

## **Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.**

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Bermondsey (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.  
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### **Publication/Creation**

[Place of publication not identified] : [publisher not identified], [1954]

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METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1953

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D. M. CONNAN, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health*



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BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY



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## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
SPA ROAD, S.E.16

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### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953

Chairman ..... Alderman E. J. GIBSON  
 Vice-Chairman ..... Councillor S. R. WEIGHTMAN, 1952/53.  
 Vice-Chairman ..... Councillor Mrs. A. M. HATCHER, 1953/54.

Alderman	A. V. Parker	Councillor	W. M. Leahy
Councillor	A. Adkins	”	Jer. Mahoney
”	Mrs. E. V. Coyle	”	J. A. Mahoney
”	T. J. Eagle	”	M. Mahoney
”	W. L. Ellis	”	Mrs. A. E. Martin
”	P. J. Geoghegan	”	F. W. McLeod
”	L. H. George	”	A. W. Meadows
”	G. J. Gillard	”	W. A. Mynott
”	G. W. Griffin	”	Miss I. C. Neighbour
”	C. R. Hand	”	J. H. Newbery
”	E. J. Hawkes	”	W. E. Nicklin
”	T. Hendy	”	P. J. Quirk
”	Mrs. M. A. Henley	”	W. H. Wardell
”	J. A. Jones		

*Ex-officio.*

Councillor Mrs. A. M. HATCHER, *J.P.*, Mayor of Bermondsey, 1952/53.

Councillor W. L. ELLIS, *J.P.*, Mayor of Bermondsey, 1953/54.

### STAFF:

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

D. M. Connan, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

#### PUBLIC ANALYST.

A. Prideaux Davson, A.R.C.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

**SANITARY INSPECTORS :**

- F. L. Richardson, Chief Sanitary Inspector.  
W. A. Campbell, Factories and Shops Inspector and Deputy  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.  
G. F. J. Toll, Wharves and Food Inspector.  
H. E. Butcher, Wharves and Food Inspector.  
W. C. Tapsfield, Wharves and Food Inspector.  
H. J. Bailey, Food and Drugs Inspector.  
A. W. Hancock, Food Inspector.  
W. A. Pilson, Drainage Inspector.  
L. T. Knott, District Inspector.  
W. F. Smith, District Inspector.  
J. L. Springett, D.P.A. (Lond.), District Inspector.  
S. R. Weightman, D.P.A.(Lond.) District Inspector.

**CLERICAL STAFF.**

- F. W. Smith, Chief Clerk  
J. A. Blake, M.B.E., G.M.  
J. W. J. Seward, A.F.C.  
H. D. White  
A. E. Gambrell  
C. H. Harris  
A. J. Kiddell  
G. A. Blake  
G. A. Hunt  
E. T. Hodgkins

**PROPAGANDA SECTION.**

Senior Technical Officer—C. F. Lumley.

**STREET AND OPEN MARKETS**

Market Collectors and Supervisors—J. A. Hart, C. E. Featherstone

**DISINFECTING AND CLEANSING STATION.**

A. Manning, Supervisor.

**INVESTIGATOR, RODENT CONTROL**

H. E. Staples



# Borough of Bermondsey.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Bermondsey.*

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Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The health of the community has remained generally good, and the details of the mortality and morbidity statistics, together with information on the varied work carried out by the Public Health Department may be found in the body of the Report.

The population of the Borough, again, shows a slight decrease in spite of the rehousing by the London County Council in their new estates of housing applicants from outside this area.

More attention is being paid to the needs of the aged, particularly those home-bound and chronic sick persons who seem to be the responsibility of neither the Hospital Services nor the Welfare Department of the London County Council. As a result of the responsibilities placed upon the Public Health Department by the Council, every effort can now be made to mitigate the sad circumstances of most elderly persons who, while needing some attention, cannot be admitted to a hospital or old people's home.

In 1953 the Borough suffered its second severe flood disaster in 25 years. Although high tide was not expected until 3.5 a.m. on the morning of the 1st February, by 2 a.m. considerable quantities of water were flowing in the Tooley Street and Rotherhithe Street areas. The flooding affected over 150 dwellings, the water entering some houses to a depth of 2 feet.

Inspection of these premises was made by the Sanitary Inspectors who took a complete inventory of the furniture and articles affected. Arrangements were made for the larger articles of furniture and bedding to be dried and cleaned in the Disinfecting Station. With the valuable assistance of the W.V.S. and B.R.C.S., clean bedding and blankets were provided.

The Department co-operated with the Mayor, the War Damage Commission, and the owners of the damaged properties, in examining claims for the replacement of damaged furniture and for the repair of damaged houses, and schedules were prepared by the staff of the losses of foodstuffs sustained by individual shopkeepers and of the damage occurring to foodstuffs lying at the wharves, including large quantities of figs, dates, rice, flour and dried egg.

Soap and soda were issued from the Department's stock to those householders whose homes were affected by the flooding.

Whilst the flooding was not so severe as that which occurred in 1928, it was nevertheless necessary to utilise the resources of the Department to the utmost. The means adopted to meet the emergency proved efficient and satisfactory.

Proposed new legislation will, if enacted, add considerably to the duties and responsibilities of the Department, and much thought is now being given to the most effective means of absorbing the additional work involved.

In conclusion, I am glad of this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to the Mayor and the Members of the Public Health Committee, and also Members of other Committees of the Council for their active interest in all matters concerned with the welfare of the Department.

I desire also to thank members of the staff for their co-operation and loyal assistance.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. M. CONNAN.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### AREA.

The area of the borough (exclusive of area covered by water) is 1,336 acres.

### POPULATION.

Census		Estimate of Registrar-General	
1931	1951	to 30th June, 1952	to 30th June, 1953
111,542	60,640	59,780	59,350

### BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the borough registered during 1953 was 994 consisting of 533 males and 461 females. The number for 1952 was 998. The birth-rate for 1953 was 16.6 per thousand persons living, compared with 16.7 for 1952.



**DEATHS.**

The total number of deaths belonging to the borough registered during 1953 was 585, consisting of 336 males and 249 females. The number for 1952 was 728. The death-rate for 1953 was 9.9 per thousand persons living, compared with 12.2 for 1952.

**MARRIAGES.**

The total number of marriages in the borough in 1953 was 520, being 4 above the number for 1952, and 56 below the average for the last 10 years.

The figures have been supplied by the Superintendent Registrar.

Year	No.	Rate
1943	458	20.16
1944	370	16.52
1945	737	31.34
1946	665	23.62
1947	684	23.17
1948	595	19.70
1949	609	20.15
1950	545	18.23
1951	582	19.28
1952	516	17.26
Average for years 1943—1952	576	20.94
1953	520	17.52



**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

Year	Whole Borough		London	
	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births
1943 .. ..	49	53	2,284	51
1944 .. ..	56	66	2,250	51
1945 .. ..	44	52	2,011	44
1946 .. ..	53	39	2,527	38
1947 .. ..	50	33	2,454	34
1948 .. ..	20	16	1,869	31
1949 .. ..	33	29	1,517	27
1950 .. ..	23	20	1,372	26
1951 .. ..	27	25	1,333	25
1952 .. ..	20	20	1,189	23
Average for years 1943-1952	37	35	1,881	35
1953 .. ..	27	27	1,216	24

**TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.**

In the following Table will be found particulars of deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System since the year 1943.

Sub-District	Bermondsey	Rotherhithe	St. Olave	Whole Borough		London	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1943.. ..	30	15	4	49	1.08	2204	0.88
1944.. ..	30	16	1	47	1.05	2073	0.84
1945.. ..	28	15	2	45	0.96	2033	0.78
1946.. ..	23	8	1	32	0.57	1940	0.62
1947.. ..	26	21	5	52	0.88	2044	0.62
1948.. ..	26	12	7	45	0.74	1900	0.57
1949.. ..	32	8	1	41	0.68	1585	0.47
1950.. ..	15	7	1	23	0.38	1225	0.36
1951.. ..	16	5	—	21	0.35	1154	0.34
1952.. ..	13	5	2	20	0.35	933	0.28
Averages for years 1943-1952 ..	24	11	2	37	0.70	1709	0.58
1953.. ..	9	3	2	14	0.24	690	0.21

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1953 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths registered in the District				Total Deaths in Hospitals in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in the District	Deaths of Residents registered beyond the District	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District			
		No.	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages					No.	Rate	No.	Rate
				No.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	No.	Rate							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1943	45,440	925	20.6	31	34	713	15.7	517	228	276	761	16.7		
1944	44,800	846	18.9	28	33	722	16.1	453	209	296	809	18.1		
1945	47,040	848	18.0	13	15	582	12.4	357	147	251	686	14.6		
1946	56,320	1,353	24.0	18	13	728	12.9	424	191	242	779	13.8		
1947	59,040	1,531	25.9	22	14	766	13.0	421	198	209	777	13.2		
1948	60,410	1,218	20.2	16	13	676	11.0	332	166	200	710	11.8		
1949	60,440	1,140	18.9	16	14	664	11.0	301	108	170	726	12.0		
1950	59,810	1,146	19.2	10	9	731	12.2	413	181	175	725	12.1		
1951	60,380	1,062	17.6	10	9	723	11.9	417	180	200	743	12.3		
1952	59,780	998	16.7	5	5	771	12.9	510	216	183	728	12.2		
Averages for years 1943-1952	55,346	1,107	20.0	17	16	708	12.9	414	182	220	744	13.7		
1953	59,350	970	16.3	28	28	664	11.2	445	214	135	585	9.9		

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1953.

Causes of Death	Deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring in or beyond the District								
	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
Tuberculosis, respiratory	12	—	—	—	—	1	11	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Syphilitic disease	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	28	—	—	—	—	1	14	5	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	25	—	—	—	—	1	13	6	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	10	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	54	—	—	1	—	8	13	17	15
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	4	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Diabetes	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	59	—	—	—	—	1	15	24	19
Coronary disease, angina	67	—	—	—	—	2	21	22	22

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1953—*continued.*

Causes of Death	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District								
	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and up- wards
Hypertension with heart disease	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
Other heart disease	55	—	—	—	—	5	5	12	33
Other circulatory disease	41	—	—	—	—	—	7	9	25
Influenza	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
Pneumonia	42	3	1	1	—	—	6	14	17
Bronchitis	58	1	—	—	—	1	13	15	28
Other diseases of respiratory system	14	—	—	—	—	—	10	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	55	18	1	—	—	6	7	8	15
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
All other accidents	8	1	—	3	—	—	2	1	1
Suicide	5	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL CERTIFIED DEATHS</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>207</b>



**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages under One Year of Age, 1953.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal Sore Throat .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis and its Sequelæ .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis and Colitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations .....	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Birth Injuries, Post-Natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis .....	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Infections of the Newborn .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy and Immaturity Unqualified .....	9	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Other Causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>17</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1953.

**Births.**

Registered—		Total	Males	Females
Live Births	{ Legitimate .. ..	934	510	424
	{ Illegitimate .. ..	36	15	21
		Total	Males	Females
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate .. ..	21	7	14
	{ Illegitimate .. ..	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				24

Notified within 36 hours of birth—

(1) Live Births, 1,001                      (2) Stillbirths, 24                      (3) Total, 1,025

					Total	Males	Females
<b>Deaths</b>	..	..	..	..	585	336	249

**Maternal Deaths.**

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Deaths from complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium .. ..	2	2.01

**Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.**

All Infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .	28.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	27.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	55.5

**Day Nurseries.**

Number of day nurseries .. .. . 4.

---

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all ages) .. .. .	120
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	1

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

---

The following diseases are notifiable :—

Acute Encephalitis	Malaria
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	Measles
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Membranous Croup
Acute Poliomyelitis	Meningococcal Infection
Anthrax	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Cholera	Plague
Continued Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia
Diphtheria	Relapsing Fever
Dysentery	*Scabies
Enteric Fever (includes Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever
Erysipelas	Small-pox
Food Poisoning	Tuberculosis
Glanders	Typhus Fever
Hydrophobia in Man	Whooping Cough
Leprosy (to be notified to Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health)	

\*A notification is not required where to the knowledge of the medical practitioner, a case of scabies has occurred in the house and has been notified within the four weeks immediately preceding the date on which he first became aware of the disease in the case he is attending.

## FOOD POISONING

Only one case of food poisoning was notified to me during the year under The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 17.

## INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AND INOCULATION

At the request of the Ministry of Health and in order to comply with the International Sanitary Regulations 61 certificates were dealt with during the year.



**DISINFECTION.**

The figures showing the work done in the disinfecting station are set out below.

Beds	.....	40	Pillows	.....	487
Blankets	.....	912	Pillows (cases)	.....	296
Bolsters	.....	18	Quilts	.....	294
„ (cases)	.....	5	Sheets	.....	597
Books	.....	518	Miscellaneous	.....	2,437
Cushions	.....	9	Verminous Clothing	.....	1,087
Overlays	.....	423			

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Number of rooms disinfected ..... 471

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Number of mattresses and other articles destroyed ..... 611  
 Furniture, Floorcloth, etc., destroyed ..... 53 Loads

**CLEANSING STATION.**

Verminous persons cleansed	.....	Adult Females	.....	33
		Adult Males	.....	153
		Children	.....	1,025

Persons treated for Scabies :—	Number treated	Number of baths given
Adult Females	4	13
Adult Males	6	16
Children, Females (School Age)	5	22
Children, Males ( „ „ )	2	5
Children, Females (Under School Age)	4	21
Children, Males ( „ „ „ )	—	—



**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED												BERMONDSEY						ROTHERHITHE				ST. OLAVE			Total Cases removed to Hospital					
	At all Ages	At Ages—Year											1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	1	2	3	Total	St. John	St. Olave		St. Thomas	Total			
		0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 & upwards																			
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas .. ..	7	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever .. ..	59	1	20	32	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	9	5	9	23	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery .. ..	25	—	12	3	1	—	1	—	3	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	8	3	1	12	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Acute Polio-Myelitis	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal) .. ..	40	2	6	3	—	—	2	1	2	7	7	10	6	13	9	1	—	2	31	4	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough ..	124	13	67	40	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	15	6	13	10	22	6	72	30	14	6	50	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Measles .. ..	514	24	299	187	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	42	56	74	59	44	27	302	50	65	48	163	41	7	1	49	—	—	—	13
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	72	—	—	1	1	9	13	19	4	9	12	4	6	11	10	8	7	4	46	6	6	7	19	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	—	—	4	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	1	—	1	7	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals ..</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>51</b>	

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEARS 1944-1953**

Notifiable Disease.	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Small Pox .. .. .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) .. .. .	30	31	22	34	37	65	3	2	2	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	17	14	15	12	13	7	9	9	8	7
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	108	95	82	152	199	85	72	82	87	59
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	7	—	5	3	1	—	1	6	2	1
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Acute Polio-Encephalitis .. .. .	1	2	4	27	7	4	3	2	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	3	4	10	2	5	3	—	1	2	1
Anthrax .. .. .	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .. .. .	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	6	7	8	4	5	5	4	18	19	1
Dysentery .. .. .	23	32	12	4	2	1	4	131	7	25
Malaria .. .. .	1	1	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria (Induced) .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal) .. .. .	99	66	54	52	57	43	16	28	25	40
Whooping Cough .. .. .	224	42	233	297	237	40	267	75	40	124
Measles .. .. .	345	544	521	334	899	771	367	1197	716	514
Scabies .. .. .	489	366	253	81	42	7	2	6	4	—
Tuberculosis— Respiratory System .. .. .	111	126	129	100	105	120	105	89	59	72
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	18	14	14	16	27	12	10	9	8	10
<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>857</b>

# TUBERCULOSIS.

In Table I are set out particulars of new cases and deaths during the year, and Table II shows the state of the Notification Register.

**TABLE I.**  
**TUBERCULOSIS, 1953—NEW CASES AND DEATHS.**

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .. ..	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
10 .. ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 .. ..	5	5	1	2	—	—	—	—
20 .. ..	9	10	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 .. ..	14	15	—	1	1	—	—	—
35 .. ..	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 .. ..	11	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
55 .. ..	11	3	—	—	7	1	—	—
65 .. ..	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	58	40	3	9	11	3	—	1

**TABLE II.**  
**TUBERCULOSIS, 1953—NOTIFICATION REGISTER**

	Respiratory System		Other Forms	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of Cases on Register at commencement of Year .....	334	245	39	44
Number of Cases Notified during Year.....	42	30	3	7
Inward Transfers, Un-notified Deaths, etc., during Year.....	16	10	—	2
Number of Cases Removed from the Register during Year .....	68	40	4	14
Number of Cases Remaining on the Register at end of Year .....	324	245	38	39



**Summary of Tuberculosis Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1953, to the 31st December, 1953.**

Age Periods .. ..	Formal Notifications													Total (all ages)
	Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis													
	0 to 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 and up- wards	
Pulmonary, Males .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	9	3	8	9	1	—	42
„ Females .. ..	—	—	—	1	—	4	7	10	1	1	3	3	—	30
Non-Pulmonary Males .. ..	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
„ Females .. ..	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	7

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by formal notification :—

Age Periods .. ..	0 to 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 and up- wards	Total
Pulmonary, Males .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	2	3	2	1	—	16
„ Females .. ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	10
Non-Pulmonary Males .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Females .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2

# SANITARY

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

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### HOUSING.

During the year 2 Clearance Areas were declared in Marigold Street and Cherry Garden Street.

A total of 57 flats was completed at Pynfolds, Purbrook Estate and Lynton Estate, and a further 57 flats were erected within the Borough by the London County Council.

A further 26 two year hutments were closed and accommodation for 202 families was provided in properties controlled by the Council. 381 families were accommodated by the London County Council.

14 Bermondsey families were accommodated in new towns.

### HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

The following new cases of overcrowding have been encountered during the year :—

In private dwellings	.....	16
In Bermondsey Borough Council dwellings	.....	—
In London County Council dwellings	.....	1
Total	.....	17

Total number of cases of overcrowding at present on the Register	.....	521
--	-------	-----

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

The following table shows the fumigations carried out during 1953 :—

	Infested	Disinfested
Council houses or flats .....	43	43
Other houses or flats .....	167	167

**INSPECTIONS, PROCEEDINGS, ETC.**

Hereunder will be found particulars of Inspections, Proceedings, etc., for the year 1953 :—

**INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—**

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 2,432
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ..... 20,471
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..... 47
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ..... 47
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 7
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... Nil

**REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—**

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..... 2,432

**ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—**

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil



(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	.....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied

..... 3,414

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	.....	982
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	2

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made

..... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

..... Nil

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made

..... 14

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....

..... Nil

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of prosecutions	.....	72
(2) Fines imposed	.....	£19 16 0
(3) Costs awarded	.....	£114 9 0

**REGISTERED PREMISES—**

Premises	Number on Register at end of 1953	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions
Common Lodging Houses ..	2	47	—
Seamen's Lodging Houses ..	—	—	—
Milkshops .. .. .	117	192	—
Houses let in lodgings .. ..	397	61	—
Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	180	121	—
Offensive Trades (including Poultry Slaughter-houses) .. ..	8	28	—

**SMOKE NUISANCES—**

Number of observations .....	213
Number of notices .....	6
Number of complaints .....	4
Number of summonses .....	Nil

**WATER SUPPLY TO TENEMENT HOUSES—**

Premises supplied .....	Nil
Prosecutions .....	Nil

**SALE OF FOOD—**

Number of premises used other than ice-cream premises, milk-shops and cowsheds .....	508
Number of inspections .....	1,077

**RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951 :—**

Number of premises registered .....	3
-------------------------------------	---

A sample of rag flock was sent to the Analyst for test and was found to conform to the requirements of the Regulations.

**DRAINAGE WORK.**

Particulars of work carried out by the Drainage Inspector during 1953 :—

Drains Tested .....	581
Other Visits .....	1,458
Total visits .....	2,039

**WORK OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS, 1953**

		Mr. WEIGHTMAN	Mr. KNOTT	Mr. SPRINGETT	Mr. SMITH	TOTALS
1	House-to-House	1	3	3	40	47
2	Special Inspections	669	716	504	908	2797
3	Complaints	984	963	723	750	3420
4	Infectious Diseases	173	119	99	265	656
5	Rats	53	44	84	74	255
6	Outworkers' Inspection	7	28	12	40	87
7	Drains Tested	51	25	83	54	213
8	Other Calls and Visits	3178	4195	3285	2551	13209
9	Chimneys watched	—	1	—	—	1
10	Bakehouses Houses	—	6	4	20	30
11	Common and Seamen's Lodging	—	21	1	25	47
12	Butchers	16	77	18	77	188
13	Fishmongers, Friers and Curers	2	13	7	16	38
14	Food Stores	13	81	57	85	236
15	Fruiterers and Greengrocers	—	3	5	1	9
16	Ice Cream	—	—	—	—	—
17	Markets	—	61	17	57	135
18	Restaurants and Eating Houses	—	6	2	24	32
19	Destruction of Food	18	26	36	74	154
20	TOTALS {					
	Visits	5165	6388	4940	5061	21554
	Intimation Notices	679	778	433	542	2432



**FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES.**

**HOMEWORK.**

NATURE OF WORK	Section 110			Section 111		
	Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—						
Making .....	122	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton Bags .....	16	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags .....	8	—	—	—	—	—
The making of Boxes or other Receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper .....	14	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Publishers .....	6	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial Flowers .....	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carding of Buttons, etc. ....	14	—	—	—	—	—
Christmas Crackers .....	2	—	—	—	—	—
Fancy Goods .....	14	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	200	—	—	—	—	—

**FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES.  
INSPECTION.**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) <b>Factories</b> in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	410	506	7	—
(ii) <b>Factories</b> not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	509	2073	5	—
(iii) <b>Other Premises</b> in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	8	35	—	—
<b>Total</b> .....	927	2614	12	—

**DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—					
Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	—	4	—
Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .....	—	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work)					
<b>Total</b> .....	5	5	—	4	—

**BAKEHOUSES.**

In Use		Not in Use	
Underground	Above ground	Above ground	Underground
1	28	—	—

29 of these are Factory Bakehouses

**HOUSE, TRADE AND MARKET REFUSE.**

The following table shows the amount of house, trade and market refuse disposed of during 1953 :—

Disposal	Loads	tons	cwts.	qrs.
House Refuse to Barge .....	9,334	15,428	6	—
Trade Refuse to Barge .....	3,599	5,910	17	—
Street Markets Refuse to Barge	320	369	4	—
Open Markets Refuse to Barge	159	187	16	—
Totals .....	13,412	21,896	3	—

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The offensive trades on the Register are as follows :—

Fellmongers .....	3	Dresser of Fur Skins .....	4
Glue and size makers .....	1		

**MORTUARY.**

The Public Health (London) Act, 1936, Section 234, requires the Borough Council to provide a proper place for the reception of dead bodies before interment. The Regional Hospital Board acts as agent for the Borough Council in this matter and receives into the mortuary at St. Olave's Hospital those bodies for which it is the duty of the Borough Council to provide. A fee of one guinea per body is paid by the Borough Council for this service.

Number of infectious bodies removed .....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Total number of bodies removed .....	.....	.....	.....	22

**BURIAL OF THE DEAD**

It is the duty of the Borough Council under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the Borough in any case where no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made.

The number of burials of such bodies arranged during the year was 14.



**CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS**

Inspections	.....	.....	.....	576
Notices served	.....	.....	.....	44
Re-visits	.....	.....	.....	211

During the year 9 lectures with film shows were given to managements and staff of catering establishments ; the total number attending was 171.

**WORK OF THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS INSPECTOR.****Shops.**

Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87
Notices served under Shops Act, 1934	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Notices served under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

**Factories (with mechanical power).**

Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	304
Notices under Factories Act, 1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

**Factories (without mechanical power).**

Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78
Notices under Factories Act, 1937	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

**Workplaces.**

Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Visits to Offensive Trade premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Smoke observations	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	212
Visits to Conveniences and Urinals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	745
Other calls and visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	673

## RODENT CONTROL

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property			Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authorities District .. .. .	33	17,135	1,874	19,042
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result of (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) 9	299	96	404
	(b) 7	5	309	321
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major —	—	73	73
	Minor 11	230	170	411
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	1	70	47	118
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.. .. .	12	300	198	510
VI. Number of Notices served under Section 4 :—				
1. Treatment .. .. .	—	—	—	—
2. Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of Notice under Section 4.. .. .	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings .. .. .	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of " block " control schemes carried out .. .. .				8

**STREET AND OPEN MARKETS**

Number of licences in operation during 1953 :—

Street markets .....	.....	.....	.....	118
Open markets .....	.....	.....	.....	263
				<hr/>
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	381
				<hr/> <hr/>

Income for 1953 :—			£	s.	d.
Street markets .....	.....	.....	1,436	15	9
Open markets .....	.....	.....	4,647	13	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total .....	.....	.....	£6,084	9	3
			<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Number of prosecutions during 1953 ..... Nil

**London Bridge Area**

In my Annual Report for 1952 I reported the designation of a part of Railway Approach for the sale of fruit and flowers, and I am pleased to say that the small market now established there has been successful and trouble-free throughout the year. This designation seems to have served the very useful purpose of eliminating from this area the host of unlicensed traders who used to frequent it, and has incidentally saved the staff and the police considerable trouble and the Council considerable expenditure in connection with the many prosecutions that had to be instituted against these traders for street trading offences.



# FOOD CONTROL.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937/48.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Sixty-one samples were taken during the year by the Wharves Inspectors.

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Almonds, Ground	1	To ascertain composition	Satisfactory	Released
Apricots, Dried	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Bacon Rinds, Fried	1	To ascertain condition	"	"
Cranberry Preserve	1	To ascertain composition	Soluble Solids 46% instead of not less than 65%	Importers warned. Labels amended
Crab, Canned Dressed	1	For presence of metals and preservatives	Satisfactory	Released
Cream, Dutch Sterilised	1	For fat content	"	"
Cream, Thick	1	" "	Butter Fat 21.75% as compared with 24% stated on label	Released with warning to importers
Cream, Tinned	4	" "	Satisfactory	Released
Frankfurts, Cocktail	1	To ascertain composition	Contained starch which was not stated on label	Letter to importers
Gelatine, Edible	4	For presence of Arsenic	Satisfactory	Released
Gherkins	1	For presence of preservatives	Sulphur Dioxide 28 parts per million	Released with warning to importers

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Honey	1	To ascertain composition	Satisfactory	Released
Jam, Apple	1	To ascertain composition	"	"
Jelly Crystals	1	" "	"	"
Jelly Crystals	3	" "	Failed to set	Warning to importers. Bulked for use by confectioners only
Luncheon Meat Roll, Canned	1	" "	Satisfactory	Released
Meat Balls, Canned	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Milk, Tinned	2	To ascertain composition	"	"
Mussels, Smoked in Olive Oil	1	To ascertain composition and presence of preservatives	"	"
Mustard, French	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
German	2	" "	"	"
" "	1	" "	Benzoic Acid 180 parts per million not declared	Detained for correct labelling and released
Prunes, Yugoslavian	1	For presence of silecious matter	Satisfactory	Released
Raspberry Juice	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Raspberry Pulp	1	" "	"	"
Salami Sausage	2	" "	"	"
Sardines, Portuguese	7	For metallic contamination	"	"
Sausage, Fresh Loin	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Sausages, Canned S. African Pork	1	To ascertain composition	Meat content 77.5% as compared with minimum Pork content of 85% as stated on label	Released with warning to importers

Article Examined	No of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Sausages, Canned S. African Pork	1	To ascertain composition	Meat con- 74.6% as compared with minimum Pork content of 85% as stated on label	Released with warning to importers
Sausages, Frankfurter	1	To ascertain composition and for presence of preservatives	Satisfactory	Released
Strawberry Pulp	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Tomato Paste, Italian	4	For metallic contamination	"	"
Tomato Powder, Italian	1	" "	"	"
Tomatoes, Italian	2	" "	"	"
Tomato Soup Mix	2	To ascertain composition and for presence of metals	"	"
Tomato Puree	1	For metallic contamination	"	"
Veal, Canned Jellied	1	To ascertain composition	"	"
Vegetables, dehydrated	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"



**SECTION 14, FOOD & DRUGS ACT AND DAIRIES**

						<i>Inspections</i>
Ice Cream Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	169	121
Preserved Food, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	79	226
Dairies	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	24

**DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD**

Condemned food suitable for animal feeding is disposed of for this purpose under supervision.

Condemned food for destruction is collected by Council's van and barged with household refuse.

**FOOD PREMISES AND TYPES OF BUSINESS**

Restaurants, cafes and snack bars	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	116
Factory Canteens	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	111
Groceries and Provisions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	70
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
Bakers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
Public Houses :—						
(a) Selling food	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	114
(b) Not selling food	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
Food Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	178
Wholesale Food Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115
Food Wharves and Depots	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53

### UNSOOUND FOOD.

The general inspection of food in shops and on stalls forms part of the duty of the District Sanitary Inspectors. Food, in the quantities stated, came under the notice of the Inspectors during the year, and being found unfit for human consumption was destroyed or disposed of for purposes other than human food.

Description of Food	Weight			
	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat .....	—	8	—	4
Meat, Canned .....	—	10	3	8
Bacon .....	—	4	—	17
Fish .....	—	2	—	15
Fruit .....	—	2	—	—
Fruit, Canned .....	—	9	3	4
Vegetables, Canned.....	—	1	—	14
Various .....	—	4	—	18
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24</b>

### PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933 AND PHARMACY AND MEDICINES ACT, 1941.

Sixty-five premises were entered on the Council's list for the year under report.

As a result of samples being purchased, it was found that one contravention of the Act occurred, poisons being sold wrongly by unlisted vendor. Warning was given in this case.

### MILK PREMISES.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938/50.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Ten milk sellers were registered under the above Acts during 1953, and 7 were removed from the Register. There were 113 milk sellers on the Register at the end of the year.

**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.****MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED) REGULATIONS, 1949.**

During the year under report the following licences were granted :—

**Dealers' Licences.**

To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
To sell Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	74
To sell Sterilised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	108

**Supplementary Licences.**

To sell Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
To sell Sterilised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	20

All premises used for the sale of milk are regularly inspected to ensure that the standard of cleanliness laid down is maintained.

**MILK SAMPLING.**

Samples of milk, both for bacteriological and chemical examination, are taken from milksellers, and special arrangements are made for the sampling of the milk supplied to all schools in the borough. The total number of samples submitted for analysis during 1953 was 532, of which number 180 were taken from schools, hospitals, etc.

**For Chemical (i.e., Fat and non-Fatty Solids) Analysis.**

Condensed Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Sterilised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	180
Tuberculin Tested Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Channel Islands Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
South Devon Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
					<u>300</u>

**For Bacteriological Examination.**

For tubercle bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
For brucella abortus	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
					<u>6</u>

**For Examination under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations**

Pasteurised Milk (from schools, hospitals, etc.)	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
Pasteurised Milk (other than from schools)	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
Tuberculin Tested Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Sterilised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
					<u>226</u>



**ICE CREAM.**

samples of ice cream have been examined, with the following results :—

**1. Bacterial Count.**

Up to 500 per 1 c.c. ....	5
Over 500 to 1,000 per c.c. ....	3
Over 1,000 to 5,000 per 1 c.c. ....	26
Over 5,000 to 10,000 per 1 c.c. ....	17
Over 10,000 to 50,000 per 1 c.c. ....	21
Over 50,000 to 100,000 per 1 c.c. ....	1
Over 100,000 to 200,000 per 1 c.c. ....	4
Over 200,000 to 400,000 per 1 c.c. ....	3
Over 400,000 to 600,000 per 1 c.c. ....	—
Over 600,000 to 1,000,000 per 1 c.c. ....	1
Over 1,000,000 per 1 c.c. ....	1
	<hr/>
	82

**2. Presence of B. Coll.**

B. Coli absent in 1 c.c., 1 10th c.c. and 1 100th c.c. ....	77
B. Coli present in 1 c.c. and 1 10th c.c. and 1 100th c.c. ....	1
B. Coli present in 1 c.c. and 1 10th c.c. ....	2
B. Coli present in 1 c.c. ....	2
	<hr/>
	82

**3. Methylene Blue Grading.**

Grade 1 ....	45
2 ....	18
3 ....	7
4 ....	12
	<hr/>
	82

**4. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.**

Twenty-three samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis under the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951. Twenty-two samples were satisfactory and one was not of the standard laid down by the Order.

**ICE LOLLIES**

Twelve samples of ice lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory.

**FOOD AND DRUGS.**

During the year 900 samples were submitted by the Food and Drugs Inspector. In 27 cases the analysis disclosed an infringement of the law.

No.	Date purchased	Sample	Infringement	Remarks
559	12.2.53	Children's Cough Mixture	Not labelled with the appropriate quantitative particulars of constituents or ingredients	Letter to dispenser
786	23.4.53	Dripping	Contained 5.5% of Free Fatty Acid instead of not more than 1.5%	Letter to manufacturer
940	26.5.53	Sparkle Fizz	No evidence of bicarbonate or carbonate such as would cause effervescence with the Tartaric Acid present when mixed with water	Letter to manufacturer
153	31.7.53	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine B.P.	Stated to be of B.P. quality although it is not included in the present British Pharmacopœa	Letter to dispenser
155	31.7.53	Syrup of Figs B.P.C.	No Syrup of Figs in current B.P.C. (1949) but only a Compound Syrup of Figs containing other active ingredients besides Figs. This is a sample of Compound Syrup of Figs and should be labelled as such	Letter to dispenser
167	7.8.53	Pasteurised Milk	Slightly deficient in Milk Solids other than Milk Fat	Letter to Wholesaler
243	31.8.53	Pasteurised Milk (Informal)	Contained 14.1% of added water	} Prosecution. £5 fine and £10 10s. costs on each of two summonses
285	16.9.53	Milk	Contained 14.5% of added water and was 3.3% deficient in fat	
286	16.9.53	Milk	Contained 13.7% of added water and was 4.3% deficient in fat.	
279	14.9.53	Ice Cream	Slightly deficient in all constituents	Warning to manufacturer
282	15.9.53	Non brewed condiment	Contained 3.8% of Acetic Acid instead of at least 4%	Letter to Wholesaler
287	16.9.53	Milk (informal)	Contained 19.7% of added water and was 12% deficient in fat	To be re-sampled when circumstances permit



No.	Date purchased	Sample	Infringement	Remarks
305	17.9.53	Spirit of Sal Volatile	Deficient in Ammonium Carbonate	} Prosecution against retailer dismissed.
345	28.9.53	Spirit of Sal Volatile	Deficient in Ammonium Carbonate and contained excess of Free Ammonia	
359	2.10.53	Non-brewed condiment	Contained 3.8% of Acetic Acid instead of at least 4%	Letter to Wholesaler
386	12.10.53	Buttered Almond	Contained 7% of fatty matter but no evidence of butter fat	Letter to manufacturer
392	14.10.53	Crunch Beef Dripping	Contained 8% of Free Fatty Acid. No official limit for Free Fatty Acid but under Oil and Fats Order (No. 2) 1949, now revoked, limit was 1.5%	Letter to manufacturer
409	20.10.53	Sal Volatile	Deficient in Ammonium Carbonate containing only 1.1% instead of 3%. Excess of Free Ammonia was present	} Letter to retailer as sample was mixture of two manufacturers
430	27.10.53	Sal Volatile	Deficient in Ammonium Carbonate containing only 0.82% instead of 3%. Excess of Free Ammonia was present	
495	13.1.53	Dripping	Contained 29.9% of Free Fatty Acid	Prosecution. £2 fine and £3 3s. costs
552	30.11.53	Mincemeat	Dried Fruit 25% instead of 30% and soluble solids not quite up to minimum of 65%	Re-sampled see No. 591
591	9.12.53	Mincemeat	Somewhat deficient in dried fruit and soluble solids	Letter to manufacturer
554	1.12.53	Dripping	Contained 10.3% of Free Fatty Acid	Letter to manufacturer
557	1.12.53	Dripping	Contained 7% of Free Fatty Acid	Letter to manufacturer
592	10.12.53	Fat	Extracted Fat contained 3.1% of Free Fatty Acid	} Letter to manufacturer
593	10.12.53	Dripping	Contained 3.6% of Free Fatty Acid	
621	17.12.53	Saveloys	Had a sour, stale flavour. Either the saveloys themselves or the ingredients from which they were prepared were not fresh	Letter to manufacturer





## PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1937/48—continued.

	Disposed of for purposes other than human food				Destroyed				Removed for sorting under Sanitary Authority				Re-exported			
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.
Nuts .....	51	7	2	11	5	16	1	1	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oats .....	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offals .....	4	17	1	—	2	7	—	—	3	—	3	12	—	—	—	—
Onions .....	—	—	—	—	16	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pastry Mix .....	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pepper .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	1	—	25	—	—	—	—
Peas .....	41	—	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poultry .....	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prawns .....	—	—	—	—	19	19	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preserves .....	—	1	1	16	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Protein Extract .....	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puddings, Xmas .....	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rabbits .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rice .....	69	2	2	2	—	2	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye .....	—	12	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sago .....	—	12	2	27	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Soups .....	—	—	—	—	5	18	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spaghetti .....	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar .....	—	3	3	14	—	—	1	14	—	2	—	5	—	—	—	—
Tapioca .....	1	13	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tea .....	2	6	3	14	—	5	—	13	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	—
Tomatoes, Canned .....	—	—	—	—	3	15	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomato, Juice .....	—	—	—	—	2	8	3	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Puree .....	—	—	—	—	45	12	2	12	22	18	—	20	—	—	—	—
Various .....	49	17	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables .....	—	6	—	—	1	11	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Canned .....	—	—	3	20	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whalemeat .....	36	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>



**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**

Legal proceedings taken as result of complaints made by members of the public.

Date	Offence	Result
13.3.53	Selling sausage containing string	Fine £3 0s. 0d. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
14.3.53	Selling sausage containing string	Fine £3 0s. 0d. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
6.5.53	Selling loaf containing part of razor blade	Fine £5 0s. 0d. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
15.5.53	Selling loaf containing piece of bandage	Absolute discharge. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
24.8.53	Selling Apple Tart interior of which was covered with a black mould	Fine £3 0s. 0d. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
19.10.53	Selling Meat Pie the surface of which was covered with a green mould	Fine £3 0s. 0d. Costs £5 5s. 0d.

Seven warning letters were sent to manufacturers in respect of other articles of food complained of by members of the public.

During the night of 31st January/1st February, owing to high tides, the Thames overflowed and wharves and warehouses along the riverside were flooded. The amounts of foodstuffs affected by flood water were :—

	T	C	Q	L
Beans	160	5	—	—
Cereals, etc.	290	4	—	—
Confectionery and Fondant	63	3	2	—
Cooking Fat	33	9	—	—
Dried Fruit	94	—	—	—
Sugar	29	14	—	—
Tea	93	1	3	14
Various Foodstuffs	40	8	—	—
Cheeses	1,353 Cheeses			
Dried Egg	380 Barrels			
Eggs	705 Cases			

A considerable amount of these foodstuffs was salvaged under the supervision of the Wharves and Food Inspectors and the remainder either destroyed or disposed of for animal feeding purposes.



## WORK OF THE WHARVES AND FOOD INSPECTORS, 1953

VISITS		Mr. TOLL	Mr. BUTCHER	Mr. TAPSFIELD	Mr. BAILEY	Mr. HANCOCK	TOTALS		
1	Food Wharves and Depots	1454	1852	1424	343	—	5073		
2	Food Factories .....	205	173	250	103	63	794		
3	Food Stores .....	488	529	512	375	92	1996		
4	Catering Establishments	—	—	—	—	787	787		
5	Various .....	124	150	29	406	74	783		
6	Ice Cream Premises .....	—	—	—	121	—	121		
7	Milksellers .....	—	—	—	191	1	192		
8	Pharmacy and Poisons .....	—	—	—	46	—	46		
9	Consignments of Imported Food Detained	165	73	64	7	—	309		
10	Condemnation of Food .....	433	440	575	142	82	1672		
11	Certificates issued for Unsound Food .....	853	1228	496	320	107	3004		
12	Intimations Served .....	2	—	—	—	57	59		
13	Smoke Observations .....	—	—	—	—	5	5		
14	Number of Samples taken for analysis	Chemical	Food and Drugs .....	—	—	—	899	1	900
			Imported Food Regulations .....	24	21	6	10	—	61
			Pharmacy and Poisons .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
			Milk (Special Designations) Regulations	—	—	—	226	—	226
			Swimming Bath Water .....	—	—	—	3	—	3
		Bacteriological	Milk for T.B. ....	—	—	—	4	—	4
			Milk for Bac. Abortus	—	—	—	2	—	2
			Ice Cream .....	—	—	—	82	—	82
			Canned Meat .....	1	5	6	—	—	12
			Swimming Bath Water	—	—	—	3	—	3
			Washing-up Water	—	—	—	4	—	4
15	Microscopical Examinations	6	1	—	—	—	7		

### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

There are in Bermondsey over 340 catering establishments of various types, e.g., restaurants, public houses, cafes, factory canteens and, in common with other food premises, they are controlled by the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and the Bye-laws for the Protection of Food. Some of these, mainly of the small cafe and snack bar type, are in premises not entirely suitable for carrying on such a business.

Progress has been made in effecting improvements of a permanent nature but, in a number of cases, the structure and lay-out of the premises does not permit of any serious attempt at improvement; fortunately housing clearance schemes are gradually leading to the demolition of many of them. Cleanliness, however, does not depend on chromium plate and tiling and, although modern materials and easily cleaned floor and wall surfaces are a great help, it is the will, energy and knowledge of the management and staff that are the governing factors.

In order to supplement the legislation controlling the preparation and sale of food and with the realisation that if persons employed in the food trades had a better appreciation of the dangers of food poisoning that can arise through careless food handling and dirty personal habits, a programme of lectures to food traders (mainly in the catering trades) was started in 1951. These lectures, which are illustrated by films and exhibits of various kinds, have been held each winter since then. They have been only moderately supported but those who have shown enough interest to come along have, I think, profited and it is hoped that every person employed in food handling in the Borough will eventually attend. A certificate is awarded to those who regularly attend a full course of four lectures.

A number of local authorities have set up Clean Food Guilds by which food traders can voluntarily subscribe to a set of rules, or code of practice, of a somewhat higher standard than that required by law but in Bermondsey it is not considered opportune to establish such a Guild at present for the following reasons :—

- (1) The traders themselves have shown little interest in such a scheme.
- (2) The legal standards are, for reasons already given, difficult to attain in all circumstances.
- (3) Impending legislation, i.e., the Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill at present before Parliament may provide a code of practice for food traders as useful as any voluntary arrangement between the Council and the traders.

On page 44 of the report are set out details of prosecutions taken against food traders for such things as selling a loaf of bread containing a used finger bandage and a meat pie covered with a green mould. These are obvious instances of careless handling and bad storage of food, two of the most likely causes of food poisoning. Happenings of this nature serve as an index of the care with which food is handled and give an urgency to our task which is to raise the standard of cleanliness in all operations involving the handling of the food we eat.



## OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

As a result of discussions between representatives of the Council for the Welfare of Old People and the Bermondsey Borough Council, the Public Health Committee appointed 6 of its members as representatives of the Borough Council on the Executive Committee of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Council for the Welfare of Old People, and the Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. A. M. Hatcher, was elected Chairman of the Old People's Welfare Committee.

A member of the staff of the Public Health Department undertook responsibility for the administrative and secretarial work of the Welfare Council.

Under the powers given by Section 4 of the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937, the Borough Council has taken over nominal control of, and financial responsibility for, Old People's Clubs. Each club has a voluntary leader and voluntary helpers, and is entirely self-governing. The Public Health Department makes all the arrangements for handicrafts, singing, and film shows given by the Department's Propaganda Section.

Holidays at reduced rates are arranged for the aged, the Borough Council meeting the cost of transport for club members who take advantage of these arrangements. The Welfare Council have, in some cases, rendered financial assistance where the old person would have had some difficulty in meeting the whole of the cost. The Corporation at Margate have offered facilities to old people on holiday for concerts, outdoor games, and the use of deck chairs for the nominal charge of 1/- per week.

The Welfare Council have always maintained a close friendship with a number of Women's Institutes in the Home Counties and during the summer months a number of coach outings to the various institutes was arranged for members of the Old People's Clubs, and the Institutes were most generous with their hospitality.

Clubs have their meetings in Church Halls or in buildings under the control of the Borough Council. Times of meetings are as follows :—

Arthur's Mission, Snowsfields, S.E.1. Leader : Miss M. A. Hanbury, B.R.C.S.	} Thursday, 2.30 - 4 p.m.
Dockhead House, 225 Abbey Street, S.E.1. Leader : Mrs. F. L. Manser.	
Lady Gomm, Hawkstone Road, S.E.16 Leader : Mrs. I. Olsen.	} Wednesday, 2.30 - 4 p.m.
Queen's House, Assembly Hall, Lower Road, S.E.16. Leader : Mrs. F. A. Brockman.	
Rotherhithe, Assembly Hall, Lower Road, S.E.16. Leader : Mrs. L. M. Brown.	} Tuesday and Thursday, 2.30 - 4 p.m.



St. Anne's, Thorburn Square, S.E.1. Leader : Mrs. L. M. Turner.	} Thursday, 2.30 - 4 p.m.
St. Crispin's, Cathay Street, S.E.16. Leader : Rev. L. J. Bliss.	

Other old people's clubs affiliated to the Welfare Council are :

Bermondsey Central Hall, S.E.1.	Tuesday.
Bermondsey Medical Mission, Grange Road, S.E.1.	Monday and Friday.
Bermondsey Settlement, Farncombe Street, S.E.16.	} Thursday.
St. George's Hall, Old Kent Road, S.E.1.	

The closer co-operation with the Borough Council has, indeed, been justified during the past year, and the relationship between the various voluntary organisations and the Council has been cordial. Mutual assistance has been ready and friendly, and in the future much can be done to improve the lot of old people living in this Borough.

### Meals Service

At the beginning of February, 1953, the delivery of meals which had previously been undertaken by volunteers of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Council for the Welfare of Old People was taken over by the Department.

The service hitherto provided by the voluntary workers comprised two deliveries per week to an average of 12 old people, and with the limited equipment at their disposal the service was, to quote themselves, far from satisfactory, their main difficulty being the keeping of food warm until the last meal was delivered.

It was felt that if the Borough Council supplied services in lieu of the monetary grants previously made to the Council for the Welfare of Old People, this would be more beneficial to the old people and, by using existing facilities, provide more service at less cost.

At the last audit the District Auditor queried whether the provision of services and the debiting of the cost to a voluntary organisation could be, under Section 31, National Assistance Act 1948, a "contribution to the funds of any voluntary organisation." The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have sanctioned the expenditure for the year under audit and for the year ending 31st March, 1954. The Ministry have under consideration the question of the continuance of the scheme by this method of costing.

A number of surplus United States Army food containers, specially insulated for heat retention, were purchased and it was found that if the food was dished up immediately it was cooked, on to really hot plates and placed in the containers which had already been heated with boiling water, the food retained its heat for quite a long time.

On enquiry it was found that most old people required meals on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday only, as their meat ration was enough for the weekend with invariably a little left over for Monday.



On 3rd February 1953, the first delivery was made by Borough Council staff and transport. Seventeen meals were delivered to homebound old people and bulk food was taken to three clubs, where it was served up by volunteers to club members. By August the three clubs had closed, due either to lack of customers or lack of volunteer servitors. Every effort was made to include in the home delivery scheme any necessitous cases who still required meals and who were deprived of them owing to the clubs closing down. The number of meals delivered to homes had by now increased to about 40 per day, and this number has been maintained for the rest of the year. It has been found that 40 is the maximum number which can be delivered with one unit comprising a van, driver, and female attendant. Our clientele is ever changing for various reasons ; some die, others are taken to hospital and for this reason it is necessary that regular visits be made. Although no claim will be made that the meals improve health or extend the expectation of life, there is nevertheless no doubt whatsoever that the old people derive tremendous pleasure from the fact that there is something to look forward to in most of their remaining days, if not the meal then the knowledge that someone who has their interests at heart will be calling on them.

In the Autumn of the year a quantity of packet tea and sugar was received from a Bermondsey school for distribution to homebound old people, the Headmaster of the school having recommended his scholars to take gifts of this nature to school for their Harvest Festival instead of the customary fruit, flowers and vegetables. The commodities were distributed a little at a time and were received with very grateful thanks, being the most useful type of gift to make to old people : they all, without exception, enjoy a cup of tea. Each packet was accompanied by a neatly written, nicely worded, little note from its donor.

During the Christmas Holiday the London County Council Kitchen which supplies the food was closed and in order to ensure that the old people had a Christmas Dinner, forty frozen dinners, comprising roast turkey, stuffing, brussels sprouts, creamed potatoes, and Christmas pudding, were purchased by the Council for the Welfare of Old People and distributed on Christmas Eve, together with a parcel of sweets, a Christmas card, and a handshake by the Secretary of the Council for the Welfare of Old People and a member of the staff.

One customer, a lady of 78 years whose husband had died and whose children had moved away, was experiencing that common complaint of old people, loneliness. After a very active life in local affairs, she was rendered homebound by chronic arthritis : her depression got to such a state that it was felt necessary to recommend her for admission to an Old People's Home. A vacancy was found in one of the London County Council's smaller Homes and I have since heard from her to the effect that she is happier than she has ever been in her life.

The staff of the Department have also taken on various extra voluntary duties, such as arranging chiropody, obtaining and supplying wireless sets, distributing gifts of clothing, flowers, food, etc., and many other little personal matters have been attended to where necessary.

## PROPAGANDA.

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Propaganda work has been carried on during 1953 in a manner similar to that in past years. Almost every organisation holding meetings in the borough has been visited at least once a month and a film display or lecture given. The film programmes, which consist of two or three documentary films of general interest and one on a health subject, continue to be very popular. Most modern 16 mm. films are extremely good, both in production and technique. Many are made in colour which is so necessary for dealing with certain subjects and present day speech recording on 16 mm. film makes it possible to reproduce the almost perfect lecture without a lecturer being present.

Two courses of lectures were arranged during the year to further the clean handling of food campaign. Owners and staffs of local catering establishments were invited to attend. Each course consisted of four lectures given by the inspector in charge of this work, each lecture being illustrated with film strips and films.

### ROAD SAFETY

Once again this department has been able to assist the Road Safety Sub-Committee with film displays designed to introduce road safety propaganda. The monthly shows in two of the borough halls during the winter months have attracted good audiences.

### CIVIL DEFENCE

Assistance has been given to the Civil Defence Corps and also to local firms' own civil defence groups with recruiting and training films.

The following lectures and film displays were given during the year :

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Clean Handling of Food .....	9	181
Youth Clubs and Children's Organisations	34	3,130
Adult Organisations .....	49	1,415
Old Folks' Clubs .....	60	3,635
Road Safety Film Displays .....	24	4,920
Civil Defence .....	8	345
	<hr/> 184	<hr/> 12,626