used for the calculation of birth-rates has also required consideration. The births registered are not only those of the children of civilians, and the estimates of civil population therefore form an unsuitable basis for the calculation of birth-rates. It is impossible to frame any estimate that would give reliable birth-rates, and it is suggested, therefore, that the birth-rates for 1915 be based upon the existing estimates of total population for 1914. These will sometimes be seriously in error owing to extensive migration having occurred.

In Deptford the birth-rates are based on the new estimate of population since, from local information, I consider this to be more accurate than the population estimate for 1914.

Difficulties, which will probably prove insoluble, remain as to estimation of populations in sex and age groups and the standardizing factors dependent upon them. Moreover, the present method of estimation will obviously not apply to 1916 or subsequent years unless the National Register is effectively kept up to date or further enumeration made. Nothing can at present be decided as to these matters.

The estimated population to the middle of the year 1915 was 110,299.

The estimated population for each of the various wards was as follows:—

East	...	21,340	S.	...	12,232
N.	...	24,043	S.E.	...	12,411
N.W.	...	23,652	S.W.	...	16,621

As the Borough has an area of 1563 acres, the density of the population on this estimate is 70 per acre approximately.

The following table shows the total number of dwelling houses and the number inhabited and uninhabited in 1901, 1911, and 1915 respectively:—

Year.	HOUSES.		
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Total.
1901	15,823	516	16,339
1911	16,102	491	16,593
1915	16,658	249	16,907

Taking the number of inhabited houses in 1915 to be 16,658 as set forth in the above table, and calculating the population to be 110,299 then the average number of persons per house would be 6.6.

The following table shows the number of houses, separate occupiers, and population in 1901 and 1911, distinguishing the various kinds of

buildings and the population enumerated therein, and also the buildings not used as dwellings:—

Cols. 1	1901	1911.										Buildings not used as Dwellings.		
	Total.	Totals (Cols. 4-11)	Buildings used as Dwellings.								Vessels, Sheds, Vagrants, etc.			Separate Flats. (Included in Col. 5.)
			Ordinary Dwelling Houses.	Blocks of Flats.	Shops.	Hotels, Inns, and Public Houses.	Offices, Warehouses, Workshops, Factories.	Institutions.	Others.	Kind of Building.		No.		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Number inhabited	15,823	16,102	14,768	75	1,049	121	40	15	34	—	764	Places of Worship	33	
Separate Occupiers	24,615	25,040	22,838	773	1,193	124	42	16	48	6	773	Govt. & Municipal Buildings	16	
Population ...	110,398	109,496	98,470	3,409	5,116	752	190	1,398	140	21	3,409	Shops	234	
Uninhabited	424	640	561	1	70	1	3	—	4	—	207	Offices	27	
Being built ...	92	15	11	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	Warehouses, Workshops & Factories	179	
												Theatres and other places of amusement.	7	

Families or separate occupiers (private and other) in Deptford:—

East	...	...	4,671		
North	...	...	5,385	1911	25,040
North-West	...	...	5,368	1901	24,615
South	...	...	2,854		
South-East	...	...	2,783	Increase	425
South-West	...	...	3,979		

25,040

Number of Private Families	...	...	24,975
Population in Private Families	...	...	107,775

Population of Deptford living in Institutions, large establishments, vessels, etc.:—

Number of Institutions, etc.	...	...	...	22
Population	...	...	...	1436

	Population	Institution.
East	227	10
North	20	1
North-West	512	4
South	93	3
South-East...	584	4
South-West	—	—
	1436	22

### Site, Sub-Soil and Drainage of Deptford.

The physical features and character of the Borough have been so many times described by me that I refer you to previous reports for the sake of economy.

#### Sewage System.

The sewers passing through Deptford are:—

Branch.	Coming from	Length.
Bermondsey Branch ... ..	Rotherhithe	7290-ft.
Southern High Level Sewer ...	Wandsworth	6480-ft.
Southern Low Level Sewer ...	Putney	7260-ft.
Effra Branch ... ..	Norwood	6270-ft.
Storm Relief (in Church Street) ...	—	2970-ft.
Storm Relief (St. George's Stairs)	—	1980-ft.
Relief Sewer at Broadway ...	Greenwich	3080-ft.
Deptford to Lee Green Sewer ...	Lee	1320-ft.
Ravensbourne and Sydenham Sewer	Bell Green	1330-ft.
New Southern High Level Sewer	Brockley	7920-ft.

Thus we have about 8·7 miles of main sewers of large bore in the Borough, all radiating towards the Deptford Pumping Station except the last mentioned, but all pass on to the Crossness Pumping Station, and from this point the sewage passes into the Thames.

#### Open Spaces.

The permanent open spaces existing which cannot be built upon are:—

	Situation.	Size.	Maintained by
1. Deptford Park ...	Evelyn Street	22 acres	L.C.C.
2. Ravensbourne Recreation Ground	Brookmill Road	1¼ acres	Borough Council.
3. Hilly Fields ... (On South-East Boundary of Borough)	Brockley	45½ acres	L.C.C.
4. Telegraph Hill Recreation Ground	Telegraph Hill	9¾ acres	L.C.C.
5. Railways and ad- joining land ...	—	234 acres	
6. Millwall Football Ground ... ..	—	5½ acres	
7. Canals ... ..	—	8 acres	
8. St. Paul's Churchyard	—	2·2 acres	
9. Reservoir ...	—	1 acre	

**Births.**

Number of births	...	...	...	...	2955
Average number of births for previous 10 years	..	...	...	...	3113
Average birth-rate for previous 10 years	...				27.4
Birth-rate of Deptford per 1,000, for 1915	...				26.8
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	21.8
96 Great Towns	...	...	...	...	22.2
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	...	21.6
London...	...	...	...	...	22.6

The total number of births registered in the Borough in 1915 was 2,955, as compared with 3,121 in 1914. Of these, 1,479 were boys and 1,476 were girls.

The birth-rate for the Borough was equivalent to an annual rate of 26.8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 28.6 in 1914, 28.0 for 1913, and 26.5 for 1912.

The birth-rate for London was 22.6 per 1,000, compared with 24.3 for 1914, 24.8 for 1913 and 24.7 for 1912.

The popular belief that boy babies outnumber girls in war time finds some support in the fact that the numbers of male and female births in recent quarters show an increasing excess in the number of males born. Unfortunately, statisticians have shown that a continuance of this excess is no certainty, and it is a fact that during the Crimean War the ratio of males born actually declined. However, in the first quarter of this year 1,032 males were born to 1,000 females, in the second quarter (the ninth, tenth and eleventh months of the war) 1,043, in the third quarter 1,055.

As regards the actual birth-rate, the decline in this country is insignificant compared with that recorded in the latest German statistics. These returns show that in twenty-four leading German cities the birth-rate decreased during April, May, June and July, 1915, by 20 per cent. as compared with the corresponding months in 1914, which is equivalent to a loss of four hundred thousand births annually throughout the German Empire.

The subjoined table gives the number of births for each Ward, together with the birth-rate:—

Ward.	Births.			Birth Rate per 1,000.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
East Ward ...	340	363	703	32.9
North Ward ...	377	343	720	29.9
North-West Ward	333	353	686	29.0
South Ward ...	103	88	191	15.6
South-East Ward	146	140	286	23.0
South-West Ward	180	189	369	22.2

In the following table will be seen the number of births, deaths, and deaths of children under one year of age, which have occurred during the past ten years, with the respective rates:—

YEAR.	Estimated population.	Births.		Deaths.		Deaths under one year.	
		No.	Rate per 1000.	No.	Rate per 1000.	No.	Mortality per 1000 births.
1905	114,512	3290	28.7	1642	14.3	411	124
1906	115,495	3260	28.2	1854	16.0	472	144
1907	116,510	3323	28.5	1641	14.0	356	107
1908	117,539	3084	26.2	1643	13.9	381	123
1909	118,583	3093	26.8	1611	13.5	321	103
1910	119,642	2959	24.7	1671	13.9	366	123
1911	109,475	3001	27.4	1728	15.8	428	143
1912	109,377	2896	26.5	1442	13.2	258	89
1913	109,280	3106	28.0	1727	15.5	350	113
1914	109,182	3121	28.6	1598	14.6	309	99
Average for 10 years	113,959	3113	27.4	1656	14.5	365	117
1915	110,299	2955	26.8	1962	17.8	391	132

#### Illegitimate Births.

The illegitimate births, which number 84, eight more than the previous year, occurred in the several Wards, as follows:—

East Ward ...	20	South Ward ...	6
North Ward ...	11	South-East Ward ...	9
North-West Ward	24	South-West Ward ...	14

**Marriages.**

There were 1262 marriages in the Borough during the year, as compared with 857 in the previous year.

The marriage rate for 1915 was equal to 11·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population and has not been exceeded in any year for the past ten years.

The marriages were celebrated in the following places :—

776 in Churches of England.

116 in other places of worship.

370 in the Superintendent Registrar's Office.

1262 Total (of residents of Deptford).

CONDITION AS TO MARRIAGE AND AGES  
IN THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD  
AT CENSUS 1911.

Ages.	Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 15 years... ..	17269	17319	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years ...	4775	4888	10	46	—	—
20 " 25 " ...	3787	3858	641	1274	2	8
25 " 30 " ...	2216	2010	2485	3135	17	34
30 " 35 " ...	1079	1038	3296	3562	50	86
35 " 40 " ...	629	720	3112	3132	70	161
40 " 45 " ...	386	535	2810	2759	106	217
45 " 50 " ...	314	436	2372	2214	138	325
50 " 55 " ...	203	297	1992	1800	205	420
55 " 60 " ...	123	202	1463	1250	196	468
60 " 65 " ...	81	155	991	849	216	547
65 " 70 " ...	43	136	640	473	213	554
70 " 75 " ...	37	94	368	226	207	480
75 " 80 " ...	17	56	115	93	116	338
80 " 85 " ...	11	32	53	32	90	157
85 " 90 " ...	1	7	11	8	22	60
90 " 95 " ...	1	5	—	—	7	12
95 " 100 " ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
100 years and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
All ages... ..	30972	31788	20360	20853	1655	3868

62760

41213

5523

The returns issued by the Registrar-General reveal several features of unusual interest inasmuch as they have special significance in war time. They show that the marriage-rate in England and Wales during the quarter ended 30th September, 1915, reached 21·8 persons married per 1,000 of the population. This is the highest rate yet recorded in any quarter since the establishment of civil registration. The next highest rate is 21·4 in the fourth quarter of 1865, in which quarter until recent years the marriage-rate as a rule considerably exceeded that in the third quarter. The nearest approach in any third quarter to the rate recorded last quarter is 18·2 in 1912, and 18·1 in 1907 and 1913. It is further noteworthy that the rate for the second quarter of the past year, viz., 20·9, is the highest in any second quarter since the establishment of civil registration. The analysis of the marriage-rate statistics for the quarter ended September 30th, followed on the lines of those which characterised the report of the previous quarter, which in its turn gave the highest June quarter figures yet recorded. It was then found that the remarkable increase in the marriage-rate occurred chiefly in the industrial and more densely populated counties of England. In London, the marriages in the second quarter of 1915 were 15,065, compared with 11,218 in the corresponding period of 1914. In Middlesex, there was an increase from 2,322 to 3,054; and in Essex, the figures from 2,565 rose to 3,657. In Lancashire, the marriages in the June quarter of 1914 were 11,451, and in 1915 they were 13,136. The figures also rose appreciably in the West Riding of Yorkshire, in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire. The returns bear out a general impression that the high marriage-rate is attributable partly to war weddings and partly to the prosperity of the workers in areas where war work is done.

#### Deaths.

	1915	Average for past 10 years.
Number of deaths ... ..	1,962	1,656
Average death-rate for previous 5 years ... ..	14·6	14·5
Rate per 1,000 Deptford ... ..	17·8	
"    "    England and Wales...	15·1	
"    "    96 Large Towns ...	15·6	
"    "    148 Smaller Towns ...	14·0	
"    "    County of London ...	16·1	

The number of deaths registered within the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford from all causes during 1915 was 1,406, equal to a death-rate of 12·7 as compared with 1,145 deaths, and a death-rate of 10·5 during the previous year. Of this number 697 were males and 709



females. The total number of deaths belonging to Deptford is obtained by deducting the number of deaths of non-parishioners registered in the Borough, viz.: 144, of which number 132 occurred in the Metropolitan Asylums Board's South Eastern Hospital, making 1262 deaths actually belonging to Deptford. To this number we must add 700 deaths of parishioners which occurred in public institutions outside the Borough, making a total of 1,962, of which 1,028 were males and 934 females, and upon these figures the statistics are based.

The death-rate for the Borough was equal to an annual rate of 17·8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 14·6 for 1914, 15·5 for 1913, and 13·2 for 1912, the average for the past five years being 14·6.

The 700 deaths outside the borough were distributed as follows:—

Asylums ... ..	51
Poor Law Institutions:—	
Greenwich Union ... ..	386
Other than Greenwich ... ..	32
Hospitals:—	
Guy's ... ..	44
Seamen's ... ..	7
Miller ... ..	35
East London (for children) ... ..	12
St. Bartholomew's ... ..	1
St. Thomas' ... ..	11
London ... ..	1
Metropolitan Asylums Board ... ..	17
St. John's ... ..	2
Evelina... ..	12
Other Hospitals ... ..	55
Other places ... ..	34
Total ... ..	700

The following table gives the number of deaths belonging to each Ward, and the death rates for each Ward.

Ward.	Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
East Ward ... ..	287	263	550	25·8
North Ward ... ..	241	199	440	18·3
North-West Ward	185	165	350	14·8
South Ward ... ..	70	82	152	12·4
South-East Ward	141	104	245	19·7
South-West Ward	104	121	225	13·5

Deaths of residents occurring in outlying public institutions are allocated to their respective Wards according to the addresses of the deceased as received from the Registrar-General's Department.

The proportion which the mortality at various ages bears to the total number of deaths during 1914 and 1915 is as follows:—

	1914.	1915.
Under 1 year	19·3 per cent.	19·9 per cent. deaths.
1 to 2 years	5·4 „	7·0 „ „
2 to 5 „	4·8 „	6·0 „ „
5 to 15 „	4·0 „	4·2 „ „
15 to 25 „	4·0 „	4·2 „ „
25 to 45 „	13·0 „	10·9 „ „
45 to 65 „	21·0 „	22·4 „ „
65 years and upwards	28·5 „	25·4 „ „

### Seasonal Mortality.

*First Quarter.*—The deaths numbered 583, which is equal to an annual death rate of 21·1 per 1000.

*Second Quarter.*—The deaths numbered 463, which is equal to an annual death rate of 16·8 per 1000.

*Third Quarter.*—In this quarter 429 deaths were registered, equal to an annual rate of 15·6 per 1000.

*Fourth Quarter.*—487 deaths were registered, equal to a rate of 17·7 per 1000 of the population.

NOTE.—The figures contained in the Quarterly Reports have been corrected by the inclusion of 24 parishioners whose deaths occurred outside the Metropolitan area

### Infantile Mortality.

Total deaths of Infants under one year, 391.

	1915.	Average for previous 10 years
Deptford Infantile death rate per 1000 births ... ..	132	117
England and Wales ... ..	110	
96 Large Towns ... ..	117	
148 Smaller Towns... ..	114	
County of London ... ..	112	

Of the 1,962 deaths recorded during the year 391 were of infants under one year of age.

In a previous table will be seen the infantile mortality per 1,000 births for the past ten years.

The following table shows the infantile mortality in the various wards :—

## DEPTFORD.

Ward.	Births Registered.	Deaths under 1 year of age.	Infantile Mortality per 1000 Births.
East Ward ... ..	703	137	195
North Ward ... ..	720	92	128
North-West Ward ... ..	686	79	115
South Ward ... ..	191	20	105
South-East Ward ... ..	286	35	122
South-West Ward ... ..	369	28	76

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR 1915.

BIRTHS .. .. .	2955
DEATHS—including 700 in Outlying Public Institutions	1962
Excess of Births over Deaths ...	993

I submit a list of the principal causes of the 309 infantile deaths in the Borough during 1915, viz. :—

Whooping Cough ... ..	23
Measles ... ..	10
Tuberculosis ... ..	16
Meningitis ... ..	6
Convulsions ... ..	18
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ... ..	88
Diarrhœal Diseases ... ..	29
Enteritis and Diseases of Digestive System ...	44
Gastritis ... ..	7
Syphilis ... ..	2
Suffocation in bed with parents... ..	4
Congenital Malformation, Atelectasis, and Injury at Birth ... ..	22
Debility and Marasmus ... ..	54
Premature Birth ... ..	49
Other causes ... ..	19

In a supplement in continuation of a report of the medical officer of the Local Government Board for 1914-15, containing a report on maternity mortality in connection with child-bearing and its relation to infant mortality, Dr. Newsholme points out, that although much valuable work has been done by the Central Midwives Board, by local supervising authorities, and by many voluntary associations and hospitals, child bearing is still associated in some parts of the country with very excessive mortality, and in every part of the country with much avoidable sickness and mortality. The report is intended to draw attention to this fact, to stimulate further local inquiry on the subject, and to encourage measures which will make the occurrence of illness and disability due to child-bearing a much rarer event than at present.

In the first part the national aspect of the subject is discussed. It is pointed out that there has been a remarkable decline in the national birth-rate and in the national death-rate. By the simultaneous decline of both birth-rate and death-rate a fall in the rate of natural increase of the population has been postponed. The death-rate can still be greatly reduced. A very high proportion of the deaths occurring under the age of 70 are unnecessary deaths. Of the total deaths at all ages, 44 per cent. occur under the age of 40, and 76 per cent. under the age of 70. But the fall in the death-rate cannot keep pace indefinitely with a continuous fall in the birth-rate. Already the average age of the national population and its consequent proneness to death is on the increase. Had the birth-rate of England and Wales been the same in 1914 as in 1876, 467,837 additional infants would have been born in 1914. These figures emphasize the importance of preventing, so far as is practicable, further decrease of the balance of births over deaths by measures directed to saving the lives and maintaining and improving the standard of health of mothers and of their children.

In the second part of the report are displayed the local differences of mortality in child-bearing, so far as these can be shown in massed statistics. In respect of puerperal fever there is a remarkable uniformity in the experience of counties, county boroughs, and metropolitan boroughs in England and Wales, taken in the aggregate. The death-rate from conditions other than puerperal fever adversely affecting child-bearing is much lower in London than in the provinces. This difference means that over 800 mothers die each year in England and Wales, as the result of child-bearing, whose lives would be saved if the experience of the rest of England and Wales were as favourable as that of London. But the recorded experience of London in respect of

puerperal fever is as unfavourable as that of the provinces. If this disease were to be eliminated, as it has been substantially from the experience of many lying-in-hospitals, a further saving of 1,100 lives of mothers would be secured annually in England and Wales.

The close relationship between factory work for married women and excessive mortality from child-bearing is indicated. Although dogmatism as to causation is not justified, and the need for further intensive inquiry is suggested by the facts under each heading, Dr. Newsholme says the presumption is justified that better arrangements for ante-natal care and for midwifery attendance would go far to reduce the mortality from child-bearing.

In order that official action may be taken for reducing maternal mortality and suffering in child-bearing, measures must be adopted for ascertaining what cases need help. This condition, the report states, can be fulfilled by: (a) The provision of skilled assistance at maternity centres, which is one of the best means for obtaining such information; (b) the notification of births, which provides essential information; (c) the notification of puerperal fever when made more effective. Hospital provision for the treatment of puerperal fever is most valuable in itself, as well as in securing more complete notification; (d) the collection of the statistics of hospital experience; (e) the provision of pathological aids for diagnosis, which will lead to the better diagnosis and treatment of many cases of illness in child-bearing. Other suggestions are concerned with ante-natal work in connection with clinics and consultations, and difficulties in regard to the supply of midwives are discussed at length. The report makes a most opportune appearance at a time when it is important for the public to realise the urgent necessity for maternity and infant welfare schemes.

### **Female Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors.**

#### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

During the year 5989 visits were made to the homes of babies. Early notification as required by the Act has been systematically carried out, and it may be said that the Notification of Births Act is working efficiently in the Borough.

There were 2955 births registered during 1915.

„ 3014 „ notified „ „

The duties of the female staff as Health Visitors are, briefly :—

1. To visit systematically all the births in the poorer streets and some of the births in the better class districts.
2. To instruct the mothers, and especially young mothers, with first children or twins, in the feeding and proper care of their babies.
3. To pay revisits and to carefully watch over the child's health and progress, and to take the necessary steps by advice or by reference to medical or philanthropic agencies to safeguard the child's prospects and circumstances.
4. To improve the home conditions of the mothers domestically by help, advice and suggestion, hygienically by referring defects of structure or environment to the Public Health Department.
5. To attend and supervise their respective Centres for Infant Welfare.
6. Deal with those notifiable infectious diseases peculiar to early infancy.
7. To make enquiries as to the cause of failures to notify births under the Notification of Births Act, 1907.
8. To inspect the homes of verminous children notified by the London County Council as required by that body.
9. To make inquiry respecting persons notified under the Tuberculosis Order, 1913, and visit dispensary cases.

For the above purposes the Borough has been divided into three districts, mapped out as containing those streets in which infant deaths have chiefly occurred in recent years.

One district is assigned to each Lady Health Visitor, and in the special streets so named and defined every household in which a birth occurs is visited on or about the eleventh day after the birth if the mother is up, or earlier on request, or if there is reason to believe that the mother is unattended by a doctor, midwife or nurse.

It is important to notice that, in these streets referred to, every birth is visited, and not merely births in those households where the parents are ostensibly poor or dirty.

In other streets only those births are supervised where the mothers are very young, careless, negligent, ill-treated, alcoholic, deserted, living in poor and domestically squalid surroundings, or are known to be the chief or sole wage-earners for their families, or where the children are first children, wasting, debilitated, ailing, illegitimate or twins.

During the year 2,964 homes have been visited where children have been born.

The distribution of visits in the different wards was as follows:—

		E.	N.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	Total.
Miss O'Riordan	Visits	3	153	845	186	379	353	1919
	Revisits	4	163	822	193	432	223	1837
	Total	7	316	1667	379	811	576	3756
Miss Smart	Visits	1456	15	—	—	1	2	1474
	Revisits	1969	14	1	5	—	2	1991
	Total	3425	29	1	5	1	4	3465
Mrs. Davies	Visits	2	894	132	—	—	—	1028
	Revisits	2	1419	247	—	—	—	1668
	Total	4	2313	379	—	—	—	2696
Totals {	Visits	1461	1062	977	186	380	355	4421
	Revisits	1975	1596	1070	198	432	225	5496
	Total	3436	2658	2047	384	812	580	9917

The following visits are included in the above table:—

	1st visits	2nd visits	Total
Births .. .. .	2964	3025	5989
Tuberculosis .. .. .	512	1623	2135
Verminous Children .. .. .	280	683	963
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	11	45	56
Infant Deaths .. .. .	345	—	345
Miscellaneous .. .. .	309	120	429
	<u>4421</u>	<u>5496</u>	<u>9917</u>

The number of births notified under the Notification of Births Act during this period was 3014. 137 parents had to be warned in respect of their failure to comply with the Act.

In the following table, information will be found with regard to the births notified in the different wards, together with the sex, whether born alive or dead, and by whom the birth was notified:—

Ward.	Births Notified.			Alive.	Dead.	By whom Notified.			
	Total.	Males.	Females			Parent.	Doctor.	Midwife.	Other Person.
East ..	701	333	368	678	23	92	67	530	12
North ..	749	405	344	725	24	166	257	292	34
Nth.-west	717	350	367	701	16	272	224	173	48
South ..	190	108	82	187	3	104	47	18	21
Sth-East	291	152	139	281	10	110	63	99	19
Sth-West	366	176	190	355	11	195	65	88	18
Totals ..	3041	1524	1490	2927	87	939	723	1200	152

Details as to the feeding of the babies visited is given below. "Mixed feeding" means both breast and hand-fed.

Wards.	Breast Feeding.	Mixed Feeding.	Hand Feeding	Totals.
East ...	677	61	39	777
North ...	708	46	36	790
North-West	619	37	82	738
South ...	98	10	25	133
South-East ...	222	25	18	265
South-West	220	10	31	261
	<u>2544</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>2964</u>

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

In several circulars issued by the Local Government Board during the years 1914 and 1915, the scope and intention of an organized scheme of baby culture is set forth. The following is a summary of that scheme:—

It is intended that the work of each local authority should be directed along two main lines of endeavour—first, the visiting of all mothers *in fact*, and, in so far as may be possible, of all mothers *in expectation*; secondly, the establishment in every area of centres where the examination of mothers, babies and children under school age should be undertaken at regular intervals. The purpose of these visits and examinations is stated to be in the main to give advice in general on hygiene, and in particular on the difficulties of the individual mothers and children. But the possibility of some sort of simple medical treatment is held out as one of the advantages of the centres.

The medical officer of health has immediate information of the birth of a child. From that notification radiates the health visitation as part of the normal public health work of the district. Within two or three days of the notification an official visitor is sent by the medical officer of health to such homes as he judges advisable. The visitor sees the mother and baby, gives advice on the care of the infant, takes a general survey of the home, the cleanliness and sanitation thereof, and in particular urges the mother to take her baby as soon as possible to the "centre," and to consider that centre as in some sort the place for the standardization of her infant; there she will know how it fares, if its height, its weight, and its health are as good as may be, and there she will receive advice on all the difficulties that occur in the upbringing of



the little one, and all this right on until the child is entered on the books of the local elementary school, when the record will be handed on to the school doctor. When the little one comes to learn of all this it will be able to echo in truth the words of the psalmist: "In thy book all my members were written." But the work of the centres will not be limited to the oversight of the mothers *in fact* and their infants. It is intended that the work should have a very definite extension to the mothers *in expectation*. There is no legal notification of pregnancy, so that the medical officer of health has to trust to the willing co-operation of the medical men and midwives of the district for information concerning the mothers in expectation, or to such chance knowledge as may come to him through voluntary agencies or his own health visitors. The object of obtaining this information is that the expectant mothers should be urged to attend the centres for medical examination and that the health visitors should visit them at their homes.

#### *The Health Visitors and their Work.*

The three most useful qualifications for non-medical health visitors are those of: (1) A trained nurse; (2) a certified midwife; and (3) a certified sanitary inspector. The first training will enable the visitor to gain important instruction in the hygiene of child life; the second will enable her to supplement the work of the midwife even to acting as an inspector of midwives; and the knowledge of sanitary work will enable the visitor to appreciate the state of a house and its sanitary arrangements, and bring her into intimate relation to the regular sanitary officers of the district.

The nature of the advice to be given to the mother *in fact* is not outlined: it may be presumed to depend on the individual case of mother and child. But on the visitation of the expectant mother there is an indication in some notes given in last year's report.

#### *The Centres.*

The main work of the centres will be with the mothers and the children. But the circulars show that a very strenuous effort is to be made to increase to the greatest possible extent their work in relation to the expectant mothers.

The actual scope of work of the centres is best given in the official terms: "The chief object of the centre is to secure the medical supervision of the expectant and nursing mother and of her child. This supervision takes the form of a medical consultation, followed by the giving of hygienic advice, and by treatment, especially for minor complaints, when local circumstances indicate the need for this."

It would appear that the expectant mother, when persuaded to attend the clinic centre, will only be seen once in the ordinary course of events. She would be examined, and advice on the care of her general health, with particular instructions on any obvious difficulties, given. Patients found to have serious symptoms would be referred to a private practitioner; "no responsibility should be undertaken at the centre for the continuous treatment of serious illness," a record is to be kept.

When the baby's turn comes to attend the centre it is natural that it should be the chief focus of attention. "Commonly, it will be desirable to secure that each infant attending the centre is seen by the doctor at least every four or six weeks. These consultations should be arranged more frequently, if the health visitor in the intervals finds that the infant is not progressing favourably. After the early months of life less frequent attendance will be needed, but the consultations should suffice to secure early recognition of rickets, etc. After the child has reached the age of two or three years, efforts should be made to secure a medical examination at quarterly or half-yearly intervals, until the child is entered on a school register." Record of the state of the infant is to be kept.

Besides the records of the mother and child there is to be kept a record of the visits to the home and the conditions found there.

So much for the general scope of the work. There remains to discover the medical arrangements.

At the end of Dr. Newsholme's report we find the following:—

"The value of a centre depends chiefly on the medical advice given in it. The late Professor Budin, the distinguished founder of infant consultations, said: 'An infant consultation is worth precisely as much as the presiding physician.' This is even more true for the antenatal work of the centre."

The medical arrangements for the centres are left entirely in the hands of the local authority.

Each local authority opening a centre will decide the best arrangement for medical service. An officer appointed by the local authority may undertake this. The arrangement made should, so far as practicable, be one which will receive the general approval of local medical practitioners. This may sometimes be secured by appointing a practitioner not practising in the district. It is less satisfactory to have a rota of doctors. The last-named arrangement should not be entertained unless it is provided that the same doctor will attend at consecutive consultations for not less than six months.

With regard to the cost the memorandum assumes that the health visitors will be officers of the sanitary authority, so that their salaries need not be reckoned as a part of the working expenses of the centre, which would comprise "the doctor's salary, rent, rates, taxes, lighting, heating, caretaking, and a few minor items, including drugs and medical appliances." The Local Government Board will pay 50 per cent. of the amount spent on approved expenditure for the above purposes, but it is thought that in many instances the centre can be conducted on premises used for other purposes, so that no rent need be paid.

So far, the effect of the war upon the child has received but scant attention by local authorities. Yet it is a matter of supreme importance both to us as a nation and to us as a race, that the future of the child should not be handicapped by the patriotism of the father. We must not forget that the boys and girls of to-day are the men and women of to-morrow. Heavy, then, as the national burden is, and must continue to be, the problem of the child must neither be neglected or set aside. As far as possible a solution must be found for every case of hardship or distress, either directly or indirectly, attributable to the operations of the war. It has never been the practice of the British people to stint their expenditures, and every family that possesses the means of spending money freely does not hesitate to provide itself, not only with all the necessaries it requires, but with as many comforts and luxuries as it can reasonably afford. The savings of the British people are made after all these other expenditures are provided for. Hitherto the British people have financed this great war in the same way as they would have financed a great Government building, a new county hall, or a new post office. They have assumed that expenditures for such a purpose would be met after they had supplied themselves with their necessaries, comforts and luxuries. This is the situation at the present time. The nation is spending just as much upon its necessaries, comforts and luxuries as it usually does. In fact, expenditures upon these things are greater than they have ever been. Hitherto the entire cost of the war has been financed out of normal savings and by the consumption of floating capital. The greatest reserve which the country possesses is still untouched—the power to reduce its expenditures upon comforts and luxuries, and by so doing to set free the additional money needed by the nation for war purposes. Financiers are convinced, however, that without serious difficulty the country can increase the annual sums it has hitherto devoted out of income to the war by about £400,000,000 a year. If this is so, one can readily imagine that the small amount of money required for maternity and child welfare will also be found.

### Infant Consultations, &c.

I am pleased to be able to report that there are now four centres in the district inaugurated for the purposes of child welfare at:—

The Town Hall.  
 Cornbury Road Mission Hall.  
 The Albany Institute.  
 The Deptford Health Centre and Evelyn Home.

#### TOWN HALL.

Infant consultations }  
 Infant Weighing } 1860 attendances for the year.

Lecture—52 weekly lectures on Infant care (1 hour each).  
 4 extra lectures prior to examination (1 hour each).

Average number of mothers attending each week, 35.

The mothers take a great interest in lectures given and make every effort to attend regularly.

An examination in Infant Care is held every December.

In April, 1915, the Mayoress, Mrs. Wayland, entertained the mothers, with their babies, to tea at the Borough Hall, and also presented each mother who passed the examination with a prize.

Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to a suitable hospital. We are indebted to the Belgrave Hospital for Children for prompt treatment of cases referred to that Institution.

Visits are paid to expectant mothers where known, but at present there is no systematic method of obtaining the names of such cases.

No difficulty has been found in obtaining beds for suitable cases, but difficulty occasionally arises in providing for the children of the family during the absence of the mother in hospital.

There are at present three lying-in homes in the Borough. These have been inspected and visits are paid to all births occurring therein.

#### CORNBURY ROAD MISSION HALL.

Total attendances for the year	...	...	247
Number of consultations	...	...	42
Average number of attendances	...	...	6
Do.	do.	(last half of year)	7

## ALBANY INSTITUTE, DEPTFORD FUND.

*Returns of Infant Consultations  
from January 1st to December 31st, 1915.*

No. of individual Babies who have attended Infant Consultations	247
„ times those Babies have been weighed ... ..	1689
„ „ „ seen by Doctor ... ..	718
Total attendance of Mothers at Lectures ... ..	1788
No. of Infant Consultations held ... ..	50
Total attendance made by Children at the Day Nursery for the year ... ..	4172
No. of Babies admitted to Babies' Home ... ..	52
Babies who have been re-admitted ... ..	4

## DEPTFORD HEALTH CENTRE.

The following is a summary of the work done :—

Throat and nose cases ... ..	393
(including 242 operations)	
Skin disease cases ... ..	1333
Medical cases ... ..	3150
Dental cases ... ..	2642
(including 6423 extractions of teeth 1966 anæsthetics 3017 fillings inserted)	
Eye cases ... ..	724
Baby Camp—Attendances in middle of 1915	40-50

**Table No. 1.**

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD.**

(This Table is prepared in accordance with the requisitions of the Local Government Board).  
**VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.**

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year 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	12	13
1910	119,642	2,906	2,959	24.7	1,232	10.1	116	555	366	123	1,671	13.9
1911	109,475	2,921	3,001	27.4	1,304	11.9	161	585	428	143	1,728	15.8
1912	109,377	2,807	2,896	26.5	1,045	9.6	182	579	258	89	1,442	13.2
1913	109,280	3,041	3,106	28.0	1,283	11.6	181	625	350	113	1,727	15.5
1914	109,182	3,071	3,121	28.6	1,145	10.5	163	616	309	99	1,598	14.6
<b>1915</b>	<b>110,299</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>2,955</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>17.8</b>

Area of District in acres (land and inland water). } 1,563.

Total population at all ages 109,496.  
 Total families or separate occupiers, 25,040. } At census 1911.

**Table No. 2.**

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD.**

(This Table is prepared in accordance with the requisitions of the Local Government Board).

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.**

Notifiable Disease	Number of cases notified.								Total cases notified in each Ward.						Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years							East Ward	North Ward	North-West Ward	South Ward	South-East Ward	South-West Ward		
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards								
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous croup	201	3	55	109	21	9	3	1	32	43	54	19	24	29	184	
Erysipelas .. ..	146	3	10	11	24	38	45	15	51	30	25	10	18	12	14	
Scarlet fever .. ..	440	3	111	273	38	13	2	..	119	104	91	37	39	50	402	
Typhus fever... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric fever .. ..	37	..	1	12	7	13	4	..	3	24	1	..	9	..	33	
Relapsing fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Continued fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Puerperal fever .. ..	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	2	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	15	3	3	5	2	1	1	..	4	3	3	2	3	..	15	
Poliomyelitis .. ..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	299	..	8	45	57	127	57	5	98	70	47	19	33	32	205	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	106	12	26	41	11	6	8	2	45	14	21	6	13	7	32	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	2	1	..	2	..	
Chicken-pox .. ..	196	12	68	112	1	2	1	..	44	75	25	6	13	33	..	
Anthrax .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>1460</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>889</b>	

Table No. 3.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD.  
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1915.

(This Table is prepared in accordance with the requisitions of the  
Local Government Board.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in 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.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified ..	1962	391	138	118	83	82	213	440	497	155
{ Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .. ..	5	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	..	4
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	49	10	18	20	1	..	..	..	..	10
Scarlet Fever .. ..	9	..	..	1	7	..	1	..	..	36
Whooping Cough .. ..	61	23	23	14	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..	10	..	3	6	1	..	..	..	..	76
Influenza .. ..	21	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	10	..
Erysipelas .. ..	5	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	172	..	..	3	9	30	68	57	5	1
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	28	7	8	9	2	1	..	1	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	26	9	2	4	7	1	2	..	1	..
Cancer, malignant disease..	119	..	..	..	3	..	13	61	42	2
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	10	..	..	..	3	1	3	3	..	..
Meningitis .. ..	21	6	1	4	6	1	2	1	..	5
Organic Heart Disease .. ..	145	1	..	..	7	5	21	57	54	3
Bronchitis .. ..	206	33	8	7	..	3	14	57	84	..
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	201	55	32	27	11	6	12	37	21	8
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs .. ..	23	3	1	3	..	..	..	10	6	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis .. ..	116	73	21	7	1	..	3	5	6	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis..	7	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	1	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	10	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	..	..
Alcoholism .. ..	6	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	..
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	39	..	1	1	..	2	8	16	11	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	122	115	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides) .. ..	73	9	4	8	8	11	15	9	9	..
Suicides .. ..	10	..	..	..	1	..	2	4	3	..
Other defined diseases .. ..	460	44	10	3	10	17	33	101	242	4
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .. ..	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
	1962	391	138	118	83	82	213	440	497	155



Table No. 4.

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD

This Table is prepared in accordance with the requisitions of the Local Government Board.)

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 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.
All Causes { Certified ..	73	17	18	13	121	76	71	59	64	391
{ Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	10
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	3	4	6	9	23
Diphtheria and Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	2
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	1	7
Abdominal Tuberculosis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	1	9
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	6
Convulsions .. ..	3	3	..	..	6	6	3	..	3	18
Laryngitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Bronchitis .. ..	..	1	3	1	5	15	4	4	5	33
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	..	1	3	..	4	10	11	9	21	55
Diarrhoea .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	5	14	5	4	29
Enteritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	8	14	13	9	44
Gastritis .. ..	..	..	..	2	2	2	3	..	..	7
Syphilis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Rickets .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlaying .. ..	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	4
Injury at Birth .. ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Atelectasis .. ..	5	2	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	7
Congenital Malformations .. ..	5	1	..	1	7	2	2	1	..	12
Premature Birth .. ..	37	3	4	2	46	3	..	..	..	49
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus .. ..	12	6	8	3	29	12	6	6	1	54
Other Causes .. ..	7	..	..	..	7	3	2	..	3	15
	73	17	18	13	121	76	71	59	64	391

Nett Births—Legitimate, 2871 ; Illegitimate, 84.

Nett Deaths—Legitimate infants, 381 Illegitimate infants, 10.

Table No. 5.

Return of Births Registered during the Year 1915.

	Sex.		Illegitimate.	Total.	East Ward.				North Ward.				North-West Ward.				South ward.				South-East Ward				South-West Ward.			
	Sex.				M	F	Illegitimate.	Total.	Sex.		Illegitimate.	Total.	Sex.		Illegitimate.	Total.	Sex.		Illegitimate.	Total.	Sex.		Illegitimate.	Total.	Sex.		Illegitimate.	Total.
	M	F	M	F					M	F			M	F			M	F			M	F			M	F		
Births registered in the Borough ..	1442	1449	51	2891	331	359	14	690	370	338	6	708	325	349	18	674	100	86	3	186	142	135	4	277	174	182	6	356
Births registered in Outlying Institutions ..	37	27	33	64	9	4	6	13	7	5	5	12	8	4	6	12	3	2	3	5	4	5	5	9	6	7	8	13
Total Births belonging to the Borough	1479	1476	84	2955	340	363	20	703	377	343	11	720	333	353	24	686	103	88	6	191	146	140	9	286	180	189	14	369

**Table No. 6.**

**Return of Deaths Registered during the year 1915.**

Registration Districts.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	East Ward.				North Ward.				North-West Ward.				South Ward.				South-East Ward.				South-West Ward.				South-Eastern Hospital.			
	M.	F.			Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.	Sex.		Deaths under 1 year.	Total.
			M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.			M.	F.			M.	F.			M.	F.			M.	F.			M.	F.		
Deaths registered in the Borough ..	697	709	328	1406	168	175	117	343	145	125	69	270	117	111	69	228	54	70	16	124	75	62	29	137	73	88	21	161	65	78	7	143
Deaths in Outlying Institutions ..	399	301	69	700	119	85	20	204	100	74	22	174	65	53	10	118	17	13	4	30	65	42	6	107	33	34	7	67	..	..	..	..
Total number of Deaths of Residents of the Borough	1028	934	391	1962	287	263	137	550	241	199	92	440	185	165	79	350	70	82	20	152	141	104	35	245	104	121	28	225	..	..	..	..

144 Deaths registered in the Borough were of non-parishioners. Of these 132 occurred in the South-Eastern Hospital. In the last line of the above Table, the 11 deaths of residents of Deptford occurring in the South-Eastern Hospital have been allocated to their respective Wards, and the deaths of all non-parishioners excluded.



DEATHS REGISTERED IN OR BELONGING TO DURING THE

Table with columns for Diseases, Whole Borough, and age groups (Under 1, 1 to 2, 2 to 5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, 15 to 20, 20 to 25, 25 to 35). Includes categories like Enteric Fever, Typhus, Malaria, Small Pox, Measles, etc.

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD YEAR 1915.

Table with columns for Wards (East, North, North-West, South, South-East, South-West) and age groups (35 to 45, 45 to 55, 55 to 65, 65 to 75, 75 to 85, 85 and up). Includes the same list of diseases as the first table.



DISEASES	Whole Borough.										WARDS																																								
	All ages.			Under 1		1 to 2		2 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 to 75		75 to 85		85 and up		East		North		North-West		South		South-East		South-West									
	M	F	Tot.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Tot.	M	F	Tot.	M	F	Tot.	M	F	Tot.	M	F
<b>V.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.</b>																																																			
99 (a) Diseases of the Teeth and Gums																																																			
(b) Other Diseases of the Mouth & Annxæ																																																			
100 Diseases of Pharynx, Tonsillitis																																																			
101 Disease of Esophagus																																																			
102 Perforating Ulcer of Stomach																																																			
(a) Inflammation of Stomach																																																			
(b) Other Diseases of Stomach																																																			
104 & 105 (a) Infective Enteritis																																																			
(b) Diarrhoea (not returned as infective)																																																			
(c) Enteritis (not returned as infective)																																																			
(d) Gastro-Enteritis (not returned as infective)																																																			
(e) Dyspepsia (under 2 years of age)																																																			
(f) Colic																																																			
(g) Ulceration of Intestines																																																			
(h) Duodenal Ulcer																																																			
106 Achyllostomiasis																																																			
107 Other Intestinal Parasites																																																			
108 Appendicitis																																																			
(a) Hernia																																																			
(b) Intestinal Obstruction																																																			
109 Other Diseases of the Intestines																																																			
110 Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver																																																			
111 Hydatid of Liver																																																			
(a) Cirrhosis of Liver (not returned as alcoholic)																																																			
(b) Cirrhosis of Liver (returned as alcoholic)																																																			
(c) Diseases formerly classed to "Other Diseases of Liver and Gall Bladder"																																																			
114 Biliary Calculi																																																			
115 Other Diseases of the Liver																																																			
116 Diseases of Spleen																																																			
117 Peritonitis (cause unstated)																																																			
118 Other Diseases of the Digestive System																																																			
<b>VI.—NON-VENEREAL DISEASES OF THE GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM AND ANNEXA.</b>																																																			
119 Acute Nephritis																																																			
120 Bright's Disease																																																			
121 Chyluria																																																			
122 Other Diseases of the Kidney & Annexa																																																			
123 Calculi of the Urinary Passages																																																			
124 Diseases of the Bladder																																																			
125 Diseases of the Urethra, Urinary Abscess, &c.																																																			
126 Diseases of the Prostate																																																			
127 Non-Veneral Diseases of the Male Genital Organs																																																			
128 Uterine Hemorrhage (non-Puerperal)																																																			
129 Uterine Tumour (non-cancerous)																																																			
130 Other Diseases of the Uterus																																																			
131 Ovarian cyst, Tumor (non-cancerous)																																																			
132 Other Diseases of the Female Genital Organs																																																			
133 Non-Puerperal Diseases of the Breast (Non-cancerous)																																																			
<b>VII.—THE PUERPERAL STATE.</b>																																																			
134 Accidents of Pregnancy																																																			
135 Hamorrhage at Childbirth																																																			
136 Other Accidents of Childbirth																																																			
137 Puerperal Fever																																																			
138 " Albuminuria & Convulsions																																																			
139 " Phlegmasia Alba Dolens																																																			
140 " Embolism & sudden death																																																			
141 " Insanity																																																			
142 " Diseases of the Breast																																																			
<b>VIII.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN AND OF THE CELLULAR TISSUE.</b>																																																			
142 (a) Senile Gangrene																																																			
(b) Gangrenæ (other types)																																																			
143 Carbuncle, Boil																																																			
144 Phlegmon, Acute Abscess																																																			
145 Diseases of the Integumentary System																																																			

DISEASES.	Whole Borough.			Under 1		1 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 25		25 to 35	
	All ages.			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	M	F	Tot																
<b>IX.—DISEASES OF THE BONES AND OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION.</b>																			
146 Diseases of the Bones	3	3	1							1									
147 Diseases of the Joints																			
148 Amputations																			
149 Other Diseases of Locomotor System	1	1	1																
<b>X.—MALFORMATIONS.</b>																			
150 Congenital Malformations	5	9	14	4	8	1	1												
<b>XI.—DISEASES OF EARLY INFANCY.</b>																			
151 (a) Premature birth	29	20	49	29	20														
(b) Infantile Debility, Icterus, and Sclerema	34	25	59	33	21	1	3		1										
152 Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	4	6	10	4	6														
153 Lack of Care																			
<b>XII.—OLD AGE.</b>																			
154 (a) Senile Dementia	1	2	3																
(b) Senile Decay	52	96	148																
<b>XIII.—AFFECTIONS PRODUCED BY EXTERNAL CAUSES.</b>																			
155 to 163 Suicides	8	2	10							1									
164 Poisoning by Food	1	1																	
165 Other Acute Poisonings																			
166 Conflagration	2	1	3																
167 Burns (Conflagration excepted)		2	2							1									
168 Absorption of Deleterious Gases (Conflagration excepted)	7	4	11	4	4	1													
169 Accidental Drowning	7	2	9							1									
170 to 176 Injuries	27	9	36			2	1	2	1	2	1	1		2		2		3	
177 Starvation																			
178 Excessive Cold																			
179 Effects of Heat																			
180 Lightning																			
181 Electricity (Lightning excepted)																			
182 to 184 Homicide		1	1		1														
185 Fractures (cause not specified)																			
186 Other Violence	3	7	10							2		1			1		2	1	1
<b>XIV.—ILL DEFINED CAUSES.</b>																			
187 Dropsy																			
188 (a) Syncope (aged 1 year and under 70)		1	1		1														
(b) Sudden death (not otherwise defined)																			
189 (a) Heart failure (aged 1 year and under 70)		1	1																
(b) Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus (aged 1 year and under 70)																			
(c) Teething																			
(d) Pyrexia																			
(e) Other ill-defined deaths																			
(f) Cause not specified		1	1																
Totals	1028	934	1962	210	181	78	60	64	54	22	29	17	15	15	21	21	25	36	40

DISEASES.	WARDS																								
	35 to 45		45 to 55		55 to 65		65 to 75		75 to 85		85 and up		East		North		North-West		South		South-East		South-West		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
IX.—DISEASES OF THE BONES AND OF THE ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION.																									
146 Diseases of the Bones										1														1	2
147 Diseases of the Joints																									
148 Amputations																									
149 Other Diseases of Locomotor System													1	1											
X.—MALFORMATIONS.																									
150 Congenital Malformations													2	2	4	2	2	4	1	1	2		1	1	1
XI.—DISEASES OF EARLY INFANCY.																									
151 (a) Premature birth													2	4	6	9	2	11	8	6	14	2	4	6	5
(b) Infantile Debility, Icterus, and Sclerema													14	11	25	7	3	10	6	8	14	1	1	2	2
152 Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy																									
153 Lack of Care																									
XII.—OLD AGE.																									
154 (a) Senile Dementia																									
(b) Senile Decay																									
XIII.—AFFECTIONS PRODUCED BY EXTERNAL CAUSES.																									
155 to 163 Suicides																									
164 Poisoning by Food																									
165 Other Acute Poisonings																									
166 Conflagration																									
167 Burns (Conflagration excepted)																									
168 Absorption of Deleterious Gases (Conflagration excepted)																									
169 Accidental Drowning																									
170 to 176 Injuries																									
177 Starvation																									
178 Excessive Cold																									
179 Effects of Heat																									
180 Lightning																									
181 Electricity (Lightning excepted)																									
182 to 184 Homicide																									
185 Fractures (cause not specified)																									
186 Other Violence																									
XIV.—ILL DEFINED CAUSES.																									
187 Dropsy																									
188 (a) Syncope (aged 1 year and under 70)																									
(b) Sudden death (not otherwise defined)																									
189 (a) Heart failure (aged 1 year and under 70)																									
(b) Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus (aged 1 year and under 70)																									
(c) Teething																									
(d) Pyrexia																									
(e) Other ill-defined deaths																									
(f) Cause not specified																									
Totals	72	65	112	84	147	97	139	132	79	99	16	32	287	263	550	241	199	440	185	165	350	70	82	152	141



## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Mortality from the Principal Epidemic Diseases.

The following diseases are included under this heading:—Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fevers (that is to say, Typhus, Enteric and Continued), Diarrhœal Diseases, and Plague.

#### DEATHS.

Forty-four more deaths from these diseases occurred in the year under discussion than in the previous year. In 1906 and 1911 the number of deaths was greater than in any year for the past ten years, being respectively 318 and 298.

Altogether 228 deaths were registered during 1915.

#### DEATH RATE.

The death rate from all these diseases, calculated on the estimated population, was 2'07 per 1000 of the population, compared with an average of 1'71 for the past ten years. In 1914 the death rate was 1'69; in 1913, 1'87; and in 1912, 0'91.

In the following table will be seen the number of deaths from these diseases and the epidemic death rate in each Ward:—

	Deaths.	Epidemic Death-rate.
East Ward ... ..	96	4'50
North Ward ... ..	49	2'04
North-West Ward ... ..	43	1'82
South Ward ... ..	6	0'49
South-East Ward ... ..	21	1'69
South-West Ward ... ..	13	0'78
	228	2'07

The following statement shows the position occupied by Deptford with respect to the Epidemic Diseases in the country and in the neighbouring Metropolitan boroughs. These rates are calculated on the 1914 population:—

	Epidemic Death-rates per 1,000 inhabitants.
England and Wales ... ..	1'3
96 Great Towns ... ..	1'6
148 Smaller Towns... ..	1'4
County of London ... ..	1'6
Greenwich ... ..	1'7
Camberwell ... ..	1'2
Bermondsey... ..	2'9
Poplar ... ..	2'6
Lewisham ... ..	0'8
<b>Deptford</b> ... ..	<b>2'2</b>

Year	Enteric Fever		Small Pox		Measles		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		*Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)		Total	
	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate	No. of Deaths	Rate
1905	6	0'05	—	—	16	0'13	9	0'07	18	0'15	9	0'07	84	0'73	142	1'20
1906	6	0'05	—	—	71	0'61	16	0'13	61	0'52	18	0'15	146	1'26	318	2'72
1907	5	0'04	—	—	55	0'47	13	0'11	35	0'30	26	0'22	20	0'18	154	1'32
1908	6	0'05	—	—	33	0'28	6	0'05	25	0'21	10	0'08	82	0'70	162	1'37
1909	6	0'05	—	—	66	0'55	13	0'11	47	0'40	16	0'13	46	0'39	194	1'63
1910	4	0'03	—	—	60	0'50	3	0'03	44	0'37	12	0'10	82	0'68	205	1'71
1911	2	0'02	—	—	67	0'61	7	0'06	35	0'32	15	0'14	172	1'57	298	2'72
1912	2	0'02	—	—	28	0'26	6	0'05	24	0'22	11	0'10	28	0'26	99	0'91
1913	2	0'02	—	—	50	0'45	3	0'03	43	0'39	20	0'18	90	0'81	208	1'87
1914	3	0'03	—	—	50	0'46	9	0'08	9	0'08	25	0'23	88	0'81	184	1'69
Average for 10 years.	4	0'04	—	—	50	0'43	8	0'07	34	0'29	16	0'14	84	0'74	196	1'71
1915	5	0'05	—	—	49	0'44	9	0'08	61	0'55	10	0'09	94	0'85	228	2'07

\* The deaths under this heading for the years 1905 to 1910 refer only to those certified to be due to epidemic or summer diarrhoea, or epidemic, zymotic or infective enteritis.

From 1911 onwards, deaths from Gastro-enteritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh, Muco-enteritis, Colitis, &c., are also included.

## Infectious Diseases, 1915.

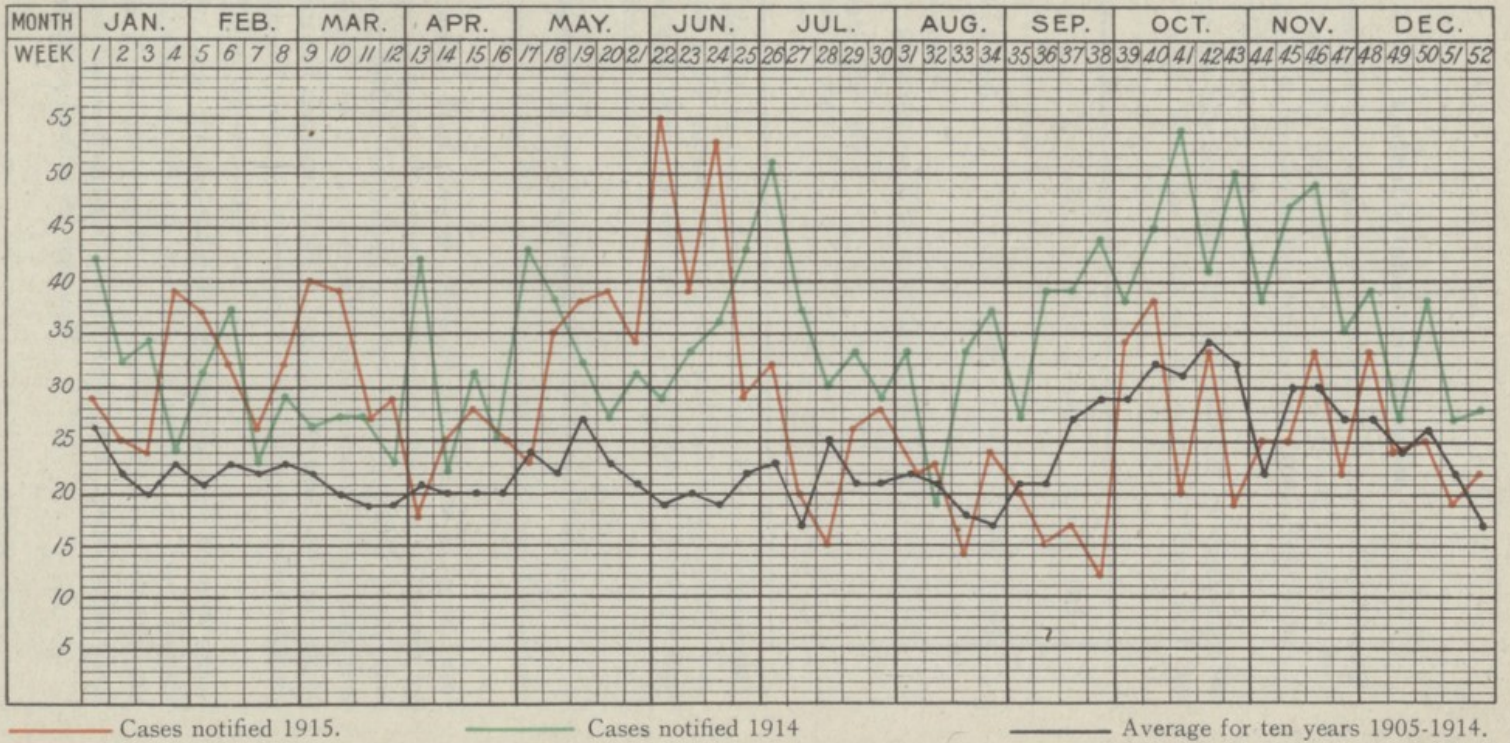
Disease.	Total number of notifications received.	Relating to cases.	Errors of diagnosis and cases occurring in hospital	Nett number of cases.
Small-Pox ... ..	—	—	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)...	201	201	14	187
Erysipelas ... ..	157	146	1	145
Scarlet Fever ... ..	442	440	31	409
Typhus Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	37	37	4	33
Relapsing Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	5	4	—	4
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	15	15	—	15
Anthrax ... ..	1	1	—	1
Hydrophobia ... ..	—	—	—	—
Glanders ... ..	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	766	299	—	299
Other Tubercular Diseases	163	106	..	106
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	14	13	—	13
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	2	—	2
Chicken pox ... ..	197	196	—	196
Total ... ..	2000	1460	50	1410
Previous year ... ..	2064	1794	65	1729

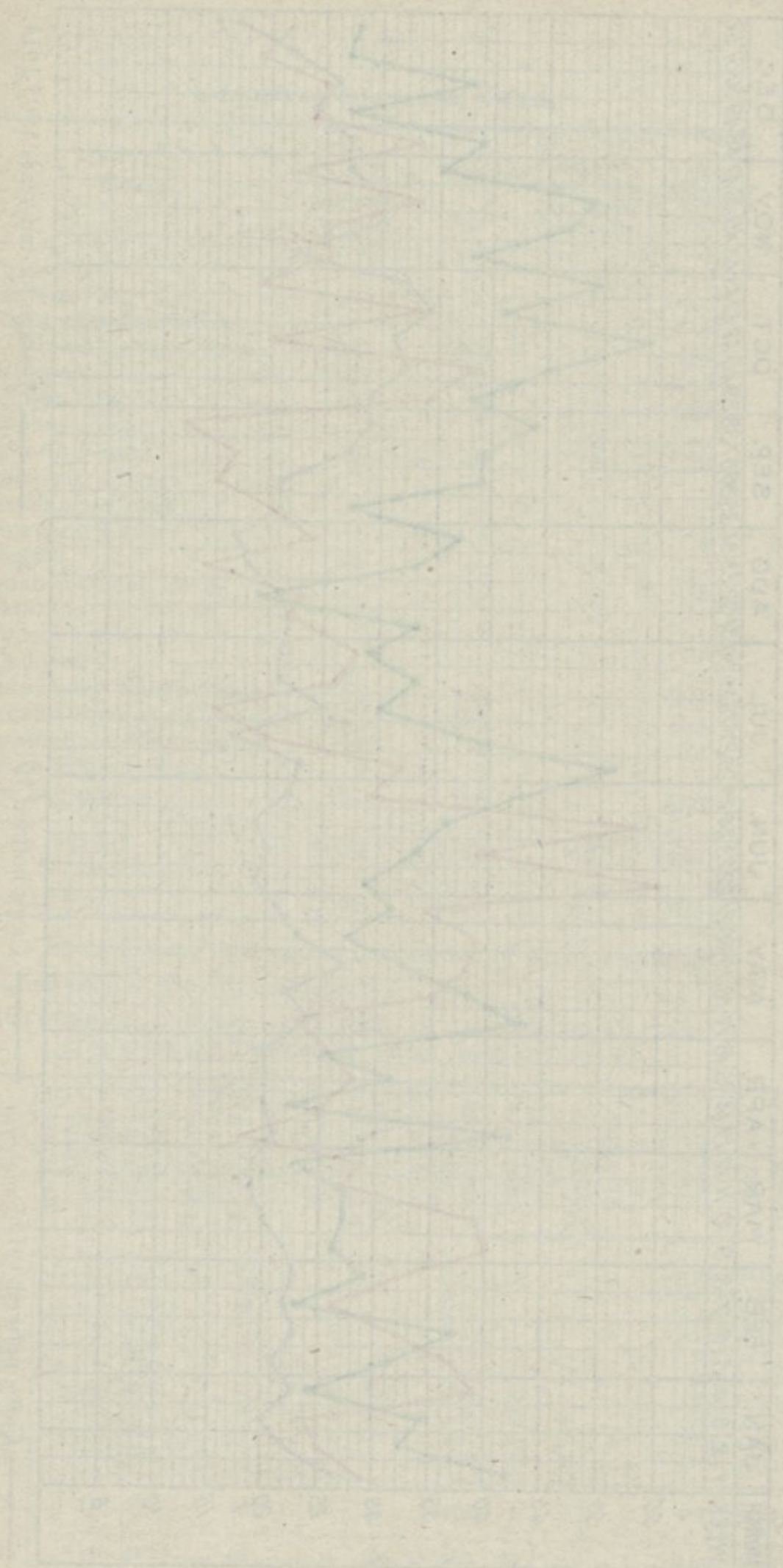
The following table shows the number of patients notified during each of the last ten years:—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD FROM 1905 TO 1915.

Year.	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Chicken Pox.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Tuberculosis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Glanders.	Anthrax.	Totals.	Measles.	Disinfections. (premises)
1905	2	143	6	152	603	..	33	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	946	600	1197
1906	1	303	8	161	649	..	40	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1171	1007	1593
1907	..	287	13	130	774	..	34	4	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1248	726	1495
1908	..	197	10	168	723	..	29	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1131	850	1399
1909	..	185	9	179	373	..	33	4	6	..	2	172	..	..	..	..	963	467	1232
1910	..	125	5	138	300	..	24	1	2	..	1	96	..	..	..	..	692	1114	1209
1911	1	152	7	177	369	..	13	4	2	157	..	335	15	1	..	..	1233	664	1121
1912	..	172	..	188	406	..	9	1	8	..	4	436	26	4	..	..	1254	221	940
1913	..	247	..	230	639	..	17	..	1	..	..	584	19	..	1	..	1738	497	1192
1914	..	253	..	225	866	..	9	..	5	..	..	419	16	1	..	..	1794	480	1385
Average for past 10 yrs.	..	206	6	175	570	..	24	1	5	15	1	204	8	1	..	..	1217	663	1276
1915	..	201	..	146	440	..	37	..	4	196	15	405	13	2	..	1	1460	688	1105

Chart shewing week by week the total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the 52 weeks ended January 1st, 1916.





100  
 90  
 80  
 70  
 60  
 50  
 40  
 30  
 20  
 10  
 0

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

(The following text is faint and partially illegible, appearing to be a legend or title for the graph.)  
 ...  
 ...  
 ...

### Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year under the provision of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, and the Tuberculosis Regulations was 1460. This shows a decrease of 334 on the preceding year.

During the past five years the total number of cases notified and the attack rates per 1,000 of the population have been as follows:—

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
No. of cases ...	1233	1,254	1,738	1794	1460
Estimated population...	109,475	109,377	109,280	109,182	110,299
Attack rate per 1000 of population ...	11'3	11'4	15'6	16'4	13'2

The decrease in notifications for 1915 was due to a considerable diminution in the cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria. There were 426 fewer cases of scarlet fever and 52 fewer cases of diphtheria than in the previous year.

### Discovery and Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases.

It is well to know that unrecognised cases largely spread infectious diseases.

*Discovery.*—Mild cases of indisposition or disease excite no particular attention, or are attributed to other than the real cause by parents, guardians, or friends, and are not submitted to medical examination. In the autumn there are generally several instances of parents and guardians failing to recognise as infectious cases slight disturbances of health in children, until other children become infected, and develop typical symptoms.

When cases of suspected infectious diseases occur there is sometimes considerable difficulty and delay in making an exact medical diagnosis in certain types of the diseases. Here bacteriological and additional clinical examinations are brought to bear upon doubtful types, and to check or confirm the diagnosis.

Special arrangements with the Seaman's Hospital for the bacteriological examination and reports upon doubtful cases have been made by the Council.

The number of specimens of secretion, blood and sputum submitted to bacteriological tests during the year in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid or Enteric Fever, and Tuberculosis was 408, and the results of examination, were as follows:—

	Bacillus found.	Doubtful.	Bacillus not found.	Total.
Diphtheria (Secretion)	61	—	167	228
	Reaction obtained.	Doubtful.	Reaction not obtained.	Total.
Typhoid (Blood) ...	14	—	11	25
	Bacillus found.	Doubtful.	Bacillus not found.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Sputum)	33	—	122	155
Total ... ..	108	—	300	408

Medical men requiring the free bacteriological examination of sputa for Tubercle should send these specimens to the Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary.

#### **Classification of Infectious Diseases.**

Infectious Diseases fall into several categories—

(a) Permanent compulsorily certifiable diseases, including Tuberculosis, Measles, and German Measles.

(b) Temporary compulsorily certifiable diseases:—Chicken pox when small pox is present.

(c) Non-certifiable diseases—

(1) Diseases notifiable by School Teachers:—Whooping cough, mumps, tonsilitis.

(2) Communicable Disorders notifiable by School Teachers:—Ophthalmia, ringworm, impetigo, scabies, pediculosis.

(3) Suspicious illness:—Sore throat, feverish cold, whooping, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, epidemic pneumonia, influenza, epidemic diarrhoea, etc.

### Small Pox.

It is satisfactory to note that no case of small pox was notified during the year.

No deaths have occurred from this complaint since 1902, in which year there were 30 deaths out of a total of 139 cases ; in the next year only two cases were notified, with no deaths.

### Vaccination.

The number of successful vaccinations for the years 1913 and 1914 was much less than for 1911 and 1912 and indeed for many previous years.

Again, the number of children in respect of whom certificates of conscientious objection have been received is in excess of any previous year. A sudden increase in this number during 1907 and the following years is clearly due to the Vaccination Act of 1907, which enabled the conscientious objector to obtain exemption from vaccination of his child with much greater ease than hitherto.

The number of certificates of successful primary vaccination, at all ages, received during the past four-and-a-half years has been as follows:—

1910	...	...	...	2220
1911	...	...	...	2037
1912	...	...	...	1879
1913	...	...	...	1819
1914	...	...	...	2883

### Greenwich Union.

DEPTFORD (SUB-REGISTRATION) VACCINATION DISTRICT.  
YEARS 1910 TO 1914.

Year ending 31st December.	No. of Births registered	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Had Small Pox.	Number respect of whom Certificates of Conscientious Objection have been received.	Dead Unvaccinated.	Post-ponement by Medical Certificate.	Removal to districts the Vaccination Officer of which has been duly apprised.	Removal to places unknown or which cannot be reached and cases not having been found.	Un-accounted for.
1910	3147	2220	4	..	312	226	10	17	323	35
1911	3130	2037	23	..	377	275	16	26	324	52
1912	3069	1879	11	..	496	197	23	22	342	99
1913	3230	1819	10	..	653	222	24	24	332	146
1914	3339	1824	10	..	704	246	14	22	337	182
Yearly Average	3183	1956	12	..	508	233	17	22	332	103

I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. A. E. Rossiter, Vaccination Officer to the Guardians, for the above figures.



**Scarlet Fever.**

	1915	Average of previous 10 years.
Number of cases ... ..	440	570
„ deaths ... ..	9	8
Death rate per 1,000 in Deptford ...	0'08	0'07

442 notifications were received during the year 1915, relating to 440 cases. Of these, 31 cases were errors in diagnosis or cases which occurred in hospital, thus reducing the net number of cases to 409.

The number of cases for 1915 was much less than in the previous year. During the previous three years 866, 639 and 406 cases were notified respectively.

The deaths were 9, compared with 9, 3 and 6 in the three preceding years.

The death-rate was 0'08 per 1,000, and for the three preceding years 0'08, 0'03 and 0'05 respectively. The rate for London was 0'07.

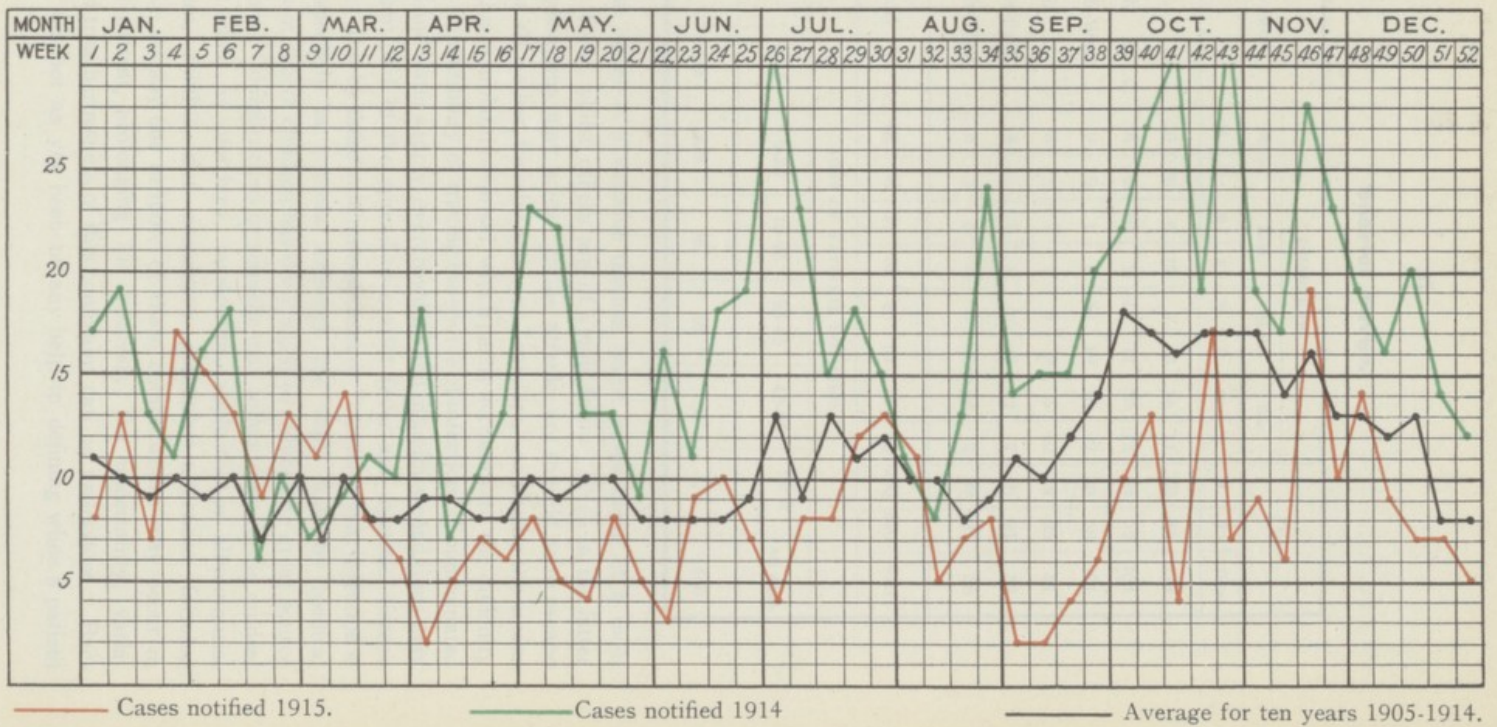
During the first quarter of the year 136 cases were notified, during the second quarter 81, the third quarter 96, and during the last quarter there were 127.

Over 90 per cent. of these cases were removed to hospital, and previous records show that the percentage of deaths is much lower if the patient is treated in hospital than if nursed at home.

**Prevention of Scarlet Fever.**

The procedure of the Health Department for the prevention of the spread of scarlet fever in the borough has consisted of systematic weekly visits by the Sanitary Inspector to the houses where cases were isolated at home. Reports were made on the receipt of each notification to the Medical Officer of Health, as to the milk, the water supply, sanitary arrangements, drainage, school or department attended by the patient and the rest of the family, general state of the house and out-buildings, the number of persons in the house, and the means of isolation. Notices were sent to the school where children attended from infected homes, requiring exclusion of these children from school, until the house was cleansed and disinfected to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health after recovery or removal of the patient. Where cases were removed to hospital, the usual routine followed was fumigation, the removal of infected bedding and clothing to the borough steam disinfectant, and, where necessary, the stripping and limewashing of the infected house or parts thereof on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Chart shewing week by week the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the 52 weeks ended January 1st, 1916.





## Scarlet Fever.

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
East.. ..	26	29	6	17	8	6	16	11	56	63	119
North .. ..	16	18	10	9	13	12	13	13	52	52	104
North-West ..	9	9	1	9	13	18	10	22	33	58	91
South .. ..	3	1	1	5	3	9	5	10	12	25	37
South-East ..	8	4	5	8	2	2	3	7	18	21	39
South-West ..	6	7	5	5	6	4	12	5	29	21	50
Total ..	68	68	28	53	45	51	59	68	200	240	440
AGES OF PATIENTS NOTIFIED.											
Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards.	All Ages.				
3	111	273	38	13	2	..	440				

Scarlet Fever is a variable disease, some cases being of a most malignant form, whilst others are of a mild form. Even in the latter type complications may arise. Some attacks are so mild as to escape recognition altogether, thereby acting as "carriers," and being the means whereby this complaint is spread, which partly accounts for the difficulty and often impossibility of tracing the source of infection. Contaminated milk, food and water supply, overcrowding and insanitary conditions play an important part in the spread of scarlet fever and zymotic disease generally. It is by these mild missed cases or "carriers" that infection is spread, especially in schools, although the work done by medical inspection of school children has done much to reduce one great source of infection. Complications or sequelæ may follow even in the mildest of cases: such as otorrhœa, mastoiditis, nephritis, or albuminuria, rheumatism, rhinitis, and secondary glandular affections forming abscesses. As any one or more of these complications may occur in the same patient, prolonging his recovery, the uncertainty, variability, and treacherousness of this complaint can be understood. Bacteriology has not as yet been of any help in defining when a patient

is free from infection, therefore the difficulties of discharge of such cases from scarlet fever hospitals into homes where there are other susceptible children can be realised, especially as any eczematous condition of the mouth, nostril, or ear is known to be highly infective. In some cases a patient may be released who has escaped any of the above-named complications in six weeks, whereas another may have to be isolated for prolonged periods, for any one or more of these reasons, and released even then with some risk lest a "return" case be the result.

#### **Diphtheria and Membranous Group.**

	1915.	Average for previous 10 years
Number of Cases ... ..	201	206
Number of Deaths ... ..	10	0'09
Death rate per 1,000 in Deptford...	0'09	0'14

These two diseases are grouped together, as they are symptomatic of each other and the terms are regarded as synonymous. This method is also adopted by the Registrar-General, and therefore allows of comparison. The total number of notifications received was 201, relating to 201 cases. Of the number notified, 14 were errors of diagnosis and hospital cases, reducing the number of cases to 187 compared with 224, 222, and 165 for the previous three years.

Ten deaths were registered during the year, as compared with 25, 20 and 11, for the three previous years.

The rate of mortality was 0'09 per 1,000, and for the three previous years 0'23, 0'18 and 0'10, respectively. The rate for London was 0'15.

The cases were distributed in the various Wards as follows:— East 32, North 43, North-West 54, South 19, South-East 24, and South-West 29. On reference to the chart it will be seen that the disease was most prevalent during the months of October and November.

It will be seen on the age table that the largest number of attacks occurred between the ages 5—15.

When the patient is treated at home, no other child from the same house is allowed to attend school while the patient is infectious, nor until two weeks after the premises are disinfected.

The examination of the throats of diphtheria contacts whenever practicable, by bacteriological means, is a most important aid to





precautionary measures against the spread of diphtheria. Should a positive result be obtained in the case of children showing no evidence of diphtheria, the presence of some measure of infection is assumed, and much valuable light on the origin of outbreaks is obtained. Your Medical Officer takes swabs of all contacts or suspicious cases whenever they come to his notice.

The Council now provides diphtheria anti-toxin for the use of medical men, including Poor Law Medical Officers. Practitioners in the borough may obtain from the Public Health Department anti-toxin sufficient for their purposes, upon sending a written order stating the name, age, and address of the patient, together with the doctor's name, and stating that it is to be used for a poor inhabitant of the borough. If the patient is able to pay, we find the medical man quite willing to pay us the actual cost of the anti-toxin which he obtains for the patient.

It is desirable that medical men should be aware of these facilities, and emphasis laid on the importance of prompt treatment by anti-toxin, and the saving of life which may be effected.

Bacteriological examinations were made during the year of 228 specimens of membrane, of which 61 were found to be positive and 167 negative.

### Diphtheria.

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
East.. ..	6	6	—	1	6	7	2	4	14	18	32
North .. ..	5	11	5	3	5	3	3	8	18	25	43
North-West ..	7	13	4	3	4	9	4	10	19	35	54
South .. ..	6	1	1	1	1	4	4	1	12	7	19
South-East ..	3	1	1	4	3	1	5	6	12	12	24
South-West ..	3	7	6	1	1	6	1	4	11	18	29
Total ..	30	39	17	13	20	30	19	33	86	115	201
AGES OF PATIENTS NOTIFIED.											
Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards.	All Ages.				
3	55	109	21	9	3	1	201				



**Enteric Fever.**

	1915.	Average of previous 10 years.
Number of Cases ... ..	37	24
Number of Deaths ... ..	5	4
Death rate per 1,000, Deptford	0'05	0'04

This disease has been endemic in the borough for many years. There has been no serious outbreak of the disease during the last ten years, and only once in that time have we had 40 cases notified in the one year.

During the past year 37 cases were notified, as compared with 9 cases in 1914, and 17 cases in 1913, and 9 cases in 1912. Four of this year's number were however errors of diagnosis.

It may further be pointed out that 16 of the notified cases occurred between January 1st and March 8th, which was an unusually large number, and it was more noticable because many of the cases came from the North Ward.

I made special enquiries in order to ascertain the origin of the disease. In no case has the testing of the drainage system of the house revealed any defect. No shell-fish, watercress or other solid food likely to be contaminated had been eaten by any of the patients. No carrier of enteric was found in the homes.

I paid special attention to the milk supply with the following results: That in no less than 16 cases the milk supply was from one dairyman.

I traced the dairyman's supply of milk on March 5th, and found that he obtained his milk from a dairy farm at West Sussex, and that a girl had been ill at the farm for a fortnight, and that on this date she was notified as suffering from Enteric Fever.

On further enquiry I learnt that the patient was the daughter of the proprietor of the farm. She had no connection with the dairy, but was the only member of the household who was in the habit of drinking raw milk. All the milk produced on the farm was sent to Deptford with the exception of that used in the house. It seemed fairly obvious therefore that the milk had been contaminated. About twenty cows are kept which required the services of two cowmen. One of these had been many years employed on the farm and had a clear history, but the second was taken on temporarily in November last to fill the place of a regular worker who had enlisted. This temporary milker who curiously enough was leaving to resume his normal occupation of gardener, had enteric fever in June, 1914, at Emsworth, Hants, and it seems probable that he was a carrier.

From the facts narrated above we were able to take the necessary steps to deal with the matter and the outbreak quickly terminated.

The prevalence of this disease is generally considered an index of the sanitary state of a district, and such a small number of cases in so densely populated a town is an indication of a good sanitary condition as regards its water carriage system, sewage, drainage, and good pure water supply.

Five deaths were attributed to this disease during the year, compared with three in the preceding year.

Upon the recovery or removal of a patient the necessary disinfection has been carried out, consisting of the stripping and limewashing of the infected room after fumigation, and of disinfecting the bedding and infected articles and clothing in the Council's steam disinfecter.

Enteric fever, or Typhoid Fever as it is also called, is slowly but surely succumbing to the measures which have been directed against it. The part played by shellfish in spreading the infection is becoming more and more obvious, and new regulations have been made for controlling the gathering and sale of mussels and other shellfish. The "carrier" problem is more difficult of solution, as a "carrier" is only discoverable after a fairly large number of cases have occurred, and it is sometimes a very difficult matter to deal with a known "carrier." The situation is this: The carrier of the germs of enteric fever may be a person who earns his or her living by preparing food for other people, and although it may have been some years since he or she had enteric fever, the person is a continual source of danger to the community, and this danger can only be removed by supplying the individual with other employment, which will offer no opportunity for the contamination of food.

The death rate for Deptford was 0·05 per 1,000, whilst for the preceding year it was 0·03. The rate for London was 0·03. The case mortality for 1915 was 13·5 per cent. compared with 33·3 for 1914.

The cases were distributed in the different wards as follows:— East 3, North 24, North-West 1, and South-East 9.

Bacteriological examinations were made of 25 specimens of blood, of which 14 were found to be positive and 11 negative.

The following table gives the situation in the borough of each case and the general condition of the dwellings:—

## ENTERIC FEVER, 1915.

Address.	Ward.	Age.	Sex	W.C. accommo- dation.	Yard Paving.	Sanitary Defects and Remarks.
Amersham Road	S.E.	24	F.	1 external	Good ..	Sink waste untrapped
Heston Street ..	S.E.	16	F.	1 ..	.. ..	No nuisance.
Do.	S.E.	35	F.	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..
Do.	S.E.	5	F.	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..
Alloa Road ..	N.	21	M.	1 ..	.. ..	No nuisance Drain tested, no result
Edward Street ..	E.	28	F.	1 ..	.. ..	No nuisance
Do.	E.	30	M.	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..
Cranbrook Road	S.E.	11	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Defective W.C. & paving
*Grove Street ..	N.	9	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Kitchen walls dirty Defective R. W. Pipe causing dampness Drain tested, no result
* Do.	N.	13	M.	1 ..	.. ..	
*Evelyn Street ..	N.	12	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Gutters and main roof defective Drain tested, no result
Staunton Street ..	N.	8	F.	1 ..	Defective	Kitchen, scullery walls and ceilings and passage ceilings dirty, back ad- dition room damp and verminous Drain tested, no result
*Evelyn Street ..	N.	23	F.	1 internal 1 external	Good ..	No nuisance Drain tested, no result
*Etta Street ..	N.	12	F.	1 ..	.. ..	No nuisance Drain tested, no result
Heston Street ..	S.E.	27	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Drain choked Defective waste pipe
*Gosterwood St...	N.	11	M.	1 ..	.. ..	Defective flush apparatus Kitchen and scullery ceilings dirty Drain tested, no result
*Colwick Street ..	N.	26	M.	1 ..	.. ..	Defective flush apparatus to W.C. Dampness to front room ground floor Drain tested, no result
*Kempslade Street	N.	32	F.	1 ..	.. ..	No nuisance Drain tested, no result
* Do.	N.	11	F.	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..
*Trundley's Road	N.	26	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Insufficient supply of water to flushing ap- paratus of W.C. Sink waste foul and untrapped Drain tested, no result
* Do.	N.	27	M.	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..
*Childers Street..	N.	18	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Defective gutters to main and scullery roofs Drain tested, no result

EFTERIC FEVER, 1915—*continued.*

*Evelyn Street ..	N.	30	F.	1 internal 1 external	Good ..	Insufficient supply of water to 1st floor W.C. Dustbin deficient. Vent pipe of drain choked
*Kempslade Street	N.	35	F.	1 external	.. ..	No nuisance
*Gosterwood St...	N.	20	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Drain tested, no result Back-addition room ceiling dirty, scullery walls and ceiling dirty, staircase ceiling dirty, defective dustbin.
Woodpecker Rd.	N.W.	11	M.	1 ..	Defective	Drain tested, no result Untrapped drain inlet
Grove Street ..	N.	9	F.	1 ..	Good ..	Drain choked, and W.C. pan defective
Do.	N.	40	M.	1 ..	.. ..	.. ..
*Alloa Road ..	N.	35	M.	1 ..	.. ..	No nuisance
Wilson Street ..	S.E.	10	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Drain tested, no result No nuisance
Do.	S.E.	4	F.	1 ..	.. ..	..
Childers Street ..	N.	60	F.	1 ..	.. ..	Scullery roof defective, washhouse requires limewashing, water tap defective (repaired)
Stanley Street ..	E.	53	M.	1 ..	.. ..	Drains tested—correct No nuisance

*\*Milk supplied from farm as mentioned in report.*

The following table gives the age, ward and seasonable distribution during the past year:—

**Enteric.**

WARD.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
East.. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	3
North .. ..	5	9	2	6	1	..	..	1	8	16	24
North-West ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
South .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South East ..	..	6	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	8	9
South-West ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .. ..	6	16	3	8	1	..	2	1	12	25	37
AGES OF PATIENTS NOTIFIED.											
Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards.	All Ages.				
..	1	12	7	13	4	..	37				

**Erysipelas.**

	1915.	Average of previous 10 years.
Number of Cases ... ..	146	175
Number of Deaths ... ..	5	—

One hundred and forty-six cases of Erysipelas have been notified during 1915, as compared with 225 in 1914, 230 in 1913, and 188 in 1912. There were five deaths registered from the disease within the borough and in outlying institutions. In each notified case the premises have been visited and enquiries made, and, where necessary, disinfection performed.

**Puerperal Fever.**

	1915.	Average for previous 10 years.
Number of Cases ... ..	4	5
Number of Deaths ... ..	1	—

Four cases of puerperal fever were notified, compared with 5, 1 and 8, for the three years preceding.

The death rate was equal to 0'009 per 1,000, compared with 0'046, 0'009, and 0'027 for the three preceding years.

The case mortality was 25 per cent. compared with 40 per cent. for 1914.

Should a case of Puerperal Fever be notified it is carefully enquired into by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor. Disinfection is carried out, and every effort made to prevent further cases.

In addition to the above the following section of the rules of the Central Midwives' Board was rigorously enforced:—

“Whenever a midwife has been in attendance upon a patient suffering from puerperal fever or from any other illness supposed to be infectious, she must disinfect herself and all her instruments and other appliances, to the satisfaction of the local Sanitary Authority, and must have her clothing thoroughly disinfected before going to another labour. Unless otherwise directed by the supervising authority, all washable clothing should be boiled, and other clothing should be sent to be stoved (by the local Sanitary Authority), and then exposed freely to the open air for several days.”

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

This serious affection which attacks the eyes of newly-born infants is caused by the entrance of certain bacteria into the eyes usually at

the time of birth, and if proper treatment is not applied immediately the eyes are permanently damaged and the child is rendered blind for life.

The extent to which this disease is prevalent in this country is shown by the statements made by well-known authorities that over one-third of the inmates of schools for the blind lost their sight as a result of this disease. On the other hand, it is no less certain that, if this disease is brought under efficient treatment when the symptoms first make their appearance, the eyes can be saved from serious injury, and the sight preserved.

Thirteen cases were notified during the year, and were visited by the Health Visitors. Four of the cases were in the East Ward, four in the North Ward, two in the North-West Ward, one in the South Ward, and two in the South-West Ward.

### **Spotted Fever.**

#### EPIDEMIC CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Posterior basal meningitis is included in the term "cerebro-spinal fever," but does not include meningitis due to tuberculosis, syphilis, middle ear disease, and injury.

Fifteen cases of this complaint of which six were fatal, were notified in the borough, and we have received notifications from the County Council of a considerable number of cases occurring in other Metropolitan Boroughs.

*Cerebro-spinal fever and poliomyelitis* are now subject to compulsory notification. Poliomyelitis shows a well-marked seasonal incidence, there being a great increase during the hot months. It is also relatively more common in the urban districts, although this may be due to the cases being frequently treated in hospitals.

#### **Acute Polio-Myelitis or Polio-Encephalitis.**

Two cases were notified during the period under report and commenced on November 9th with symptoms of headache, localised paralysis, drowsiness, twichings. It is to be noted that the majority of cases occur in children and young people under 15 years of age; the mortality in these is about 13 per cent. and the permanently damaged form about 50 per cent. of the total.

### **Plague.**

No case of plague occurred during the year.

At the end of the year 1910 the Local Government Board issued an order relating to the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases, Regulations as to Plague and Destruction of Rats.

The Medical Officer of the Local Government Board prepared a Memorandum on Plague, and recommended precautions against rats, the most important of which are as follows:—1st. Persistently and systematically destroy all rats. 2nd. Remove and obliterate their nests, burrows and habitual haunts. 3rd. Make each dwelling as far as practicable rat-proof, and remove all known harbourage for rats in or near dwellings. 4th. At the same time do not allow waste of food (whether for human beings, chickens or other animals) to accumulate in or about the house.

### **Chicken Pox.**

This disease was, by an Order of the London County Council, made compulsorily notifiable during the period from 17th March to 30th June. 196 cases were notified. No deaths were ascribed to this cause.

### **Anthrax, and Hydrophobia in Man.**

One case of anthrax was notified during the year.

One or two somewhat disturbing cases of anthrax in man, traceable to infected shaving brushes, appeared in the Metropolis last year, including the one under review, which fortunately recovered.

Suspicion fell upon a shaving brush in the first instance because at a post-mortem examination it was noted that the small local lesion came well within the individual's shaving area, which covered a larger ground than usual. The clue was followed up and the brush was bacteriologically examined, with the result that it could be definitely stated that it was infected with anthrax. Further enquiry showed that other shaving brushes were grossly infected. Subsequent experiments showed that the infection could be removed to a large extent by thorough washing, but this process would not appear to give absolute security. On the facts becoming known, prompt action was taken to secure the withdrawal of the brushes from the market.

### **Glanders.**

No cases of Glanders were notified during the year.

**Continued and Typhus Fever.**

No cases of continued fever were notified during the year.

We have had no case of typhus fever since 1903, when we had one case, and in 1901 we had eight cases.

**Diarrhœa and Enteritis.**

	1915.	Average of previous 10 years.
Number of Deaths ... ..	116	109
Number of deaths under two years of age ... ..	94	84
Death rate per 1,000 (all ages) ...	1'05	0'82
Death rate per 1,000 (under two years of age) ... ..	0'85	0'74

Under this heading are included deaths registered as due to epidemic diarrhœa, epidemic enteritis, infective enteritis, zymotic enteritis, summer diarrhœa, dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa, choleraic diarrhœa, cholera (other than Asiatic or epidemic) and cholera nostras.

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are included deaths registered as due to enteritis, muco-enteritis, gastro-enteritis, gastric catarrh, and gastro-intestinal catarrh. Gastritis is a separate disease.

These diseases were the cause of 116 deaths during 1915 compared with 96 for 1914. Of this number 101 were of children under five years of age, 94 of these being under two years of age.

The death rate was 1'05 per 1,000 at all ages, and 0'85 for infants under two years of age.

The older statistics do not give an accurate comparison with 1911-1915, because the heading of Diarrhœa did not, before these dates, include the names mentioned above, but simply cases registered as epidemic or summer diarrhœa, or epidemic, zymotic or infective enteritis.

It is usual now to consider the infantile mortality in this case as being for all children under two years of age.

The deaths from this disease occurred among the inhabitants of the various Wards as follows:—

East 59.	North 22.	North-West 15.
South 3.	South-East 11.	South-West 6.



The following table shows the periods of the year, and the localities in which deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis occurred, together with particulars as to sex :—

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
East .. .. .	—	—	2	1	23	22	5	6	30	29	59
North .. .. .	1	—	—	1	5	6	6	3	12	10	22
North-West ..	3	—	2	2	4	2	1	1	10	5	15
South .. .. .	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	3
South-East ..	1	—	—	—	6	1	2	1	9	2	11
South-West ..	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	3	3	6
Total .. .. .	6	1	4	4	42	33	14	12	66	50	116

The mean annual death rate per 1,000 from diarrhœal diseases in Deptford for the past ten years was as follows :—

1906	...	1'26	1911	...	1'72
1907	...	0'18	1912	...	0'34
1908	...	0'70	1913	...	0'95
1909	...	0'39	1914	...	0'88
1910	...	0'68	1915	...	1'05

These figures must be taken with a certain amount of reservation for the reasons stated before.

Hot weather and particularly dry weather is necessary for fatal diarrhœa to become prevalent. Why meteorological conditions produce such serious results cannot altogether be explained. It may be that a hot summer lowers the resistance of infants, and renders them more liable to the disease. Again, it may be that hot weather increases the number of domestic flies, and consequently the risk of contamination of milk and other infant foods. I am inclined to the opinion that summer diarrhœa is due to organisms derived from human or animal filth, and that the prevalence of the complaint during hot summers is due, first to the amount of dust prevalent during a dry summer, and secondly to the opportunity afforded by high tempera-

tures for the growth of infecting organisms in milk and other infant foods. Hand-fed infants are specially liable to fatal attacks for two reasons, first because they run more risk of infective material being introduced with their food, and secondly because hand-feeding, unless conducted with the greatest circumspection, and with the most careful adaption to the digestive capacity of the individual child, is apt to induce intestinal catarrh or other digestive disturbances, which render the bottle-fed babies unduly susceptible to diarrhœal disease.

### Measles.

	1915.	Average for previous 10 years.
Number of Deaths ... ..	49	50
Death rate per 1,000, Deptford ...	0'44	0'43

The number of cases of Measles dealt with during the year was 688, as compared with the previous six years as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
1915 ... ..	688	49
1914 ... ..	480	50
1913 ... ..	497	50
1912 ... ..	233	28
1911 ... ..	664	67
1910 ... ..	1,114	60
1909 ... ..	467	66

As the disease was not notifiable under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, the above figures do not represent the total number of cases which have occurred in the borough, as our only sources of information are notifications of exclusions from schools by the Education Authority and voluntary notification by parents.

The same procedure is adopted in the case of Measles with regard to disinfection as if it were notifiable.

The rate of mortality was 0'44, compared with a rate of 0'45 for 1914, 0'45 for 1913, and 0'26 for 1912. The rate for London was 0'50.

The deaths occurred among the inhabitants of the various wards as follows:—

East 11	North 9	North-West 20
South 2	South-West 7	South-West —

The following table shows the periods of the year, and the localities in which deaths from Measles occurred, the sex and ages at death.

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M	F	Total.
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
East .. ..	1	1	6	3	—	—	—	—	7	4	11
North .. ..	—	1	5	2	—	1	—	—	5	4	9
North-West ..	9	3	2	5	—	1	—	—	11	9	20
South .. ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
South-East ..	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	3	7
South-West ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	12	7	15	12	—	2	1	—	28	21	49
AGES AT DEATH.											
Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards	All Ages			
10	18	20	1	—	—	—	—	49			

Measles presents a problem bristling with difficulties, for infectivity is greatest at the time of the appearance of the rash. Measles is not transmitted by means of the desquamation. Terminal disinfection is probably useless and therefore unnecessary. Transmission of the disease by third persons or by fomites is exceedingly improbable. The control of measles depends upon the early recognition of cases.

#### Notification of Measles.

Cases of measles and German measles are in future to be notified by medical practitioners and by parents or guardians.

The order imposing the requirement is called the Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Regulations, 1915, and it comes into force on January 1st, 1916. This fact was made known to the Public Health Committee on 1st December, 1915.

It is to be hoped that the order will meet with success, but I have some doubts unless the measures tendered by the Local Government Board are also carried out. I do not, however, mean to make too much of the possibility of failure. The first step in this connection is to try to ensure success. To forget the difficulties and drawbacks and to go ahead. It is difficult to put a scheme before the Council involving additional Health Visitors, one or more nurses, not to mention a measles medical officer, when there is so much talk of economising even in public health, but I warn the Council that such things may have to come.

### Schools.

The following list shows the action taken during the year for the prevention of the spread of measles in the Infants' Departments of various schools in the Borough:—

School.	Action Taken
Alverton Street ...	Unprotected children excluded from April 28th to May 14th in Classroom A; Classroom B from May 3rd to May 21st; Classroom C from May 29th to May 14th; Classroom F from April 19th to May 7th.
Canterbury Road...	Unprotected children in Classroom A excluded from February 15th to March 5th and from Classroom B from February 17th to March 5th.
Childeric Road ...	Unprotected children in Classroom C excluded from May 7th to May 28th; Classroom D from May 13th to May 28th; Classroom E from May 4th to May 21st.
Deptford R. C. ...	Unprotected children in Classroom A excluded from May 13th to May 28th; Classroom C from May 13th to May 28th.
Kender Street ...	Unprotected children in Classroom A excluded from April 29th to May 14th; Classroom F from May 26th to June 4th.
Mantle Road ...	Unprotected children in Classroom C excluded from March 11th to March 26th and from April 22nd to May 14th; Hall class from May 3rd to May 21st; Classroom D from April 28th to May 14th.

- Monson Road ... Unprotected children in Classroom A excluded from January 21st to January 29th and from July 5th to July 21st.
- Nynehead Srreet ... Unprotected children in Classroom D excluded from December 8th to December 23rd; Clasroom E from May 10th to May 28th, and from November 1st to November 12th.
- St. James' ... ... Unprotected children in Classroom 2 excluded from May 17th to May 28th.
- Stanley Street ... Unprotected children in Classroom A excluded from May 6th to May 21st; Classroom B from May 17th to May 28th; Classroom C from March 22nd to March 31st.
- Trundleys Road ... Unprotected children in Classroom A excluded from May 3rd to May 21st; Classroom D from April 26th to May 14th.

RULES AND REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

When a notice has been received from the Medical Officer of Health, stating that an infectious illness exists at any premises in which school children are known to reside, the following procedure is adopted:—

Disease. 1	Period of exclusion of children suffering from the disease. 2.	Period of exclusion of children living in houses where the disease exists. 3.	Rules in regard to flats and tenement houses. 4
Smallpox ...	(1) Until the medical attendant certifies, if the case is treated at home. (2) Until after discharge from hospital.	(1) If patient is removed to hospital, until <i>14 days</i> , and in case of smallpox <i>16 days</i> , following date when case was certified ( <i>vide</i> notice from local medical officer of health)	In cases where children live in tenement houses exclude as follows:— (a) In the case of "model dwellings" or "trust buildings," etc., only children from the same flat (or self-contained tenement) as that in which the case of infection exists.
Diphtheria Membranous croup	(1) Until a fortnight after disinfection of premises, if the case is treated at home. (2) Until a fortnight after date of discharge from hospital.	(2) If patient is treated at home until the expiration of 14 days from date of disinfection of premises. If no disinfection notice is received it should be procured without delay from the offices of the local sanitary authority.	
Scarlet fever or scarlatina	(1) Until a fortnight after disinfection of premises if the case is treated at home. (2) Until a fortnight after date of discharge from hospital.		
Erysipelas Typhoid fever or Enteric fever Cerebro-spinal meningitis Polio-myelitis	(1) Until the medical attendant certifies, if the case is treated at home. (2) Until after discharge from hospital.	Not to be excluded. No proceedings to be taken to enforce attendance if medical officer of health specially orders exclusion.	(b) In the case of an ordinary dwelling house sub-let, children from the whole house should be excluded, except in cases where the tenements are absolutely self-contained and each family has its own domestic and sanitary conveniences, in which case rule (a) will apply.
Consumption ...	When accompanied by coughing or spitting	May attend school.	
Measles ...	At least four weeks ...	<i>Infants</i> —All infants to be excluded until Monday following 14 days from the commencement of the illness of <i>last</i> case in the house. <i>Seniors</i> —If child has had the disease may attend school. If child has not had the disease, exclude until Monday following 14 days from the commencement of the illness of <i>last</i> case in the house.	In cases where children live in tenement houses exclude as follows— (a) In the case of "model dwellings" or "trust buildings," etc., only children from the same flat (or self-contained tenement) as that in which the case of infection exists.
German measles	14 days from date of rash ...	Same rules as for ordinary measles.	
Mumps ...	One week from the subsidence of all swelling.	<i>Infants and seniors</i> —Not to be excluded. Teachers to keep a list of the children in same family or house in which case has occurred. These children to be kept under observation. Any child showing symptoms to be immediately excluded. Mumps generally develops between 20 and 30 days following exposure to infection.	
Whooping-cough	As long as cough continues, but not to be readmitted until at least five weeks from the commencement of the illness.	<i>Infants</i> —Three weeks' exclusion from the commencement of the illness of <i>last</i> case in house. <i>Seniors</i> —If child has had the disease, may attend school. If child has not had the disease, three weeks' exclusion from the commencement of the illness of <i>last</i> case in house.	(b) In the case of an ordinary dwelling-house sub-let, children from the whole house should be excluded, except in cases where the tenements are absolutely self-contained, and each family has its own domestic and sanitary conveniences, in which cases rule (a) will apply
Chicken-pox ...	Two weeks or until every scab is off scalp or body.	Same exclusion periods as for whooping-cough, both infants and seniors.	
Ringworm, favus, ophthalmia ("blight") or purulent conjunctivitis, trachoma, scabies (itch), impetigo or purulent eczema	Until the teacher is satisfied that the child is cured or until medical certificate is furnished. The return of all children after absence owing to ringworm of the scalp to be notified to the school nurse.	May attend school.	
Sore throat ...	Sore throat may be indicative of mild <i>scarlet fever</i> or <i>diphtheria</i> . Children suffering from sore throat must be excluded from school. In the absence of scarlet fever or diphtheria in the school, children affected with sore throat may resume attendance when a satisfactory medical certificate has been submitted or when the teacher is satisfied that they have recovered. When scarlet fever or diphtheria is prevalent special rules are to be observed.		

**Whooping Cough.**

	1915.	Average for previous 10 years.
Number of Deaths... ..	61	34
Death rate per 1000, Deptford ...	0'55	0'29

This disease was the cause of 61 deaths compared with 9, 43 and 24 for the three preceding years.

The death rate per 1000 persons living was 0'55 as compared with 0'8, 0'39 and 0'22 for the three preceding years.

The deaths occurred among the inhabitants of the various Wards as follows:—

East 22.	North 15.	North-West 9.
South 3.	South-East 6.	South-West 6.

The following table shows the periods of the year, and the localities in which deaths from Whooping Cough occurred, the sex and ages at death.

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
East .. .. .	3	5	3	7	3	—	1	—	10	12	22
North .. .. .	2	—	2	6	2	2	1	—	7	8	15
North-West ..	3	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	4	5	9
South .. .. .	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
South-East ..	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
South-West ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	6
Total .. .. .	11	8	10	19	6	3	2	2	29	32	61
AGES AT DEATH.											
Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upward	All Ages.			
23	23	14	1	—	—	—	—	61			

**Institutional Isolation of Measles and Whooping Cough.**

The continued prevalence and high rate of mortality of measles and of whooping cough are matters of grave concern. In 1914, the latest year for which there are records, there were 9144 deaths from measles

in England and Wales. Whooping cough accounted for 8,044 deaths. The fatality from these two popularly considered mild diseases may profitably be compared with that from scarlet fever and diphtheria. The total deaths from smallpox, enteric fever, scarlet fever and diphtheria combined was 10,450.

Present conditions do not allow of hospital treatment of these diseases, and for most cases it appears probable that domestic treatment will continue to be necessary, and the greatest scope for saving life lies in the more complete medical treatment and in skilled nursing and supervision of patients treated at home.

The following is a comparative table showing the number of deaths from measles and whooping cough during each of the past ten years:—

Deaths from	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	Total
Measles .. ..	71	55	33	66	60	67	28	50	50	49	529
Whooping Cough ..	61	35	25	47	44	35	24	43	9	61	384

I submit a table for the past ten years, to show the number of deaths from measles and whooping cough below five years of age, as compared with those occurring over that age:—

Disease	Age	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	Total
Measles ..	Under 5 years	64	51	32	60	50	62	27	48	48	48	490
	Over 5 years	7	4	1	6	10	5	1	2	2	1	39
	Total..	71	55	33	66	60	67	28	50	50	49	529
Whooping Cough	Under 5 years	59	34	24	45	42	34	24	42	9	60	373
	Over 5 years	2	1	1	2	2	1	—	1	—	1	11
	Total..	61	35	25	47	44	35	24	43	9	61	384



### Leprosy.

There were no known cases of Leprosy in the Borough during the year.

### Pulmonary Tuberculosis, including Phthisis.

Number of cases notified, 1915	...	...	299
Number of deaths	...	...	172
Death-rate per 1,000 (Deptford)	...	...	1'56

Phthisis was the cause of 172 deaths during 1915, compared with 152 for 1914.

The death-rate was 1'56 per 1,000 persons, compared with 1'39, 1'33 and 1'35 for the three preceding years.

In the following table will be seen the number of cases notified, the number of deaths and the death-rate in each Ward:—

WARDS.	Fresh Patients notified during the Year.	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000.	Estimated Population to middle of year.
East ...	98	47	2'2	21,340
North ...	70	43	1'8	24,043
North-west	47	32	1'4	23,652
South ...	19	10	0'8	12,232
South-east	33	22	1'8	12,411
South-west	32	18	1'1	16,621
Whole borough	299	172	1'56	110,299

In the following table will be seen the number of cases notified during each of the four quarters, and the ages and sex of the patients.

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
East .. ..	11	10	15	12	8	12	17	13	51	47	98
North .. ..	19	7	10	11	7	4	4	8	40	30	70
North-West ..	5	8	6	6	6	2	5	9	22	25	47
South .. ..	4	5	1	1	3	2	3	—	11	8	19
South-East ..	9	4	8	1	2	6	2	1	21	12	33
South-West ..	9	4	1	5	3	3	2	5	15	17	32
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>299</b>
AGES OF PATIENTS NOTIFIED.											
Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards.	All Ages.				
—	8	45	57	127	57	5	299				

### General Tuberculosis.

Fifty-four deaths were recorded as being due to these diseases.

Of these deaths 11 occurred in the East Ward, 16 in the North, 12 in the North-West, 2 in the South, 5 in the South-East, and 8 in the South-West.

Twenty-eight deaths were classified as tuberculous meningitis and 26 as other tuberculous diseases.

The following gives the ages at which death occurred:—

CAUSE.	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards.
Tubercular Meningitis } ...	7	8	9	2	1	—	1	—
Other Tubercular Diseases }	9	2	4	7	1	2	—	1

In the following table will be seen the number of cases notified during each of the four quarters and the ages and sex of the patients.

WARDS.	QUARTERS.								YEAR.		
	March.		June.		Sept.		Dec.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
East .. .. .	6	4	3	5	6	6	7	8	22	23	45
North .. .. .	2	3	2	—	1	2	2	2	7	7	14
North-West ..	4	3	5	1	3	2	2	1	14	7	21
South .. .. .	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	2	4	6
South-East ..	3	—	2	2	—	2	2	2	7	6	13
South-West ..	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	3	7
Total .. .. .	17	12	15	10	10	14	14	14	56	50	106
AGES OF PATIENTS NOTIFIED.											
Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards.	All Ages.				
12	26	41	11	6	8	2	106				

### Tuberculosis.

The following is a List of Sanatoria for the Treatment of Tuberculosis by the London County Council. Beds for children from the Metropolitan area.

Name of Institution.	No. of authorised Beds.	Age limits.		Whether education is provided.
		Boys.	Girls.	
Harpenden ... ..	10	Under 14	Under 16	Yes
Nayland ... ..	100	„ 16	„ 16	Yes
Carshalton ... ..	100	„ 16	„ 16	Yes
Alexandra Hospital and Clandon Home ...	30	„ 12	„ 12	Yes
Great Ormond Street Hospital ... ..	10	„ 12	„ 12	Yes
Cromwell House, Highgate ... ..	30	„ 12	„ 12	Yes
Brompton ... ..	10	„ 16	„ 16	No
Fleet ... ..	10	„ 8	„ 14	Yes
Victoria Home, Margate ...	5	„ 12	„ 15	Yes
Ide Hill, Sevenoaks ...	5	„ 16	„ 16	Yes
East London Hospital	12	„ 13	„ 13	Arrangements will not be complete until May 1st
Bognor Sanatorium ...	28			

The County Council has given authority for 231 beds to be taken for children (exclusive of those provided at Carshalton) and the balance of the authorised number is being taken as opportunity occurs.

Name of Institution.	No. of beds occupied on Jan. 28, 1916.
Harpenden ... ..	10
Nayland... ..	64
Carshalton ... ..	75
Brompton ... ..	10
Alexandra and Clandon ... ..	27
Great Ormond Street and Cromwell House ...	40
Victoria Home, Margate ... ..	5
Fleet ... ..	10
Ide Hill, Sevenoaks ... ..	4
St. Vincent's Home, Pinner ... ..	1
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate ...	1
Victoria Park Hospital ... ..	2
King's College Hospital ... ..	1
Total ... ..	<hr/> 250 <hr/>

#### TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEES.

##### *Interim arrangements pending the formulation and approval of Local Schemes.*

The London County Council desires to obtain local advice and assistance in connection with tuberculous child patients referred to it for residential treatment, under the scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis in London, as to:—

(1) The suitability of the case for treatment by the Council under the scheme;

(2) The amount, if any, which the parents or guardians of the child should be invited to contribute towards the cost of treatment;

(3) The selection of a visitor to visit the home (in accordance with the provisions of clauses 4, 5, 9 and 11 of the model scheme of the Public Health Committee of the Council.)

For the above-mentioned purposes the Council has instructed its officers to endeavour to obtain the co-operation and assistance of the

local medical officer of health, the local dispensary care committee (or, in the absence of such a committee, of the tuberculosis officer) and local social workers, representatives of local hospitals and others.

The Council hopes to receive from the representatives of voluntary agencies advice as to the amount which should be paid in each case, and also as to the most suitable visitor to collect the contribution. The amounts collected will be paid in to the Comptroller of the Council.

*November, 1915.*

#### TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME.

##### *Interim Advisory Committee—Children.*

Pending the submission of Schemes for Tuberculosis Care Committee by the Borough Councils and their approval by the London County Council and Local Government Board, it is suggested that Interim Committees be formed in connection with each Borough or Dispensary area, and that they should be constituted as follows:—

- (a) Borough Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) Tuberculosis Dispensary Medical Officer.
- (c) Health Visitors.
- (d) London County Council Divisional Medical Officer.
- (e) London County Council District Organizer.
- (f) Invalid Children's Aid Association Representatives.
- (g) Hospital Almoner or Representative.

Procedure proposed under the Interim Advisory Committee Scheme.

(1) Forms A and B will be forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health by the Borough Medical Officer of Health as at present.

(2) Cases may be rejected or sent to the referee on purely medical grounds as hitherto.

(3) Cases selected as suitable for medical reasons will be forwarded together with Form B to the London County Council District Organizer.

(4) These cases will be referred to the Interim Advisory Committee concerned by the District Organizer. They will be asked to make recommendations as to the amount (if any) for which the parent should be assessed, and as to the visitor who should be attached to the case, and they will forward all such information as they possess on these matters to the County Medical Officer of Health through the District Organizer. The Committee

will also be asked to "classify the cases into groups," but not to take action in respect of such groups without reference to the London County Council.

(5) The final decision as to assessment and all other matters will remain with the London County Council.

(6) This decision will be communicated subsequently to the Interim Advisory Committee concerned by the District Organizer in each case.

(7) The signature to the parents' consent form and the collection of the assessment (if any) will be done by the member of the Interim Committee in charge of the case.

(8) All correspondence *re* patient while under institutional treatment will be conducted by the London County Council Central Office.

(9) Notice of date of discharge will be sent beforehand to the District Organizer for the information of the Interim Advisory Committee and subsequent to discharge progress reports will be asked for periodically, for the information of the London County Council.

(10) The London County Council reserves the right to deal with all emergency cases without reference to any committee.

#### MUNICIPAL TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Dr. Macdonald reports as follows :—In submitting the report of the work done at the Dispensary during the year 1915, it will be noticed that several tables shown in previous reports have been altered, one omitted and one or two added. By this rearrangement it is hoped to present a clearer and more precise account of the work accomplished than was formerly the case. The tables showing the condition of the patients on admission and the results of treatment seemed to be specially called for.

With reference to the term "discharged" it is well to remember that "discharged" in the case of tubercular patients does not mean loss of connection with the Dispensary. It simply means that active or systematic treatment is no longer deemed necessary, and each patient is given fully to understand that he is expected to report at the Dispensary at stated intervals with the proviso that should urgent symptoms develop he should immediately inform the Dispensary or his own medical attendant.

Sanatorium cases are specially requested to follow this procedure but I regret to say that they seldom see the necessity to do so until the occurrence of a severe relapse compels them to seek advice. Probably they feel so well on leaving the sanatorium that they fancy themselves cured in spite of the warning they one and all receive that care and constant medical supervision are necessary to maintain any improvement in their health.

The war has indirectly affected the work in several ways. During the winter months the attendances at the Evening Dispensary suffered severely from the darkened streets, but the chief complaint is the interference with treatment caused by the long hours of overtime worked by many of the patients. At the end of a day's work they were "played out" and too tired to attend. Others, tempted by the high wages to be earned in munition and kindred works, left employment more suited to their condition of health for work which rapidly caused them to realize that the truer economy for them was to have remained at their former employment even with the lower wages.

Like other dispensary officers I have to deplore the large number of patients who postpone seeking advice until they are literally compelled to do so. The belief still seems to be prevalent that consumption is something to be ashamed of and therefore hidden at all costs. The harm that such cases do to others, let alone to themselves, is incalculable, because every case of tuberculosis is liable to become at any time a potent source of infection to others.

It is satisfactory to note that the Dispensary is being more generally recognised as an institution for a particular purpose, and this year there have been fewer instances of people coming up with all sorts of complaints.

In September, the Dispensary was closed for a fortnight for painting and minor repairs. Some improvement resulted, but the condition of the walls and stairways generally is such that constant attention will be necessary if the place is to retain that clean and fresh appearance that a tuberculosis dispensary should always present. Such a dispensary should be an object lesson to the patients in cleanliness and simple methods of ventilation.

Before concluding this portion of the Report, I have to thank the Medical Officer of Health and all members of the staff for their cordial co-operation and assistance in carrying out the work of the Dispensary. In July, Miss Greig was appointed Dispenser Clerk, *vice* Miss Jared, resigned, and I greatly regret to report the death from pneumonia of H. Hayes, the temporary caretaker, in whom the Council lost a faithful and willing worker. A successor has been appointed, otherwise the staff remains the same.

The number of patients examined at the Dispensary during 1915 was 971, of whom 445 were males and 526 females. Of this number 170 were insured. Table I. shows the details of these cases together with the attendances made by all patients (both new and old).

TABLE I.  
MONTHLY ATTENDANCES DURING 1915.

	New Cases.	Contacts.	Total Attendances, All Cases.
January ...	84	16	513
February ...	121	44	595
March ...	96	38	665
April ...	51	22	439
May ...	36	24	372
June ...	52	8	370
July ...	45	37	480
August ...	37	28	464
September ...	*30	9	248*
October ...	39	21	299
November ...	52	20	726
December ...	44	17	545
	687	284	5916

\*Closed two weeks for repairs.

Table II. shows the various sources from which patients came to the Dispensary.

TABLE II.  
SOURCE OF CASES EXAMINED AT THE DISPENSARY.

Diagnosed as suffering from	Applied on own initiative.	Sent by Doctor.	Sent by Health Visitor.	Sent by School or Hospital etc.	Totals.
(a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis	59	60	36	31	186
(b) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	27	17	25	—	69
(c) No Tubercular disease	245	58	111	18	432
Totals ...	331	135	172	49	687



Table III. deals with Contacts, the examination of whom forms one of the most important functions of Dispensary work, for it is here that the earliest and therefore most hopeful cases are to be discovered. It will be noted that of the 284 contacts examined, 28 were found to be tubercular. The contacts are all requested to attend by the Health Visitor or Tuberculosis Officer, and as a rule the examinations are conducted at the Dispensary.

TABLE III.  
DETAILS OF CONTACTS EXAMINED AND DISCHARGED.

	Examined			Discharged			Diagnosed as Tubercular		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Insured ..	11	13	24	10	12	22	1	1	2
Non-Insured ..	123	137	260	119	115	234	4	22	26
	134	150	284	129	127	256	5	23	28

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The three following Tables (IV. V. & VI.) give particulars relating to those cases diagnosed as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, *i.e.*, Consumption of the Lungs. Attention is directed to Table VI. which shows that of the 186 cases admitted, 145 were in an advanced condition before presenting themselves. This is much to be regretted if only for the patients' sake. Many of these cases expect to be cured right away by admission to a Sanatorium, and are correspondingly disappointed when told that Sanatorium Treatment is only suitable for comparatively early cases.

TABLE IV.  
DETAILS OF PATIENTS' SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	Carried forw., 31 Dec., 1914.	Ad- mitted, 1915.	Total treated, 1915.	Discharged		Died	Left District, etc.	Total Dis- charged	Remain- ing under treat- ment, 31 Dec., 1915.
				Im- proved	Not Im- proved				
Male .. ..	53	98	151	39	19	2	30	90	61
Female .. ..	44	88	132	28	14	1	10	53	79
	97	186	283	67	33	3*	40	143	140

\* Of the three deaths, one was complicated by Cancer of the tongue; one by Nephritis (disease of the kidneys), and the third by severe hæmorrhage from the lung.

TABLE V.  
AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF 186 CASES ADMITTED AS  
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	Under 5	Between 5-15	Between 15-25	Between 25-35	Between 35-45	Between 45-55	55 and over	Totals.
Males ...	—	22	13	29	22	9	3	98
Females...	1	18	19	22	15	7	6	88
Totals ...	1	40	32	51	37	16	9	186

TABLE VI.  
SHOWING STAGE OF DISEASE OF ABOVE PATIENTS.  
(TURBAN'S CLASSIFICATION.)

	1st stage	2nd stage	3rd stage	Totals
Male ...	19	49	30	98
Female ...	22	46	20	88
	41	95	50	186

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The particulars of patients admitted with other forms of Tuberculosis than that of the lungs will be found below. The nature of the cases admitted was as follows :—

Glands—Cervical 36; Abdominal 13.

Bones 7                      Joints 9                      Skin 4

TABLE VII.  
DETAILS OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM NON-PULMONARY  
TUBERCULOSIS.

	Carried forward 31.12.14	Ad- mitted 1915	Total treated 1915	Discharged.		Died	Left District etc.	Total Dis- charged	Re- main- ing under treat- ment 31.12.15
				Im- proved	Not im- proved				
Male .. ..	7	28	35	14	7	1	—		13
Female .. ..	7	41	48	17	7	2	—		22
	14	69	83	31	14	3*			35

\*Two of the deaths occurred in hospital to which the patients had been referred.

TABLE VIII.

AGE AND SEX OF 69 CASES ADMITTED AS NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	Under 5	Between 5-15	Between 15-25	Between 25-35	Between 35-45	Between 45-55	55 and over	Totals.
Males ...	7	16	4	1	—	—	—	28
Females...	8	29	2	2	—	—	—	41
Totals ...	15	45	6	3	—	—	—	69

## NON-TUBERCULAR AND DOUBTFUL CASES.

As before remarked, fewer people attended the Dispensary this year with the idea that it was open for treatment of all kinds of diseases. The great majority of the cases referred to in the following table suffering from chest complaints such as bronchitis, "colds," asthma, etc., and were directed to their family medical attendant or to Hospital as seemed advisable.

TABLE IX.

DETAILS OF PATIENTS DIAGNOSED AS NON-TUBERCULAR.

	Carried forward 31st Dec., 1914.	Admitted 1915.	Total examined.	Dis- charged non- tubercular.	Remaining under observa- tion, 31st Dec., 1915.
Male ...	77	185	262	240	22
Female ...	79	247	326	296	30
	156	432	588	536	52

TABLE X.

Homes visited by Tuberculosis Officer and Medical Officer of Health ...	196
Visits by staff on first notification ...	531
Revisits ...	1550
Special cases referred to staff by Tuberculosis Officer ...	94

*Diagnosis.*—As in the previous year, Tuberculin was used to assist diagnosis in all doubtful cases, *i.e.*, cases whose sputa did not show bacilli, or where the physical signs and symptoms were indefinite. The value of the negative reaction in the von Pirquet Test was very fully appreciated in those adults, cases where a correct thermometric reading could not be relied upon. During the year 256 specimens of sputa were examined in the Laboratory at the Dispensary with 56 positive results.

*Treatment.*—Treatment by Tuberculin injections has been carried out in suitable cases, *viz.*, about 55 per cent. of the cases diagnosed as tubercular. The results where patients attended regularly are encouraging, but there is the ever present difficulty of inducing patients to keep on attending when once they find themselves comparatively well. In 3 cases tuberculin administration was stopped, the patients gradually losing weight, or the pulmonary condition becoming worse. In several cases where patients were undergoing this treatment the course had to be abandoned in consequence of the strenuous nature of their employment rendering them physically unfit to receive injections.

Routine treatment was carried out in all cases whether receiving Tuberculin or not and calls for no comment, but attention must be drawn to the treatment of those advanced cases which so constantly present themselves at the Dispensary. At present one can only offer them the Workhouse Infirmary, and naturally many are averse to entering that Institution. Now as those advanced cases are the most infectious, it is obviously hopeless to think of eradicating consumption and allow those people to go back to homes, which in many instances are quite unsuitable for their condition. While every effort is made to get hold of early cases, it is every whit as important that proper accommodation should be provided for the advanced case, which from the Public Health view is the more dangerous of the two.

During the year, 84 patients from Deptford were admitted to Sanatoria under the National Insurance Scheme, and 91 to Poor Law Institutions.

An extra nourishment grant from the Insurance Committee in the form of a daily supply of milk and eggs for a period varying from 2 to 4 months, was obtained for eight insured persons judged to be receiving insufficient nourishment at home.

In the Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Tuberculosis, it is recommended that a Tuberculosis Dispensary should act as—

1. A Receiving House and Centre of Diagnosis.
2. A Clearing House and Centre of Observation.
3. A Centre for Curative Treatment.
4. A Centre for Examination of Contacts.
5. A Centre for After Care.
6. An Information Bureau and Educational Centre.

From the present and previous reports it will be seen that the Dispensary is fulfilling those requirements.

#### **The Shelter.**

The Public Health (London) Act, 1891, Section 60, Sub-Section 4, imposes on the Sanitary Authority the duty of making provision for the temporary housing of persons who are compelled to leave their dwellings for the purpose of enabling such dwellings to be disinfected by the Sanitary Authority.

The accommodation provided consists of a detached building containing two separate and distinct tenements, each consisting of two bedrooms, kitchen, larder, bathroom, and w.c. The shelter was not used during the year.

#### **Disinfection.**

The disinfection of infected clothing and bedding has been carried out at the Disinfecting Station, Watson Street, by means of two machines of the Washington-Lyons pattern.

The following shows the amount of disinfection carried out for the past four years :—

1915	...	8,232	articles of bedding, clothing, etc.
1914	...	11,784	” ” ”
1913	...	8,875	” ” ”
1912	...	7,577	” ” ”

The number of rooms disinfected by the Council's staff during the year was 1,230.

Disinfecting fluid is supplied gratis where required.

For the removal of infected bedding, etc., and its return after disinfection an adequate staff is maintained. There are two vans employed, one used for collecting infected materials, and the other a pure van for returning them after disinfection is completed. One man is employed for collection, and another for returning the sterilized materials.

Cleansing and disinfection of 1,230 rooms in 1,105 houses in which infectious diseases, etc., have occurred, have been carried out under the

direction of your Medical Officer of Health. The infected rooms have been fumigated, and when necessary the walls of the disinfected portion of the house have been stripped and the ceilings cleansed.

**Table**

SHEWING THE NUMBER OF PREMISES, ROOMS AND BEDDING DISINFECTED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

1915	Premises.	Rooms.	Beds.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Mattresses.	Sheets.	Blankets.	Odd Articles.	Articles Destroyed.
January ...	97	107	65	127	50	19	49	170	222	8 mattresses, 12 odd articles
February	107	119	80	160	53	33	90	131	300	2 pillows, 2 bolsters
March ...	116	124	86	170	71	36	68	138	337	1 mattress, 30 odd articles, 1 bed.
April ...	86	97	53	134	38	15	60	102	297	2 beds.
May ...	69	81	41	89	31	10	44	64	210	
June ...	80	95	52	87	33	13	44	48	214	1 mattress, 10 odd articles
July ...	89	99	55	102	40	15	69	74	194	2 beds, 1 bolster, 1 mattress
August ...	87	90	56	114	41	21	65	56	188	2 beds, 2 mattresses, 9 pillows, 3 bolsters, 2 odd articles
September	88	97	56	97	36	16	55	209	205	2 beds, 1 mattress, 1 1 bolster, 1 pillow, 5 odd articles.
October ...	102	127	83	160	61	39	88	107	255	1 bed.
November	87	95	68	149	47	25	55	112	238	1 bed, 3 mattresses, 2 odd articles
December	97	99	70	152	53	37	84	134	317	
Total ...	1105	1230	765	1541	554	279	771	1345	2977	

**Table**

SHEWING NUMBER OF ROOMS DISINFECTED AFTER THE FOLLOWING DISEASES :—

1915	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Measles.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Other Diseases.
January	..	52	15	1	..	22	1	1	..	6
February	..	50	17	6	10	23	2	..	3	..
March	..	38	23	1	10	41	..	..	5	1
April ..	..	27	12	1	3	40	3	..	4	5
May ..	..	22	14	..	5	30	1	1	1	3
June ..	..	34	9	1	2	19	2	..	..	6
July ..	..	47	11	..	..	21	4	..	..	3
August ..	..	37	18	..	..	25	2	..	..	2
September	..	29	16	1	1	28	..	..	1	2
October	..	38	24	1	1	36	1	1	..	..
November	..	40	17	..	1	26	..	1	2	5
December	..	36	20	1	..	27	3	..	1	6
Total	..	450	196	13	33	338	19	4	17	39

### Special Cases.

In 19 instances special requests were received to disinfect or destroy articles of bedding after deaths from Cancer, &c. Such disinfections were carried out.

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

86 premises consisting of 121 rooms were fumigated during the year.

#### MIDWIVES ACT.

Disinfection of wearing apparel, etc., was carried out in 3 cases.

#### BOOKS DISINFECTED.

161 Library books collected from houses where infectious diseases had occurred, were disinfected before being put back into circulation.

With a view to further minimising the risk of spreading infection we have the power to destroy books belonging to the public libraries which come from infected houses.

Your Medical Officer now recommends that all books which are much worn and soiled should be destroyed. All books taken from houses in which smallpox has occurred should be destroyed. All books which have been used in the sick room, if there is a possibility, however remote, of their conveying infection, should be dealt with in the same way.

With regard to volumes which, although taken from infected houses, have but a very remote likelihood of having retained infection, the following system of disinfection may be carried out. The book is placed on end and opened as far as can be, and is subjected to the vapour of formalin for three hours. This process, if necessary, can be repeated, and the books can be returned to the library none the worse for the operation with the exception of a smell of formalin, which passes off after a few days.

The chamber we use for this kind of disinfection, and also for other small articles which would be injured by steam, as leather goods, furs, boots, etc., is a specially constructed, zinc lined chamber 6-ft. 11-in. by 4-ft. 4½-in. by 1-ft. 6-in., having a capacity of 45 cubic feet. An alformant lamp is used.

The Medical Officer is unable to recall a single instance in which infection has been conveyed by books, notwithstanding that he has instituted inquiries of books taken from infected houses.

The degree of exposure of books whilst in infected houses varies very widely, and it is not desirable to make any hard and fast rule as to how books from infected houses should be dealt with.

**Table.**

Total number of Premises disinfected	..	..	..	1105
.. .. Rooms	..	..	..	1230
.. .. Beds	..	..	..	765
.. .. Pillows	..	..	..	1541
.. .. Bolsters	..	..	..	554
.. .. Mattresses	..	..	..	279
.. .. Sheets	..	..	..	771
.. .. Blankets	..	..	..	1345
.. .. Odd articles	..	..	..	2977
			Total articles	8232
Total number of Beds destroyed	..	..	..	11
.. .. Mattresses	..	..	..	17
.. .. Odd articles	..	..	..	61
.. .. Pillows	..	..	..	12
.. .. Bolsters	..	..	..	7

N.B.—The above articles were destroyed at the request of the owners.

#### **Cleansing of Children attending the Elementary Schools in Deptford.**

Three-and-a-half years ago this Council commenced the systematic cleansing of verminous children attending the County Council Elementary Schools in the Borough.

An agreement was made with the County Council whereby the Borough Council is paid for each child cleansed. The municipal cleansing station is therefore self-supporting and is situate in Watson Street, adjoining the disinfecting station. The chief form of vermin found have been head and body lice. In conjunction with body cleansing, the staff of the Public Health Department have been engaged in cleansing the clothes, bedding and rooms in connection with these children.

During the period that we have undertaken this work 2,817 children have been cleansed, a large proportion of these only once, but many others twice, and some three times in the same month. In all 5,696 baths have been given and 5,696 sets of clothing have been disinfected.



The following table shows the number of children who have been cleansed and the number who have required the process a second and third time :—

Year.	Children cleansed once.	Children cleansed twice in the same month.	Children cleansed three times in the same month.	TOTAL.
1912 (half-year)	344	250	179	773
1913 ... ..	877	637	461	1975
1914 ... ..	885	507	316	1708
1915 ... ..	711	311	218	1240
	2817	1705	1174	5696

From a consideration of the above, it is evident that a great deal of re-infection takes place.

Re-infection may be brought about in several ways :—

1. The home itself, the walls, floors and woodwork being suitable breeding places for the breeding of vermin, &c.
2. By contact with some other verminous member of the family above or below school age.
3. By contact with some article of bedding or clothing which has escaped disinfection.
4. By the use of second-hand articles of clothing which are verminous.
5. By contact of the child's clothing with verminous clothing in a pawnshop.

### Mortuary and Coroner's Court.

BODIES RECEIVED INTO THE MORTUARY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Total.	Males.	Females.	Post Mortems.	Inquests.	Unknown.	Brought in to await burial only	Infectious.
139	85	54	79	125	4	8	1

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Ward.	Small Pox.		Erysipelas.		Cerebro-spinal Fever.		Puerperal Fever.		Acute Polio Myelitis.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		Anthrax.		Total.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total.
East ... ..	...	...	20	31	1	3	...	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	23	37	60
North ... ..	...	...	18	12	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	21	16	37
North-West ... ..	...	...	16	9	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	20	13	33
South ... ..	...	...	5	5	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	8	6	14
South-East ... ..	...	...	16	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	17	5	22
South-West ... ..	...	...	6	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	6	9	15
Total ... ..	...	...	81	65	7	8	...	4	2	...	4	9	1	...	95	86	181

AGES OF PATIENTS NOTIFIED.

Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwards	All ages.
19	14	17	28	41	47	15	181

VERDICTS IN THE 125 INQUESTS HELD.

Coroner's Court.

Natural causes ... ..	...	57	Accidental causes	...	39
Suicide while insane ... ..	...	5	Misadventure	...	2
Inattention at birth ... ..	...	2	Open verdicts	...	20

### Respiratory Diseases.

Under this heading are included bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy, and other diseases of the respiratory organs.

The number of deaths registered was 430. Of these deaths 91 were children under one year of age, 78 over one and under five years, and 111 were persons over 65 years of age.

Bronchitis was most severe in the East and North Wards. Broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia of all forms were also more severe in these wards and accounted for more deaths than in any of the other wards.

### Influenza.

This disease, which is an infectious one, accounted for 21 deaths during the year compared with 22 for the year 1914. 11 of the deaths occurred between the ages of 25 and 65, and the remainder were of persons over 65.

### Constitutional Diseases.

These diseases which form a group which are only second in importance to those known as the epidemic diseases accounted for 259 more deaths in 1915 than in 1914. They include rheumatic fever, rheumatism, rickets, diabetes, gout, anæmia, heart, arterial and other defined diseases.

During the year they caused 944 deaths against 685 for the previous year.

### Cancer and Malignant Diseases.

One hundred and nineteen deaths from cancer and malignant diseases were recorded during the year. They were equal to a death rate of 10.8 per 10,000 of the population, which is 0.3 below the rate recorded in the preceding year. When comparison is made with the mean return for the preceding ten years it is found that they are 18 in excess.

DEATHS FROM CANCER DURING 1915.

PART AFFECTED	All Ages			1-5		5-15		15-25		25-35		35-45		45-55		55-65		65-75		75-85		85 and upward	
	M	F	Total	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Buccal Cavity .. .. .	9	2	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	4	1	3	..	1	..	..	..
Stomach, Liver, &c. .. ..	13	13	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	6	4	5	3	2	1	..	..
Peritoneum, Intestines and Rectum } .. .. .	15	22	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	6	6	4	2	6	1	4	..	..
Female Generative Organs .. ..	..	12	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	4	..	3	..	1	..	1	..	..
Breast .. .. .	..	14	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	4	..	3	..	3	..	2	..	..
Skin .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other or Unspecified Organs .. ..	11	8	19	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	3	2	1	1	2	3	..	..
	48	71	119	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	3	8	6	19	19	17	11	14	6	11	..	..



Table No. 7—continued.

Shewing the Streets in which Infectious Disease occurred during 1915.

STREET.	Small Pox	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Acute Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Anthrax.
Briant Street		2		4							1		
Brindley Street				1									
Broadway	1												
Brocklehurst St.				3			1	1					
Brockley Road	4		2	3							3		
Brookmill Road	1		3	1							1	1	
Bronze Street			3	12							4		
Camplin Street				1						1			
Canterbury Road	1			3							2	1	
Carrington House			5								3	2	
Childeric Road	1			7							2	1	
Casella Road			1										
Childers Street	5		2	3	2			1			3		
Chipley Street	1			3								2	
Chubworthy St.	1			1									
Church Street	4		2	7						1	9	2	
Clandon Street											1		
Clifton Hill			1								3		
Clifton Road				1									
Clyde Street	1										1		
Colwick Street				1	1						1		
Comet Street				1								1	
Copperas Square													
Copperas Street											1		
Cornbury Road	1		1								2		
Cottesbrooke St.				2									
Cranbrook Road	1				1								
Cranfield Road			1	1							1		
Creek Street			1					1					
Croft Street	1			4									
Crook Road				2									
Crossfield Street	2		3	4						1	2		
Czar Street	1			2									
Deloraine Street				1									
Dennett's Grove				1									
Dennett's Road	1			2							4		
Deptford B'dway													
Desmond Street			1	2						1	1	1	
Dollings Place													
Dorking Road	1			5							4	1	
Douglas Street	2		2	3							3		
Drakefell Road	2			2									
Drake Buildings	1												
Dugald Street				1							1		
Dundalk Road				2							1	1	
Eckington Gdns.											1	1	
Edale Road	2		1								3		











Table No. 7—continued.

Shewing the Streets in which Infectious Disease occurred during 1915.

STREET.	Small Pox.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Pu- peral Fever.	Cerebro- spinal Fever.	Acute Polionyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculous Dis-eases.	Anthrax.
Wallbutton Road		1		1									
Wagner Street													
Waller Road			1	3							2		
Walpole Road			1									2	
Walsham Road			1										
Warwick Street				1							2		
Watergate Street			3								3		
Watson Street				3							1		
Whitcher Street		3		5								1	
Wickham Road			1										
Wilson Street					2						2		1
Windmill Lane			2	4							2		
Woodpecker Rd.		2	2	6	1						2		
Wotton Road			1	2									
Wrigglesworth St		1											
Totals ...		201	146	440	37		4	15	2	13	299	106	1

## GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### Work of Sanitary Inspectors.

The work performed by these inspectors, of whom there are eight, including one on military service, is of a varied character, and is increasing year by year, as Public Health legislation increases. Their principal duties are set out in the following statement :—

1. To make a house to house inspection of their district as required by the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.
2. To inquire into complaints made to the Sanitary Authority.
3. To supervise the work required to be done for the abatement of the nuisances which they have discovered.
4. To inspect ice cream factories.
5. To inspect dairies and mikshops.
6. To inspect stables, yards, manure pits, passages, courts and vacant plots of land.

7. To inspect urinals attached to public houses.
8. To inspect houses for which certificates are required under the Customs and Inland Revenue Acts.
9. To inspect premises for which water certificates are required.
10. To make observations of smoke nuisances.
11. To inspect the shops, stalls and markets where food is sold on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.
12. To inquire respecting infectious diseases notified under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, and under Orders of the Local Government Board.
13. To make inquiries respecting the infectious diseases (measles, etc.) notified.
14. To supervise the disinfection of rooms, schools, etc., after the occurrence of an infectious disease in them.
15. To inspect Workshops and Factories.
16. To inspect Canal Boats.
17. To inspect the homes of outworkers.

This is a long tale of work, which, to do thoroughly, would require a considerable increase in the staff; nevertheless, as much of it is done as can possibly be expected. There are certain inquiries or visits which must be made day by day, that is to say, those relating to the cases of infectious diseases that are notified by the medical profession, as well as those which are notified by the teachers of the schools and by other persons. One part of the work presents difficulties—not confined to this Borough only—namely, that it is not possible to make house to house inspections to the extent the Housing and Town Planning Act authorises, and which the Local Government Board anticipate should be done.

The Medical Officer of Health has no fault to find with the amount of work performed by District Inspectors, but he cannot close his eyes to the fact that they cannot do all the work devolving on them, especially that relating to house to house inspection as required by the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1910.

Altogether 5013 premises were inspected, and 18,311 re-inspections, calls, &c., were made by the District Inspectors.

The details of the work performed by the District Inspectors (six in number), is set out in the following pages.

**Re-drainage.**

The principal re-drainage work during 1915 has been carried out at the following premises :—

- Addey Street, Nos. 46, 48, 50 and 52.
- Albert Road, Nos. 7 and 9.
- Amersham Vale, No. 41.
- Brockley Road, No. 85.
- Czar Street, No. 49.
- Erlanger Road, No. 7.
- Florence Cottages, Nos. 6, 7 and 8.
- Lewisham High Road, No. 51.
- Monson Road, Nos. 54 and 56.
- Ommaney Road, No. 40.
- Pomeroy Street, Nos. 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 123.
- St. James', No. 15.
- St. John's Road, Nos. 51 and 51a.
- Sandbourne Road, No. 38.
- Shardeloes Road, No. 3.
- Tressillian Road, No. 44.
- Wickham Road, Nos. 25 and 62.

**New Drainage.**

The following applications under the Metropolis Management Acts to build and drain were approved by the Council during the year :—

## NATURE OF WORK.

No. of  
Application.

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1565 | To build additions and drain into existing system, at Ida Works, Grinstead Road.  |
| 1566 | To build Slipper Baths and drain by a separate system on the East side of Ilderton Road, at the corner of Stockholm Road. |
| 1567 | To build addition to St. Mary's Church and Parish Hall, Erlam Road, and drain into existing system.                       |
| 1569 | To build new premises situate at 147, 149, 151 and 153 High Street, and drain by a combined system.                       |
| 1574 | To build two w.c.'s and drain into existing combined system at 182 New Cross Road.  |
| 1575 | To build two w.c.'s and drain into existing combined system at 62a New Cross Road.  |
| 1576 | To build eleven houses in Wallbutton Road, and drain the same by a combined system.                                       |

No. of  
Application

- 1577 To build and drain into existing combined system a w.c. at the "Crown and Anchor" P.H., New Cross Road.
- 1578 To build w.c. and bathroom at the "Telegraph" P.H., Evelyn Street, and drain the same into existing combined system.
- 1580 To build w.c.'s, urinal, &c., in Martin's Yard, Endwell Road, and drain into existing combined system.
- 1582 For the drainage of New Relief Station, and No. 32 Watson Street, by a combined system.
- 1583 To build w.c.'s at 203 and 211 Lewisham High Road, and drain into existing combined system.
- 1584 To build w.c.'s, etc., at No. 2 Evelyn Street, and drain into existing combined system.
- 1588 To build additions and drain into existing system at No. 3 High Street, Deptford.
- 1589 To build additions and drain into existing combined system at 223 High Street, Deptford.
- 1590 To build w.c.'s. at 16 Evelyn Street, and drain into existing system.
- 1594 To build additions at rear of 110 High Street and drain into existing combined system.
- 1595 To build latrines at Archangel Wharf, Cold Blow Lane, and drain by a separate system.
- 1599 To build w.c. and lavatory at Deptford Bridge and drain into existing system.
- 1600 To build w.c. at rear of 211 Lewisham High Road and drain into existing combined system.
- 1601 To build and drain by a separate system w.c.'s. and urinal at box factory in Blackhorse Road.
- 1602 To build and drain w.c. at Railway Arches, Trundleys Road, occupied by the London Spinning Co.
- 1603 To build additions at 78 Wickham Road and drain into existing system.
- 1604 To build additional w.c.'s. at 2 Evelyn Street and drain into existing combined system.
- 1605 To build block of offices at Messrs. Stone's works, Arklow Road, and drain by a separate system.
- 1606 To build w.c's and urinals at 2 Evelyn Street and drain into existing combined system.

No. of  
Application

- 1607 To build w.c's at Victoria Works, Grove Street and drain into existing system.
- 1608 To build and drain w.c. on premises occupied by the London Spinning Co., on the Canal Bank.
- 1609 To build additions to office and drain into existing combined system at New Cross Station, S. E. & C. Railway.
- 1610 To build addition to Saw Mills, Reginald Place, and drain into existing system.
- 1611 To build w.c. at workshop in Briant Street and at rear of 92 New Cross Road, and drain into existing system.
- 1615 To build w.c. at mews, rear of 25 New Cross Road, and drain into existing system.

### The Inland Revenue Act, 1903.

The following table shows the number of applications for certificates granted under the above Act for exemption or abatement from Inhabited House Duty:—

Houses during the Year 1915.	Tenements.			Notes.	
	No. comprised therein.	No. for which Certificates were			
		Granted.	Refused.		Deferred.
47	94	94	—	—	

The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, now provides also for the exemption of common lodging-houses for the working classes from inhabited house duty by Section 35. In inspecting a common lodging house for such a certificate weight is attached to the following matters:—

1. The provision of two rooms for the occupation of the keeper or of his deputy.
2. A sufficient supply of lockers, or other receptacles, with suitable means of fastening, for clothes and for food storage.
3. A sufficient supply of kitchen utensils for cooking, for eating, and for drinking.
4. The provision of lavatory basins, of facilities for washing clothes, shirts and socks, and for foot-washing.

5. A sufficient supply of hand towels and roller towels, their number, and their actual cleanliness and condition at the time of inspection.

6. The provision on the premises of a bath available for use as such, and not kept as a storage receptacle for coal, boots and odds and ends.

7. The provision of a room with some degree of privacy for repairing clothes.

8. Hooks for coats and hats.

9. The height of the rooms.

10. A supply of hot water.

#### Overcrowding.

Overcrowding was abated in 12 cases without having to take legal proceedings.

#### Smoke Nuisances.

During the year 10 observations of chimneys were made.

#### Common Lodging House Acts, 1851 and 1853.

The Secretary of State, by a Provisional Order which came into operation on the 1st November, 1894, transferred to the London County Council the powers of the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police in respect of Common Lodging Houses.

The following is a list of Common Lodging Houses registered in this district, providing accommodation for 437 persons; in addition to which there is Carrington House, Brookmill Road, which provides for 802 lodgers.

#### Common Lodging Houses.

Situation of the Common Lodging House.	Authorized No. of Lodgers.	Sex of lodgers. M - Men. W - Women. MC - Married Couples.	Date of Approval of premises.	Name and Residence of Licensee.	
Street or Place.				Name.	Street or Place.
1 Church-street ...	43	M	19th March, 1887	Letitia Catherine Longinotto	13 Wickham-road
146 Church-street ...	39	M	26th Feb., 1887	Letitia Catherine Longinotto	13 Wickham-road
35 Baidon-street ...	27	M	22nd April, 1885	Sarah Ann Flight	110 Malpas road
42 Albury-street ...	48	M	22nd Sept., 1894	Ellen McCarthy	88 Douglas-street
27 Watergate street	31	M	27th Nov., 1889	Letitia Catherine Longinotto	13 Wickham-road
112 High-street ...	101	M		Barnard Jaffa	112 High-street
112 do.	80	W		do.	112 do.
124 Tanner's-hill ...	68	M	15th Feb. 1897	James Webster	38 Wickham road



## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD.

Table.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE 52 WEEKS.  
ENDED JANUARY 1st, 1916.

	Number of District.							Totals.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Complaints Received... ..	...	39	25	27	25	46	24	186
Total Premises Inspected ... ..	...	783	901	952	836	808	733	5013
Re-Inspections, Calls, Service of Notices, &c., &c. ... ..	...	3375	2949	2856	2794	2883	3454	18311
Inspections under notice from Con- tractors, per Bye-Laws ... ..	...	74	7	20	29	24	30	184
Number of Cases in which Pro- ceedings have been taken ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"Intimations" Served ... ..	...	202	396	417	541	461	655	2672
"Statutory Notices" Served ... ..	...	4	17	15	66	15	13	130
Houses closed (Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
.. voluntarily ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
<b>Water Closets—</b>								
Old Closets abolished ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	4
New Closets provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
.. .. in Workshops ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Basin and Trap provided ... ..	...	53	16	26	60	13	33	201
Water Supply provided ... ..	...	10	24	...	...	10	...	44
Water Supply Apparatus provided ... ..	...	3	15	40	36	6	...	100
Limewashed ... ..	...	10	...	...	14	28	22	74
Walls Repaired ... ..	...	3	8	1	6	12	6	36
Floors Repaired ... ..	...	4	...	3	1	...	2	10
Doors provided ... ..	...	1	3	...	17	3	22	46
Ventilated ... ..	...	1	11	...	...	...	...	12
Seats provided ... ..	...	1	...	4	1	5	1	12
Basins Cleansed ... ..	...	...	21	10	10	13	10	64
Sealed off from Scullery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	9
<b>Drains—</b>								
Drains Re-constructed ... ..	...	19	8	7	29	...	7	70
Surface Drains provided ... ..	...	5	2	...	...	6	...	13
Cleansed and Amended ... ..	...	103	24	44	67	59	54	351
Gully Traps fixed ... ..	...	42	18	11	56	16	12	155
New Soil Pipes and Vent Pipes fixed ... ..	...	27	5	2	26	11	5	76
Chambers built and Interceptors provided ... ..	...	11	3	1	16	1	5	37
Interceptors only fixed ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilated ... ..	...	7	...	11	18	5	2	43
Provided to Stables ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clearing Eyes ... ..	...	11	...	3	13	3	6	36
<b>Sinks, Bath &amp; Lavatory Wastes, and Rain Water Pipes—</b>								
Disconnected from drains, trap- ped and ventilated ... ..	...	24	17	49	34	27	3	154

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE 52 WEEKS  
ENDED JANUARY 1ST, 1916—*continued.*

Table— <i>continued.</i>	Number of District.							Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<b>Cesspools—</b>								
Abolished ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Dustbins—</b>								
Provided ... ..	...	74	100	61	59	117	103	514
Repaired ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
<b>Yards—</b>								
Paved ... ..	...	4	24	29	8	25	39	129
Surface Repaired ... ..	...	12	9	5	33	39	...	98
<b>Urinals—</b>								
Provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Repaired ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cleansed ... ..	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	5
<b>Sculleries and Wash-houses—</b>								
Floors paved ... ..	...	7	12	7	4	14	10	54
Coppers provided or repaired ... ..	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	10
New sinks provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	12
<b>Forecourts—</b>								
Paved ... ..	...	...	5	12	4	5	...	26
Surface Repaired ... ..	...	...	3	2	7	1	...	13
<b>Gutters and Rain Water Pipes</b>								
Provided and Repaired ... ..	...	74	45	54	124	82	39	418
<b>Water Supply—</b>								
Store Cisterns provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"    "    Covers provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
"    "    Cleansed ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
"    "    abolished ... ..	...	6	...	2	...	2	...	10
Supply Reinstated ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	5
Fittings Repaired ... ..	...	23	...	12	23	56	67	181
New Houses Inspected for Certificates before Occupation ... ..	...	...	1	...	12	...	...	13
Potable Water provided from Service ... ..	...	9	...	2	1	1	...	13
<b>Cleansing and Repairs—</b>								
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed ... ..	...	92	129	222	156	214	250	1063
Houses repaired and Ventilation improved ... ..	...	50	28	48	144	113	80	463
House roofs repaired ... ..	...	51	41	66	109	60	82	409
Dampness abated ... ..	...	...	...	14	...	50	16	80
Staircases, &c., lighted ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stoves repaired or new ones provided ... ..	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Window frames, sashes, or doors repaired, and fastenings provided ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Handrails fixed or repaired ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	3	11	9	...	23

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE 52 WEEKS  
ENDED JANUARY 1ST, 1916—*continued.*

<b>Table—</b> <i>continued.</i>	Number of District.							Totals.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<b>Dung Receptacles—</b>								
Abolished ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Repaired ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Provided ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Underground Rooms—</b>								
Used as dwellings abolished ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
<b>Overcrowding—</b>								
Cases Abated ... ..	...	...	3	1	5	1	2	12
<b>Accumulations</b>								
Removed ... ..	...	6	19	3	2	4	4	38
<b>Animals—</b>								
Ceased keeping as a Nuisance ... ..	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	4
<b>Smoke Nuisances—</b>								
Cases Abated ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Observations ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	10
<b>Rooms occupied in such a manner as to be a nuisance ... ..</b>								
<b>Inland Revenue Act—</b>								
Houses inspected for Certificates ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	47
Number of Tenements ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	94	94
Number of Certificates granted ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	94	94
Number of Certificates refused ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

District No. 1.—Inspector SIMPSON (on military service).

District No. 2.—Inspector PRIEST.

District No. 3.—Inspector SHELLEY.

District No. 4.—Inspector SNOWDON.

District No. 5.—Inspector KEMP.

District No. 6.—Inspector HEWETT.

District No. 7.—Inspector ALLAM.

### Street Refuse.

7,719 loads of street refuse were collected and disposed of as compared with 8,230½ loads for the previous year.

### House and Trade Refuse.

During 1915, 17,659½ loads of house and trade refuse were collected and disposed of, as compared with 20,234 loads for the previous year.

### Artizan Dwellings.

The County Council dwellings existing in the district are in:—

Armada Street (Greenwich)—consisting of 2 to 4 rooms, and let at a rental of 5s. to 7s. per week.

New King Street—consisting of 2 to 4 rooms, and let at a rental of 5s. to 7s. per week.

Brookmill Road—consisting of 3 rooms, and let at a rental of 7s. 6d. per week.

### The Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

The following is a tabular statement of the work carried out during the year:—

Number of houses inspected ... ..	2243
Number of houses represented as unfit for habitation	3
Number of houses represented as unfit for habitation, and not capable of being made fit ... ..	—
Number of houses closed ... ..	3
Number of underground sleeping rooms upon which Closing Orders were made ... ..	2
Number of houses demolished ... ..	2
Number of houses made habitable ... ..	—
Number of back-to-back houses converted to through houses ... ..	—
Number of closing orders made ... ..	5
Number of demolition orders made ... ..	5
Houses closed voluntarily ... ..	2
Houses dealt with under Section 15 ... ..	—

**House to House Inspection.**

In the following list will be seen the streets, the houses of which were systematically inspected during 1915:—

**INSPECTOR SHELLEY.**

Name of Street.	No. of premises inspected.	No. of premises where defects existed.	No. of premises found in fair condition (i.e., where no defects were found.)
Achilles Street ...	42	10	32
Baildon Street...	56	44	12
Clifton Hill ...	29	7	22
Mornington Road ...	34	12	22
Comet Place ...	21	7	14
Glenville Grove ...	26	7	19
Providence Place ...	12	3	9
Pagnell Street ...	39	13	26
Payne Street ...	44	16	28
Royal Naval Place ...	15	4	11
Speedwell Street ...	60	32	28
Trim Street ...	34	17	17
Walpole Road ...	23	7	16
Wybourne Cottages ...	5	2	3
	440	181	259

**INSPECTOR SNOWDON.**

Alexandra Street ...	39	13	26
Alpine Road ...	1	1	—
Batavia Road ...	49	28	21
Canterbury Road ...	23	8	15
Childeric Road ...	41	39	2
Cold Blow Cottages ...	7	1	6
Cornbury Road ...	78	51	27
Desmond Street ...	35	17	18
Edale Road ...	15	15	—
Edward Street...	30	12	18
Folkestone Gardens ...	64	13	51
Liardet Street ...	2	1	1
Trundleys Road ...	32	16	16
Vansittart Street ...	36	19	17
Whitcher Street ...	55	24	31
Woodpecker Road ...	79	39	40
	586	297	289

## INSPECTOR KEMP.

Avonley Road	...	6	5	1
Briant Street	...	31	26	5
Dennetts Grove	...	25	20	5
Eckington Gardens	...	29	14	15
Evelyn Buildings	...	13	13	—
Faulkner Street	...	1	1	—
Hathway Street	...	13	7	6
Franklin's Grove	...	6	5	1
Kender Place	...	7	6	1
Kender Street	...	114	68	46
Kenwood Avenue	...	11	10	1
Lindo Street	...	5	4	1
Lubbock Street	...	2	1	1
Mona Road	...	13	5	8
Martha place	...	11	11	—
Mason's Grove	...	13	13	—
Mason's Cottages	...	9	4	5
Monson Road	...	33	13	20
Pomeroy Street	...	58	43	15
Rose Cottages	...	3	—	3
Somerville Road	...	1	—	1
Selden Road...	...	29	25	4
Senate Street	...	8	4	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		441	298	143

## INSPECTOR HEWETT.

Grinstead Road	...	68	24	44
Junction Road...	...	39	24	15
Hood Street	...	11	5	6
Blackhorse Road	...	49	42	7
Grove Street	...	38	31	7
Bingley Place	...	8	7	1
Greenfield Street	...	18	14	4
Boscawen Street	...	46	29	17
Scawen Road	...	43	13	30
Gosterwood Street	...	23	14	9
Chilton Street	...	1	1	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		344	204	140

## INSPECTOR ALLAM.

Addey Street ... ..	43	36	7
Alfred Place ... ..	5	5	—
Andom Terrace ... ..	5	5	—
Benmore Street ... ..	14	9	5
Church Street ... ..	104	78	26
Creek Street ... ..	34	30	4
Crossfield Street ... ..	50	38	12
Dugald Street ... ..	4	4	—
Giffin Street ... ..	64	49	15
Hosier Street ... ..	55	44	11
Knott Street ... ..	29	23	6
Leonidas Street ... ..	13	12	1
Norval Street ... ..	3	2	1
Pender Street ... ..	9	9	—
	432	344	88

The following is a list of the houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made:—

## NORTH WARD.

35 Watergate Street.

16 and 18 New King Street.

41 and 45 New King Street (underground sleeping rooms).

---

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

### Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Outworkers.

These premises were regularly visited during the year. Special attention was paid to sanitary accommodation for persons employed.

In two instances the W.C. accommodation was found to be insufficient for the persons employed, and in 42 cases the accommodation was unsuitable or defective.

In all but four instances the defect was remedied before the expiration of the year.

The registers dealing with the above have been kept well up-to-date, as will be gathered by the perusal of the following paragraphs relating to the various classes of premises coming within the scope of the Factory and Workshop Act.

### FACTORIES.

Factories include all places in which mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing processes.

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year, including bakehouses and laundries, was 133, involving 268 rooms. 92 inspections were made and 21 notices served.

### WORKSHOPS.

Workshops include any premises (not being factories) in which manual labour is exercised by way of trade, or for purposes of gain in, or incidental to, the making, altering, repairing, finishing or adapting for sale of any article, and to or over which the employer of the persons working there has the right of access or control.

The number of workshops on the register at the end of the year was 252 (including bakehouses and laundries and domestic workshops) with 361 rooms.

There is no industry peculiar to Deptford. The list of trades carried on in the 252 workshops is as follows:—

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Shirtmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Wheelwrights, Smiths, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
							252

The number of inspections was 317.

There were twenty notices served for defects and insanitary conditions found.

The standard of sanitary accommodation adopted in the borough is that laid down in the Secretary of State's Order for February 4th, 1903, viz.: One sanitary convenience for every 25 persons (with modifications where more than one hundred persons are employed), and with separate accommodation for the sexes where both sexes are employed.



## WORKPLACES.

Workplaces include any place where work is done permanently, and where people assemble together to do work permanently of some kind or other. The kitchens of restaurants, etc., though they are not workshops, come within the meaning of the term "workplace."

The number of workplaces on the register at the end of the year was 195 (including food premises, kitchens, etc.) with 321 rooms. Inspections for the year numbered 260 and 16 notices were served.

These premises include stables, builders' yards, restaurants, kitchens, cinema theatres, etc.

## OUTWORKERS.

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year was 767, using 812 rooms. The number added during the year was 72 and cancelled 55.

The number of inspections for the year was 151 and 5 notices were served.

The lists received from employers in the borough numbered 75, giving the names and addresses of 445 persons employed.

In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings against employers for failing to make the necessary return of outworkers employed by them.

In 18 instances work was found in connection with infected premises, and in each case the necessary disinfection of the materials on hand was carried out before being returned to the employers of the outworkers in question.

This branch of Public Health Administration is an extremely important one, and frequent inspections are necessary, both with a view to remedying sanitary defects and also to ensure against the possibility of disease being spread by the transmission of infected work from one place to another.

**Premises where Food is Prepared for Sale.**

These premises were kept under supervision during the year. The number of inspections was 232, and include hotel kitchens, restaurant kitchens, coffee shops, eating houses, fried fish shops, eel pie shops, oyster bars, ham and beef cooking, sausage making, meat chopping, etc., or any place where food is cooked or prepared for sale to the public, or intended for human consumption.

The premises added to the register during the year numbered 4, and removals 5, leaving 125 premises on the register. 9 notices were served for amendment of various defects and for cleansing, and these were complied with.

#### **Bakehouses.**

The number on the register at the end of the year 1915 was 63—55 as “workshops” and 8 as “factories.” During the year 2 bakehouses were closed and removed from the register.

The number of Underground premises in use at the end of the year was 20.

The cleansing and limewashing was regularly done in accordance with the regulations, and any defect or insanitary conditions immediately remedied on discovery. The number of inspections was 263, and in 11 cases notices were served.

No legal proceedings were necessary. The bakehouses throughout the borough are kept in a satisfactory condition.

#### **Dairies, Milkshops and Purveyors of Milk.**

These premises were kept under constant supervision during the year. The number on the register at the end of the period under report was 252. During this period 41 were added and 8 cancelled. The inspections numbered 401, 10 notices being served.

The cleansing and limewashing of these premises were carried out as hitherto, and any repairs found necessary were duly enforced. Corroded cans and measures were prohibited.

The following cases of infectious disease occurred in connection with these premises :—Diphtheria 1 case and Chicken pox 1 case.

In each instance action was taken in accordance with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, the sale of milk being prohibited until after disinfection and certification of the premises by the Medical Officer of Health.

#### **The Employment of Women.**

The present position of mixed staffs in various trades in the Borough is an unusual one, and there are several points that might with advantage be brought to the notice of traders who have not hitherto employed female assistants.

Clause 3 of the Shops Act, 1912, provides that “(1) In all rooms of a shop where female shop assistants are employed in the serving of

customers the occupier of the shop shall provide seats behind the counter or in such other position as may be suitable for the purpose, and such seats shall be in proportion of not less than one seat to every three female shop assistants employed in each room. (2) Any person failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and liable for a first offence to a fine not exceeding £3, and for a second or subsequent offence to a fine of not less than £1 and not exceeding £5." There can be no misunderstanding as to the effect of this provision, and even in the case of the employment of a single assistant a seat has to be provided behind the counter or some other suitable position. The Public Health Act lays the obligation upon employers of providing separate accommodation for each sex. This is a serious difficulty in small establishments and it has already occupied the attention of the Local Government Board. The Board have advised the local authorities that the requirements of the Act cannot be dispensed with, but they suggest that in order to obviate the incurring of serious additional expense it may be found possible to make arrangements for the free use of a convenience in a neighbouring house or of a public convenience near by. The Board has suggested to local authorities that they should instruct their officers to ascertain whether temporary arrangements of the kind indicated can be made in any case in which the difficulty is likely to arise in the borough, and so facilitate the action of any shopkeeper who has permitted his male assistants to join the army. It will be noted that traders who are in difficulty in this matter are entitled to ask the local authority for assistance, and we advise that this course should be adopted rather than any contravention of the law should be permitted.

#### **Fried Fish Shops.**

There are 30 fried fish shops in the Borough. 137 inspections were made to the same.

#### **Fish-curing Premises.**

There are 6 fish-curing premises in the Borough. 28 inspections of these premises were made.

#### **Ice Cream.**

These premises received the usual attention during the season of the year in which the business is carried on, and where necessary, cleansing, etc., were carried out.

The number of premises on the register at the end of the period under report was 143; 9 being added and 11 removed.

The number of inspections was 217; 5 notices being served.

#### **Cowsheds.**

The following are the cowsheds in the borough at present licensed by the London County Council :—

Weston, J. & Sons, 33 Octavius Street	...	25 cows.
Do. Railway Arches, Edward Street	...	17 cows.
		—
		42 cows.

The periodical cleansing and limewashing was regularly carried out in accordance with the bylaws.

Number of cowsheds in the borough	...	...	...	2
Number of cows allowed	...	...	...	42
Number of inspections for the year	...	...	...	31

#### **Slaughter Houses.**

The following are the slaughter houses in the borough at present licensed by the London County Council :—

- (1) 180 Brockley Road.
- (2) 13a High Street.

The premises were cleansed and limewashed every quarter as required by the bylaws.

Number of slaughter houses in the borough	...	...	2
Number of inspections for the year	...	...	51

#### **Offensive Businesses.**

There are still two premises in the borough of offensive businesses under the offensive trade regulations of the London County Council, viz. :—

- Messrs. When & Sons, Ltd., Copperas Street.
- Messrs. Hill & Sons, Ltd., 1 Frankham Street.

Number of inspections during the year	...	...	25
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The premises were periodically cleansed and limewashed in accordance with the regulations.

I am pleased to report that very few complaints were received in reference to these premises, and that they were well supervised.

**Table.**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD.  
PROCEEDINGS DURING 1915.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF PLACES—				Number of inspections	Number of notices	Number of proceedings
	On register at end of 1914	Added 1915	Re-moved 1915	On register at end of 1915			
Milk premises ...	219	41	8	252	401	10	..
Cowsheds ... ..	2	..	..	2	31	..	..
Slaughter-houses ...	2	..	..	2	51	..	..
Other offensive trade premises	2	..	..	2	25	..	..
Ice cream premises ...	145	9	11	143	217	5	..
Registered houses let in lodgings	289	..	..	289	578	(a) — (b) 187	..
				(a) For overcrowding.                      (b) For other conditions.			

**Table.**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD.  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TABULATION OF REPORT AS REQUIRED BY S. 131 OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.  
INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES,  
during 1915.

CLASS OF WORK.	NUMBER OF PLACES					Number of Inspections.	Number of		Number of Prosecutions.
	On Register at end of 1914.	Added 1915.	Re-moved 1915.	On Register at end of 1915.			Written Intimations.	Notices.	
				Premises.	Rooms				
Factories {	Factory Laundries ...	7			7	31			
	Factory Bakehouses ..	8			8	12	21	1	
	Other Factories ...	116	6	4	118	225	71	16	4
Workshops {	Workshop Laundries	8		1	7	27			
	Workshop Bakehouses	57		2	55	58	242	9	1
	Other Workshops ...	186	13	9	190	276	75	7	3
Workplaces {	Places where Food is prepared for Sale	126	4	5	125	245	232	8	1
	Workplaces other than the above ... ..	71	3	4	70	76	28	5	2
Home-workers' Premises ..	750	72	55	767	812	151	3	2	
Total ... ..	1329	98	80	1347	1762	820	49	13	1

**Table.**

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DEPTFORD

This Table is by request of the Secretary of State.

*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year 1915.*ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901,  
IN CONNECTION WITH**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES,  
AND HOMEWORK.**

## 1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR  
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	92	21	1
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	317	20	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	260	16	
Total ... ..	669	57	1

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Act.</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	239	238		
Want of Ventilation ... ..	2	2		
Overcrowding ... ..	1	1		
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	104	100		
Other Nuisances ... ..				
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient ... ..	2			
{ Unsuitable or defective	42	40		
{ Not Separate for Sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act.</i>				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..				
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)... ..				
Other Offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total ... ..	390	381		

Table—continued.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF W	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107									OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110		
	Lists received from Employers.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	Prosecutions.			Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110)		
	Twice in the year.			Once in the year.				Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.	Instances.				Prosecutions.	
	Lists.	Out-workers.		Lists.	Out-workers.										
2	Con-tractors.	Work-men.	5	Con-tractors.	Work-men.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Wearing Apparel—															
(1) making, &c. . . . .	68	17	392	5	..	32	77	..	..	..	..	..	18		
(2) cleaning and washing															
Household linen . . . . .															
Lace, lace curtains and nets . .															
Curtains and furniture hangings															
Furniture and Upholstery . . .	2	..	4	..	..	..	2								
Electro Plate . . . . .															
File making . . . . .															
Brass and brass articles . . . .															
Fur pulling . . . . .															
Cables and Chains . . . . .															
Anchors and Grapnels . . . . .															
Cart Gear . . . . .															
Locks, Latches and Keys . . . .															
Umbrellas, &c. . . . .															
Artificial flowers . . . . .															
Nets, other than wire nets . . . .															
Tents . . . . .															
Sacks . . . . .															
Racquet and tennis balls . . . .															
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags															
Brush making . . . . .															
Pea picking . . . . .															
Feather sorting . . . . .															
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.															
Stuffed Toys . . . . .															
Basket making . . . . .															
Chocolates and Sweetmeats . . .															
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers,															
Christmas Stockings, etc. . .															
Textile Weaving . . . . .															
TOTAL . . . . .	70	17	396	5		32	79						18		

**Table**—*continued.*

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (s. 131) at the end of year.	Number.
Bakehouses ... ..	55
Dressmaking ... ..	64
Laundries ... ..	7
Millinery ... ..	12
Shirtmaking ... ..	2
Tailoring ... ..	18
Wheelwrights (Smiths, &c.) ... ..	17
Others ... ..	77
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	252

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133, 1901) ... ..	12
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Act (s. 5, 1901) {	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ... ..	6
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ... ..	6
Other ... ..	6
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year ... ..	6
In use at the end of the year ... ..	20



### Canal Boats.

For the year ended 31st December, 1915, the report of Inspector Turner, respecting the inspection of registered canal boats and non-registered canal boats, was as follows:—

During the year 26 visits for the purposes of inspection have been made on the following dates, viz., January 6th, February 10th, March 3rd and 8th, April 1st, 19th and 29th, May 10th, 21st and 26th, June 25th, July 9th, 20th, 29th and 30th, August 9th, 13th, 16th and 24th, September 1st, 9th, 15th and 17th, October 7th, 18th and 25th.

Boats were inspected on 17 occasions as follows:—January 6th, March 3rd, March 8th (two boats), May 26th, June 25th (two boats), July 9th, July 20th (two boats), July 30th, August 9th, August 13th (two boats), August 16th, August 24th (two boats), September 1st (three boats), September 9th (two boats), September 15th (four boats), October 7th and October 18th.

Number of visits	...	...	...	26
Boats inspected	...	...	...	28

#### *Infringements.*

The following matters calling for attention were found:—

January 6th—Boat "Clent" 996, Registered at Wolverhampton. No pump on board. Pump provided on service of notice, and certified.

September 1st—Boat "Paris" 965, Registered at Wolverhampton. Register not produced. Notice served. Register papers provided and certified.

September 1st—Boat "Warwick" 917, Registered at Wolverhampton. Register not produced. Notice served. Register papers provided and certified.

#### *Children on Boats.*

During the year children of school age were found on eight boats. In each case information was forwarded to the local education authority for their attention.

#### *General.*

No cases of sickness were found on the boats during the year.

This Borough is not a Registration Authority under the Canal Boats Acts.

The arrangements for the inspection of the boats are—Periodical inspection by a Sanitary Inspector duly appointed an inspector under the Canal Boats Acts, jointly with other duties as Inspector of Workshops, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, etc., etc.

### Legal Proceedings.

A summary of the cases heard at the Police Court follows this. Happily only a very small proportion of the matters dealt with by the Department lead to summonses. The bulk of the nuisances and defects coming to the knowledge of the Department are remedied after service of a written intimation.

The fines and costs imposed last year amounted to £50 6s. 0d., and the amounts during the past four years are shown below.

#### FINES AND COSTS.

	"Health" Cases.			"Adulteration" Cases.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1915 ...	15	1	0	35	5	0	50	6	0
1914 ...	10	0	0	77	3	6	87	3	6
1913 ...	3	4	0	20	17	0	24	1	0
1912 ...	5	19	6	25	12	0	31	11	6

### Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The total number of samples purchased during the year and examined by the Public Analyst was 511.

The following is a list of the articles purchased, with the results of the analyses.

Article.	Number Genuine.	Number Adulterated.	Total.	Percentage of Adulteration.
Arrowroot .. ..	1	..	1	..
Baking Powder .. ..	3	..	3	..
Barley, pearl .. ..	1	..	1	..
Beef, pressed .. ..	..	1	1	100
Beef, spiced .. ..	1	..	1	..
Brawn .. ..	1	1	2	50
Butter .. ..	82	5	87	5·7
Cocoa .. ..	14	..	14	..
Camphorated oil .. ..	1	..	1	..
Coffee .. ..	4	1	5	20
Coffee essence .. ..	1	..	1	..
Cream, preserved .. ..	2	..	2	..
Cheese .. ..	1	..	1	..
Dripping .. ..	2	1	3	33·3
Ginger, Ground .. ..	4	..	4	..
Honey .. ..	1	..	1	..
Jelly, table .. ..	2	..	2	..
Lard .. ..	5	..	5	..
Margarine .. ..	3	..	3	..
Milk .. ..	298	28	326	8·6
.. Separated .. ..	10	4	14	28·6
Mustard .. ..	7	..	7	..
Olive Oil .. ..	2	..	2	..
Pepper .. ..	16	..	16	..
Sausages .. ..	1	2	3	66·6
Tartar, cream of .. ..	1	..	1	..
Vinegar .. ..	4	..	4	..
Total .. ..	468	43	511	8·4

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO SAMPLES PURCHASED  
DURING THE YEAR.

Sample No.	Article.	Particulars of Adulteration or Infringement.	Fine.		Costs.		Remarks.
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
7 P	Butter ..	Foreign fats 75·8 per cent. .. (A sample of Margarine)	4	0 0	1	2 0	
10 SY	.. ..	Foreign fats 77·2 per cent. .. (A sample of Margarine)	3	0 0	1	2 0	
3 A	Milk ..	14 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved
3 H	.. ..	5 per cent. added water ..	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved
1 K	.. ..	8 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved
8 K	.. ..	6 per cent. milk fat abstracted and 1 per cent. added water	—	—	1	2 0	Summons withdrawn on payment of costs
12 K	.. ..	2 per cent. added water ..	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved
13 K	.. ..	2 .. ..	—	—	—	—	Vendor cautioned
11 P	.. ..	1 .. ..	—	—	—	—	do.
13 S	.. ..	8 per cent. milk fat abstracted	1	1 0	—	—	
14 S	.. ..	9 per cent. added water ..	1	1 0	—	—	
17 S	.. ..	2 .. ..	0	10 6	—	—	
3 SY	.. ..	3 .. ..	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved
12 T	.. ..	1 .. ..	—	—	—	—	Vendor cautioned
17 SY	Separated Milk	26 .. ..	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Defendant proved he was not the owner of the milk
4 T	Sausages	Boric acid 9·9 grains per lb.	—	—	—	—	Vendor cautioned
6 T	.. ..	Boric acid 9·5 grains per lb.	—	—	—	—	do.
—	Butter ..	Foreign fats 77·4 per cent. .. (A sample of Margarine)	—	—	—	—	Informal sample
10 S	Pressed Beef	Boric acid 8·1 grains per lb.	—	—	—	—	Vendor cautioned
7 T	Brawn ..	Boric acid 3·6 grains per lb.	—	—	—	—	do.
36 H	Butter ..	Foreign fats 42·9 per cent. ..	4	5 0	0	15 0	
25 P	Coffee ..	Chicory 40 per cent. ..	4	0 0	1	0 0	
31 A	Milk ..	9 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved
25 H	.. ..	4 .. ..	0	3 6	1	1 0	
30 H	.. ..	13 per cent. milk fat abstracted and 5 per cent. added water	1	10 0	0	10 0	Warranty unsuccessful fully pleaded
24 K	.. ..	2 per cent. added water ..	—	—	—	—	Vendor cautioned
37 P	.. ..	8 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—	—	—	—	Sample sour when received by Analyst Vendor cautioned
25 SY	.. ..	4 per cent. milk fat abstracted and 2 per cent. added water	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed Warranty proved

Sample No.	Article.	Particulars of Adulteration or Infringement.	Fine.			Costs.			Remarks.
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
18 T	Butter ..	6 per cent. of added water ..	0	11	0	0	10	0	Sample taken in course of delivery.
21 T	.. ..	4 per cent. milk fat abstracted	0	11	0	0	10	0	Warranty unsuccessfully pleaded.
47 T	Dripping ..	2 per cent. water .. ..	—			—			Vendor cautioned.
55 P	Milk ..	10 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—			—			Summons dismissed
58 S	.. ..	An artificially prepared 'milk' containing fat 2·94 per cent., solids, not fat 8·84 per cent., the solid ingredients did not possess the character of milk solids. Deficiency in fat 2 per cent.	—			—			Warranty proved Informal sample
49 T	.. ..	4 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—			—			Summons dismissed.
53 T	.. ..	11 .. ..	—			—			Warranty proved do.
5	Butter ..	Water 1 per cent. in excess of legal maximum. Boric acid 0·20 per cent.	—			—			Vendor cautioned
71 H	Milk ..	3 per cent. milk fat abstracted	—			—			Summons dismissed
69 S	.. ..	1 .. ..	—			—			Warranty proved Vendor cautioned
73 S	.. ..	3 per cent. added water ..	—			—			do.
56 SY	.. ..	90 per cent. milk fat abstracted	1	0	0	0	10	0	or 21 days' imprisonment
50 H	Separated Milk	Boric acid 0·16 grains per pint	—			—			Vendor cautioned
69 H	.. ..	5 per cent. added water ..	1	0	0	0	10	0	
73 K	.. ..	2 .. ..	—			—			do.
—	Milk ..	Obstruction of inspector ..	4	0	0	—			or 28 days' imprisonment

## SUMMARY.

Fines .. .. .	£26	13	0
Costs .. .. .	8	12	0
Total .. .. .	<u>£35</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

**The Board of Agriculture and Milk Prosecutions.**

The Board have recently sent a circular to local authorities suggesting "that before proceedings are instituted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts on analytical evidence in respect of the sale of a sample of milk, there should be a preliminary investigation by an officer of the local authority, or that the milk producer should be given an opportunity of making any explanation or representation which he may desire to offer," this suggestion is not of recent origin, as suggestions similar to

those embodied in the Board's communication were conveyed in circular letters issued by the Board on 28th December, 1901, and 27th March, 1905. Apart from the inconvenience which must occasionally be caused owing to the time limit of 28 days imposed by the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, it would be unfair to impose upon local authorities the duty of conducting a preliminary judicial investigation in every case of milk adulteration, and any suggestion having this end in view must reflect upon the soundness of the basis upon which the Sale of Milk Regulations rest. Moreover, each case in which legal proceedings were eventually instituted would, under the suggested regime, be carried to the court prejudiced, the local authority having been allotted the double role of judge and prosecutor. The Board of Agriculture have had their attention drawn to the Board's circular letter of 1901, in which it was stated that "the limits below which a presumption is raised that the milk is not genuine were necessarily fixed at figures lower than those which are usually afforded by genuine milk," and further that "the evidence given before the Milk Regulations Committee tended to show that the practice of fraudulently mixing separated milk with new milk has become increasingly prevalent," a statement which makes the Board's suggestion still more inexplicable.

In addition to this it may be said that the present standard is below that of milk from an average normal, healthy herd of cows. On account of the use of milk for the feeding of infants, children and invalids, it is most important that no milk below this standard should be allowed to be sold for human consumption, especially as, even in milk containing 3 per cent. of milk fat as required by the regulations, the amount of fat is insufficient for the proper nourishment of infants. The physiological estimate of fat in cow's milk is 4.5 per cent., and the average quality of 545 samples taken in four years in one borough was 3.6 per cent., notwithstanding that this included 43 adulterated samples. Moreover, it has been pointed out to the Board that on account of the war the employment of married women has very largely increased, and therefore, the number of artificially fed children will tend largely to increase, and, in addition, there has been an enormous increase in the number of sick and wounded for whose dietary milk is largely used. If the Board's suggestions are generally adopted, milk producers, especially in view of the higher prices of food stuff for cattle, will tend to feed their cattle even less well than formerly, and the result will be a large number of cows producing poor milk, and an increase of tuberculosis amongst cows. For the benefit of the uninitiated it may be said that milk may be adulterated or injuriously affected:—

- (1) By the addition of water, thereby reducing the percentage of all valuable ingredients. (2) By skimming or removing cream, wholly or in part, thereby abstracting one of the most valuable constituents, the butter-fat. (3) By both skimming and watering, which is a double fraud. (4) By milking of cows too close to, or too soon after calving, thereby making the milk unwholesome. (5) By drawing milk from cows which have been fed upon improper or unwholesome food. (6) By using milk from cows which are kept under insanitary conditions. (7) If milk is produced under insanitary conditions, either by unclean hands, in milking from manure bespattered udders, or collected, kept, held, or shipped in unclean receptacles, or if not properly cooled after milking, or if not kept at a proper temperature, thus causing an unusually large number of bacteria to be developed. (8) If milk is drawn from cows which are not in a healthy condition, but suffer from diseases, such as tuberculosis, foot-and-mouth disease, actinomycosis, etc. (9) By irregular milking.

#### Unsound Food.

The following quantities of food were, upon examination by officers of the Public Health Department, found to be unsound, unwholesome, and unfit for the food of man, and were destroyed:—

Inspector.	Description of Food.	Remarks.
Mr. Snowdon ..	1 trunk of Haddock ..	Voluntarily surrendered.
.. ..	5 bags of Potatoes ..	.. ..
.. Priest ..	1 box of Kippers ..	.. ..
.. ..	1 box of Mackerel ..	.. ..
.. Turner ..	3 tons of Corned Beef in tins	(By Military Authorities.)

#### Legal Proceedings.

Feb. 18th, 1915. H. F. Green, 63 Pepys Road.

(a) W.C. pan and trap fixed without notice.

*Fined 10s. and 2s. costs.*

(b) Pan and trap improperly fixed.

*Fined 10s. and 2s. costs.*

Feb. 18th, 1915. T. Wilmot, 57 Rodney Road, Walworth.  
W.C. pan and trap fixed without notice at 35 Pepys Road.

*Fined 10s. and 2s. costs.*

Feb. 18th, 1915. F. Fothergill, 38 Rockbourne Road, Forest Hill. Defective drains at 173 New Cross Road.

*Fined £5 and 2s. costs.*

Feb. 18th, 1915. H. J. Ley, 75 Brockley Road. No water to bakehouse premises.

*Fined £3 and 2s. costs.*

Feb. 25th, 1915. J. G. Saxton, 401 Queen's Road. Neglecting to abate nuisance at 31 Kitto Road.

*Necessary works carried out before hearing of summons.*

*Fined the costs, 2s.*

Feb. 25th, 1915. R. Soper & Son, Tanner's Hill. Neglecting to abate nuisance at 125 Arica Road.

*Necessary works carried out before hearing of summons.*

*Summons withdrawn on payment of the costs, 2s.*

April 15th, 1915. Wiltshire & Co., Lewisham. Drain at 86 New Cross Road, opened up and closed without notice.

*Summons withdrawn upon payment of 2s. costs.*

July 22nd, 1915. Premier Fish Meal Co., Ltd., 28 Monument Street, E.C.

(a) Removal of offensive matter during prohibited hours.

*Fined 20s. and 10s. costs.*

William Andrews (Carman).

*Fined 8s. and 2s. costs, or 7 days' imprisonment.*

(b) Removing offensive matter in unsuitable receptacle.

William Andrews (Carman).

*Fined 13s. and 2s. costs.*

The summons against the Firm on this second charge was dismissed as it was proved that the carman had not exercised due diligence in selecting sound receptacles for this purpose.

Nov. 30th, 1915. Thomas Selby, 124 Camberwell Road. Non-registration as purveyor of milk.

*Fined 40s. or 10 days' imprisonment.*

#### **Public Health Administration and Legislation.**

Among the more important legal enactments which have come into force during the year may be mentioned the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1915. Machinery is provided by these Regulations for

the closing of shell-fish layings where there is evidence to show that the shell-fish from such layings have actually caused disease, or are likely to be a source of danger to the public health. Legislation of this nature was long overdue, and it is satisfactory that the local authorities have at last obtained further powers for dealing with the matter.

The Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, was passed with the object of making universal throughout the country the system of the adoptive Act of 1907, under which early notification concerning all births is required to be given to the medical officer of health, and also to enable local authorities to make arrangements for the care of mothers, including expectant mothers, and young children. In this connexion an important circular letter on maternity and infant welfare was issued to local authorities by the Local Government Board on July 30th, indicating the scope of the work which they consider should be undertaken. The Government have agreed to provide, by means of annual grants to be distributed by the Local Government Board one-half of the cost of the whole or any part of schemes for maternity and child welfare approved by the Board, and Regulations under which grants are payable were issued on July 7th. The Local Government Board will not, however, pay grants under these Regulations in respect of expenditure on "schools for mothers," which are eligible for aid under the Regulations of the Board of Education of July 6th.

The Local Government Board regard the saving of lives of young children suffering from measles as forming an important part of child-welfare work, and to enable local authorities to adopt administrative measures with this end in view the Board made an Order, entitled "The Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Regulations, 1915," by which a system of notification of these diseases is put into force throughout England and Wales.

In February, a memorandum on cerebro-spinal fever was issued by the Local Government Board for the guidance of medical officers of health. Special emphasis was laid upon the importance of sanitary authorities making arrangements for assisting medical practitioners to obtain an immediate diagnosis in suspected cases of the disease, for isolating patients suffering from it, for disinfection, and for the supervision of contacts. In view of the difficulty connected with the accurate diagnosis of the malady, the Board expressed their willingness to undertake the examination in their pathological laboratory of cerebro-spinal fluid sent to them for this purpose. Local authorities were also



advised to make local arrangements with a competent bacteriologist for the examination of swabs taken from persons who had been in intimate contact with a patient suffering from the disease.

### **Co-operation of Civil and Military Authorities.**

It is satisfactory to know that the work done by the civil health authority under a scheme of co-operation with the military authorities has proved beneficial, and has met with the approval of the Army Council, who sent a letter to the Local Government Board dated March 25th, which was published for the information of local authorities by the Board. In this letter the opinion is expressed that "the assistance of the local public health authorities under the guidance of the Local Government Board, in the unexampled circumstances of the last eight months, has been invaluable in safeguarding the health of the forces and in preventing the spread of infectious disease to an extent which would have been otherwise impracticable.

The work in this Borough has been chiefly the supervision of military contacts with infectious disease. When it has been a soldier or sailor home on leave your Medical Officer of Health has communicated with the Commanding Officers throughout the country and has decided the date when the man may safely rejoin his regiment or ship.

In addition to the above, there has been a considerable amount of personal bathing and disinfecting of military clothing. Commanding Officers have been advised on sanitary matters connected with billets and encampments. When required, food has been inspected, and if condemned, dealt with by this department.

