

Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

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METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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

Medical Officer of Health

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BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY



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FOR THE YEAR
1954

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

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—

	PAGE
Public Health Committee	4
Staff	5

VITAL STATISTICS—

Area	7
Population	7
Births	7
Deaths	8
Marriages	8
Infantile Mortality Rates	9
Deaths from Tuberculosis	9
Vital Statistics of District	10
Causes of Death	11
Infantile Mortality, Causes of Deaths	13
Extracts from Vital Statistics, 1954	14

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

Diseases Notifiable	15
Food Poisoning	15
Disinfection	16
Cleansing Station	16
Typhoid Carrier	17
Cases Notified in 1954	18
Cases Notified for last ten years	19

TUBERCULOSIS—

New Cases and Deaths	20
Notification Register	20
Summary of Notifications	21

SANITARY—Circumstances of the Borough

Housing	22
Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding	22
Eradication of Bed Bugs	23

Inspections and Proceedings	23
Registered Premises	25
Smoke Nuisances	25
Water Supply to Tenement Houses	25
Sale of Food	25
Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951	25
Drainage Work	25
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	26
Work of the District Inspectors	28
Factories and Workshops—Homework	29
Factories and Workshops—Inspections	30
Bakehouses	31
House, Trade and Market Refuse	31
Offensive Trades	31
Pet Animals Act, 1951	31
Catering Establishments	32
Work of Factories and Shops Inspector	32
Rodent Control	33

FOOD CONTROL—

Imported Food Regulations—Samples taken	34
Section 14, Food and Drugs Act and Dairies	37
Disposal of Unsound Food	37
Food Premises and Types of Business	37
Unsound Food—Shops and Stalls	38
Pharmacy and Poisons	38
Milk Premises	38
Milk Licences	39
Milk Sampling	39
Ice Cream	40
Food and Drugs—Samples Taken	41
Unsound Food—Wharves, etc.	43
Legal Proceedings	45
Work of the Wharves and Food Inspectors	46

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES—

Old People's Welfare	47
National Assistance Act, Section 50	49
National Assistance Act, Section 47	50
Mortuary	51
Water Supply	52
Free Washing Facilities	53
International Certificates of Vaccination and Inoculation	53
Street and Open Markets	53
Public Health Laboratory Service	55

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,

SPA ROAD, S.E.16.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1954

Chairman Alderman E. J. GIBSON
 Vice-Chairman Councillor Mrs. A. M. HATCHER, 1953/54.
 Vice-Chairman Councillor W. H. WARDELL, 1954/55.

Councillor	F. J. Ackland	Councillor	W. M. Leahy
„	A. Adkins	„	Jos. Mahoney
„	Mrs. E. V. Coyle	„	J. A. Mahoney
„	T. J. Eagle	„	Mrs. A. E. Martin
„	W. L. Ellis	„	' W. A. Mynott
„	F. W. Florance	„	J. H. Newbery
„	L. H. George	„	W. E. Nicklin
„	C. R. Hand	„	P. J. Quirk
„	T. Hendy		

Ex-officio.

Councillor W. L. ELLIS, *J.P.*, Mayor of Bermondsey, 1953/54.
 Councillor P. J. GEOGHEGAN, *J.P.*, Mayor of Bermondsey, 1954/55.

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.
E. H. Kerridge, District Inspector.
G. A. Mahoney, District Inspector (Resigned September 1954).

CLERICAL STAFF.

F. W. Smith, Chief Clerk (Retired July 1954)
J. A. Blake, M.B.E., G.M. (Transferred to Town Clerk's
Department, July 1954)
J. W. J. Saward, A.F.C. (Appointed Chief Clerk,
September 1954)
H. D. White
A. E. Gambrell
E. T. Hodgkins
G. A. Hunt
G. A. Blake
A. J. Kiddell
C. H. Harris (Retired March 1954)
E. M. Watkins
M. W. Bridgman

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.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

There is nothing of outstanding interest upon which comment is required, but I may perhaps be permitted to express sorrow at the death of two members of the Council, Councillor S. R. Weightman and Alderman E. J. Gibson, each of whom had served the Public Health Committee for many years and each of whom had been both Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

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, 1953	to 30th June, 1954
111,542	60,640	59,350	58,590

BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the borough registered during 1954 was 986 consisting of 489 males and 497 females. The number for 1953 was 994. The birth-rate for 1954 was 16·8 per thousand persons living, compared with 16·6 for 1953.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths belonging to the borough registered during 1954 was 573, consisting of 317 males and 256 females. The number for 1953 was 585. The death-rate for 1954 was 9.7 per thousand persons living, compared with 9.9 for 1953.

MARRIAGES.

The total number of marriages in the borough in 1954 was 475, being 45 below the number for 1953, and 107 below the average for the last 10 years.

The figures have been supplied by the Superintendent Registrar.

Year	No.	Rate
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
1953	520	17.52
Average for years 1944—1953	582	20.67
1954	475	16.21

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Year	Whole Borough		London	
	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births
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
1953	27	27	1,216	24
Average for years 1944-1953	35	33	1,774	32
1954	23	24	1,047	21

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.

In the following Table will be found particulars of deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System since the year 1944.

Year	Whole Borough		London	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1944	47	1.05	2,073	0.84
1945	45	0.96	2,033	0.78
1946	32	0.57	1,940	0.62
1947	52	0.88	2,044	0.62
1948	45	0.74	1,900	0.57
1949	41	0.68	1,585	0.47
1950	23	0.38	1,225	0.36
1951	21	0.35	1,154	0.34
1952	20	0.35	933	0.28
1953	14	0.24	690	0.21
Averages for years 1944-1953	34	0.62	1,558	0.51
1954	14	0.24	596	0.18

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1954 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 per 1,000 Births registered	No.	Rate					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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	738	12.5
1953	59,350	970	16.3	28	28	664	11.2	445	214	135	585	9.9
Averages for years 1944-1953	56,737	1,111	19.6	17	15	703	12.5	407	181	206	728	13.0
1954	58,590	967	16.5	23	24	673	11.5	455	206	112	579	9.9

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1954.

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	14	—	—	1	—	4	4	3	2
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	21	—	—	—	—	1	7	8	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	31	—	—	—	—	3	16	7	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	14	—	—	—	—	1	9	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	55	—	—	—	—	6	22	15	12
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Diabetes	7	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	52	—	—	—	—	—	12	16	24
Coronary disease, angina	66	—	—	—	—	1	21	25	19

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1954—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	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5
Other heart disease	63	—	—	—	—	1	10	19	33
Other circulatory disease	43	—	—	—	—	—	5	15	23
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	36	4	1	1	—	2	5	7	16
Bronchitis	44	1	—	—	—	—	16	9	18
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	12	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	8	6	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	44	11	1	—	1	2	11	11	7
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
All other accidents	13	—	—	1	—	2	4	1	5
Suicide	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL CERTIFIED DEATHS	573	23	3	3	2	32	156	164	190

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages under One Year of Age, 1954.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	—	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
Gastro Enteritis and Colitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Birth Injuries, Post-Natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	4	2	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	7
Infections of the Newborn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy and Immaturity Un- qualified	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	12	3	1	—	16	3	1	3	—	23

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1954.

Births.

Registered—				Total	Males	Females
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	934	463	471
		Illegitimate ..	..	33	18	15
				Total	Males	Females
Stillbirths	{	Legitimate ..	..	18	7	11
		Illegitimate ..	..	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						23·3

Notified within 36 hours of birth—

(1) Live Births, 967

(2) Stillbirths, 19

(3) Total, 986

						Total	Males	Females
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	579	323	256

Maternal Deaths.

				Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Deaths from complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium				1	1·14

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	..	..	23·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..	..	..	21·4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. ..	..	..	93·9

Day Nurseries.

Number of day nurseries 4.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all ages) 126

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Every medical practitioner attending on, or called in to visit a patient, shall, as soon as he becomes aware that the patient is suffering from a notifiable infectious disease, send to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the disease occurs a certificate stating the name and address of the patient and the disease from which the patient is suffering.

Books of certificates are available free of charge from this Department.

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

Seven cases of food poisoning were notified to me during the year under The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 17.

DISINFECTION.

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

Beds	20	Pillows	341
Blankets	1,493	Pillows (cases)	216
Bolsters	10	Quilts	210
„ (cases)	2	Sheets	406
Books	296	Miscellaneous	1,699
Cushions	4	Verminous Clothing	1,229
Overlays	296		

Number of rooms disinfected	345
-----------------------------------	-----

Number of mattresses and other articles destroyed	504
Furniture, Floorcloth, etc., destroyed	75 Loads

CLEANSING STATION.

Verminous persons cleansed	Adult Females	36
	Adult Males	124
	Children	665

Persons treated for Scabies :—

	Number treated	Number of baths given
Adult Females	9	24
Adult Males	9	18
Children, Females (School Age)	12	39
Children, Males („ „)	5	14
Children, Females (Under School Age)	1	3
Children, Males („ „ „)	1	3

TYPHOID CARRIER

In 1943 following a small outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Bermondsey, involving 3 persons and resulting in 1 death, the source of the infection was traced to a Mrs. A. M., a relative of those infected.

She received treatment in hospital for about three months but was discharged as a chronic faecal carrier of *B. Typhosus*.

Nothing further happened until December, 1954. It was then found that Mrs. A. M., whose husband had recently died, had been forced to go out to work to support herself and her son, aged 12 years, and that she had obtained employment at a restaurant.

As soon as this was discovered she was asked to attend St. Olave's Hospital and I later received a report that *B. Typhosus* had been isolated from her faeces.

It was therefore necessary to apply the provisions of the Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1953, and notices were sent to Mrs. A. M., and to her employers prohibiting her employment in a food trade for the time being. The Public Health Committee also agreed to the payment of compensation for loss of earnings for a limited period while Mrs. A. M., obtained work not concerned with the handling of food. This was done under the provisions of Section 278 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Shortly after this a cholecystogram, taken at St. Olave's Hospital, showed that gall-stones were present and it was considered that if a cholecystectomy was performed, it might eliminate the focus of infection.

With the consent and co-operation of Mrs. A. M., a cholecystectomy was performed and since then no typhoid bacilli have been cultured from the stools and it is possible that the carrier state has been remedied.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED												Saints	Neckinger	Central	Tunnel	Dockyard	Park	Raymouth	South	Thorburn	Willow Walk	South West	Abbey	Leather Market	Total	Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Year																									
		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 & up-wards															
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1		
Erysipelas	7	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	7	3		
Scarlet Fever	62	—	17	43	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	5	4	2	6	8	3	9	6	7	62	8	
Meningococcal Infection	6	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	6	
Dysentery	56	2	16	10	1	2	6	6	4	2	3	4	4	1	16	18	5	1	—	2	—	4	—	1	4	56	4
Paratyphoid Fevers	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	7	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	19	—	2	4	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	5	2	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	19	4	
Whooping Cough	135	14	57	58	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	16	11	22	9	4	13	13	—	5	4	6	29	135	2
Measles	183	11	89	76	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	6	2	11	10	14	29	22	9	10	32	8	28	183	8
Scabies	5	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	5	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	63	—	—	3	2	3	7	17	6	12	9	4	10	4	5	2	3	7	5	2	4	10	4	4	3	63	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	3	2	—	1	—	10	—
Totals	558	30	187	204	17	8	15	29	13	22	19	14	25	35	39	61	32	34	57	49	20	46	51	32	77	558	39

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEARS 1945-1954.

Notifiable Disease.	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Small Pox	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	31	22	34	37	65	3	2	2	1	1
Erysipelas	14	15	12	13	7	9	9	8	7	7
Scarlet Fever	95	82	152	199	85	72	82	87	59	62
Meningococcal Infection	—	5	3	1	—	1	6	2	1	6
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Acute Polio-Encephalitis	2	4	27	7	4	3	2	1	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	10	2	5	3	—	1	2	1	1
Anthrax	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	8	4	5	5	4	18	19	1	1
Puerperal Fever	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Dysentery	32	12	4	2	1	4	131	7	25	56
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malaria	1	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (Induced)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	66	54	52	57	43	16	28	25	40	19
Whooping Cough	42	233	297	237	40	267	75	40	124	135
Measles	544	521	334	899	771	367	1197	716	514	183
Scabies	366	253	81	42	7	2	6	4	—	5
Tuberculosis—										
Respiratory System	126	129	100	105	120	105	89	59	72	63
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	14	16	27	12	10	9	8	10	10
Totals	1,349	1,366	1,125	1,638	1,164	863	1,656	980	857	558

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, 1954—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	..	..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	2	2	—	5	—	1	—	—
10	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	..	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	12	16	1	—	—	2	—	—
35	..	..	7	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	..	..	10	3	1	1	3	—	—	—
55	..	..	9	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
65	..	..	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
75 and upwards			2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
			53	36	5	6	9	5	—	—

TABLE II.
TUBERCULOSIS, 1954—NOTIFICATION REGISTER

	Respiratory System		Other Forms	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of Cases on Register at commencement of Year	324	245	38	39
Number of Cases Notified during Year.....	41	22	4	6
Inward Transfers, Un-notified Deaths, etc., during Year.....	12	14	1	1
Number of Cases Removed from the Register during Year	49	30	3	6
Number of Cases Remaining on the Register at end of Year	328	251	40	40

Summary of Tuberculosis Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1954, to the 31st December, 1954.

Age Periods	Formal Notifications													
	Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis													Total (all ages)
	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	—	—	—	2	2	1	3	7	6	9	8	2	1	41
„ Females	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	10	—	3	1	1	—	22
Non-Pulmonary Males	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4
„ Females	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	12
„ Females	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	6	2	—	—	1	—	14
Non-Pulmonary Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
„ Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

SANITARY

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

HOUSING.

During the year 3 Clearance Areas were represented in Abbey Street (North), Abbey Street (South) and Kinross Street/Tanner Street.

A total of 109 flats was completed at Pynfolds, Ainsty Estate and Longfield Estate, and a further 32 flats were erected in co-operation with the Gomm Housing Association.

A further 4 two year hutments were closed and accommodation for 222 families was provided in properties controlled by the Council. 326 families were accommodated by the London County Council.

17 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	.....	10
In Bermondsey Borough Council dwellings	.....	—
In London County Council dwellings	.....	1
Total	.....	<u>11</u>

Total number of cases of overcrowding at present on the Register	495
--	-------	-----

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The following table shows the fumigations carried out during 1954 :—

	Disinfested
Council houses or flats	39
Other houses or flats	114

INSPECTIONS, PROCEEDINGS, ETC.

Hereunder will be found particulars of Inspections, Proceedings, etc., for the year 1954 :—

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 4,555 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose | 23,275 |
| (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 | 565 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose | 1,181 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 11 |
| (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 | 470 |

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	1,492
---	-------

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	2,396
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	904
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	5

(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	4
(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	27
(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

(E) Proceedings under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10 (1)	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were received not to use for human habitation	2

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

(1) Number of prosecutions	38
(2) Fines imposed	£7 0 0
(3) Costs awarded	£91 7 0

REGISTERED PREMISES—

Premises	Number on Register at end of 1953	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions
Common Lodging Houses ..	2	44	—
Seamen's Lodging Houses ..	—	—	—
Milkshops	121	217	—
Ice Cream Premises	188	77	—
Offensive Trades (including Poultry Slaughter-houses)	8	53	—

SMOKE NUISANCES—

Number of observations	439
Number of notices	5
Number of complaints	6
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	617
Number of inspections	1,413

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

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

DRAINAGE WORK.

Particulars of work carried out by the Drainage Inspector during 1954 :—

Drains Tested	641
Visits to Conveniences and Urinals	1502
Other Visits	279
Total visits	2422

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACTS, 1954.

This Act has been in operation during the last four months of the year under report and has brought additional responsibilities to the Public Health Committee mainly in connection with the following:—

Unfit Houses: Proposals for dealing with unfit houses must be submitted to the Minister by the 30th August, 1955. The information to be supplied is under three headings:—

1. Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation and suitable only for clearance and individual demolition and the estimated period in years considered necessary for dealing with these houses.
2. Number of houses in clearance areas already covered by operative clearance or compulsory orders or owned by the Council and the number included in clearance areas and for clearance or compulsory purchase orders which have been submitted to the Minister but not yet confirmed.
3. Details of proposed action for the first five years.

To obtain the required information it has been necessary to carry out a certain amount of survey work to augment the general knowledge of the conditions in the Borough. The proposals to be submitted to the Minister are required to be submitted jointly with the London County Council.

Repairs Increases: The Act permits an increase in the rents of houses let under a controlled tenancy or occupied by a statutory tenant. This increase is subject to the following conditions—that the house is in good repair and reasonably suitable for occupation having regard to the standard of fitness laid down in the Act and that the landlord has produced satisfactory evidence that work of repair to the value specified in the Act has been carried out during the requisite period. The standard of fitness requires that regard shall be had to the condition of the house in respect of the following matters:—(a) repair; (b) stability; (c) freedom from damp; (d) natural lighting; (e) ventilation; (f) water supply; (g) drainage and sanitary conveniences and (h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water.

The amount of the rent increase is related to the gross value of the house and where the landlord has elected not to be responsible for internal decoration the permitted rent increase is reduced by one-third. No increase is recoverable unless the landlord has served on the tenant the prescribed form of notice.

Certificates of Disrepair: A tenant served with a notice of increase may apply to the local authority for a certificate that the conditions justifying an increase are not fulfilled. The local authority if satisfied

that the house fails to fulfil either or both of the conditions shall certify accordingly in the prescribed form. The Certificate gives details of the defects of repair and defects as to suitability for occupation where applicable. The Certificate is deemed to be in force as from the date of the application therefore and during the period it is in force and provided a copy has been served on the landlord, no repairs increase or the 40 per cent permitted increase under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920 is recoverable.

Where the landlord has executed to the satisfaction of the local authority such work as is required to remedy the defects specified in the certificate, the landlord may make application to the local authority for the certificate to be revoked. When the certificate is revoked the permitted increases become recoverable by the landlord.

The same provisions apply to the increases permitted by the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920 which means that where a tenant is paying the increase under this Act he may apply for a Certificate of Disrepair.

From the date of the operation of the Act until the end of the year 12 applications for a Certificate of Disrepair were granted and one application was refused. Arrangements were made for members of the public to be given advice on matters connected with repairs increases and Certificates of Disrepair and 96 people were so advised.

Inspections in connection with the survey and applications for Certificates of Disrepair have taken up much of the Inspectors' time and the administrative work has increased correspondingly.

WORK OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS, 1954

		Mr. KERRIDGE	Mr. KNOTT	Mr. WEIGHTMAN	Mr. SPRINGETT	Mr. SMITH	Mr. MAHONEY	TOTALS
1	House-to-House	105	323	194	121	272	166	1181
2	Special Inspections	656	850	292	519	869	520	3706
3	Complaints	776	505	752	481	560	389	3463
4	Infectious Diseases	51	68	78	68	109	65	439
5	Rats	81	29	41	36	20	32	239
6	Outworkers' Inspection	28	20	27	22	43	36	176
7	Drains Tested	33	36	45	43	52	36	245
8	Other Calls and Visits	2103	2950	2708	2825	2027	1458	14071
9	Chimneys watched	47	151	—	1	3	3	205
10	Bakehouses	2	1	—	—	19	—	22
11	Common and Seamen's Lodging	1	1	—	—	36	6	44
12	Butchers	48	112	11	26	82	6	285
13	Fishmongers, Friers and Curers	7	21	3	—	22	—	53
14	Food Stores	64	68	25	94	98	34	383
15	Fruiterers and Greengrocers	3	15	—	22	5	—	45
16	Pet Animals	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
17	Markets	4	35	2	49	58	3	151
18	Restaurants and Eating Houses	4	18	—	3	40	—	65
19	Destruction of Food	10	10	7	24	54	4	109
20	TOTALS { Visits	4026	5213	4185	4334	4369	2758	24885
	Intimation Notices	424	441	483	331	404	313	2396

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	44	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton Bags	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of Boxes or other Receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	9	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Publishers	5	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial Flowers	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carding of Buttons, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Christmas Crackers	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fancy Goods	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total	70	—	—	—	—	—

**FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES.
INSPECTION.**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	272	191	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	502	2135	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	18	52	—	—
Total	792	2378	11	—

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.)	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—					
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	9	9	—	2	—
Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work)					
Total	11	11	—	2	—

BAKEHOUSES.

In Use		Not in Use	
Underground	Above ground	Above ground	Underground
1	25	—	—

26 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 1954 :—

Disposal	Loads	tons	cwts.	qrs.
House Refuse to Barge	9,711	15,516	12	—
Trade Refuse to Barge	2,942	5,112	3	2
Street and Open Markets Refuse to Barge	475	608	15	—
Totals	13,128	21,237	10	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The offensive trades on the Register are as follows :—

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

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

During the year 12 licences to keep a pet shop were granted. Five of these were in respect of stalls in market places.

Inspections are made to ensure that the terms of the licence are complied with.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Inspections	582
Notices served	35
Re-visits	161

During the year 9 lectures with film shows were given to managements and staff of catering establishments ; the total number attending was 223.

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

Visits	68
Notices served under Shops Act, 1934.....	—
Notices served under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	2

Factories (with mechanical power).

Visits	321
Notices under Factories Act, 1937	10
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	1

Factories (without mechanical power).

Visits	59
Notices under Factories Act, 1937	1
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	—

Workplaces.

Visits	52
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	1

Visits to Offensive Trade premises	58
Smoke observations	234
Visits to Conveniences and Urinals	197
Other calls and visits	470

RODENT CONTROL**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authorities District	33	15,160	2,297	17,490
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result of (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) 6	322	122	450
	(b) 12	2	386	400
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major —	—	34	34
	Minor 12	202	246	460
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	2	122	84	208
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.. .. .	14	324	259	597
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 ..				10

FOOD CONTROL.

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

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

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

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Acetic Acid	1	To ascertain composition	Satisfactory	Released
Anchovy Paste	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Apricots, Dried	3	" "	"	"
" "	1	" "	Sulphur Dioxide 2,000 parts per million	Released with warning to importer
Carrots, Dried	1	" "	Satisfactory	Released
Corned Beef Loaf	1	For presence of preservatives and metallic contamination	"	"
Corned Beef with Cereal	4	For metallic contamination	"	"
Crab, Canned, Dressed	2	For presence of metals and preservatives	"	"
Crab Paste	1	To ascertain composition	Fish content 66% instead of not less than 70% as required by Food Standards (Fish Paste) Order, 1951	Re-exported
Cream, Tinned	3	For fat content	Satisfactory	Released
Cucumbers, Pickled	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Egg, Frozen	1	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	Released
Ham and Pork Liver Spread	1	To ascertain composition	"	"
Jam, Plum	1	" "	"	"
" Raspberry	1	" "	"	"
" Strawberry	1	" "	"	"
Lard	1	To ascertain condition	"	Re-exported (Imported without Official Certificate)
Lard	2	" "	"	Released
Margarine	1	To ascertain composition	"	"
Mayonnaise	2	For preservatives and metals	"	"
Mustard, French	2	For presence of preservatives	"	"
" German	2	" "	"	"
Oranges, Spanish	5	" "	"	"
" "	1	" "	Thiourea found in rind and juice	Re-exported
Piccalilli	1	" "	Benzoic acid 350 parts per million, not declared. Maximum permitted—250 parts per million	Detained for correct labelling and released with warning to importers
Pickles, Mixed	1	" "	Benzoic acid 100 parts per million, not declared	Detained for correct labelling and released
Prunes	3	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	Released
Powder-contaminated Butter Beans		To ascertain composition	Powder harmless	Butter Beans cleaned and released
Rice	2	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	"

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Sardella Paste	1	For presence of preservatives	Satisfactory	Released
Sardines	14	For metallic contamination	"	"
Sauce containing Meat and Ham	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Sausage, Tea	1	" "	"	"
Tomato Sauce with Meat	1	To ascertain composition	Meat present so small that it could only be regarded as flavouring	Released with warning to importers
Tomato Sauce with Bacon	1	" "	Bacon present so small that it could only be regarded as flavouring	" "
Tomato Paste	1	For metallic contamination	Satisfactory	Released
Vegetables, Dried	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"

SECTION 14, FOOD & DRUGS ACT AND DAIRIES

						<i>Inspections</i>
Ice Cream Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	188	77
Preserved Food, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	79	338
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	.....	.....	.....	.....	163
Factory Canteens	.....	.....	.....	.....	95
Groceries and Provisions	.....	.....	.....	.....	69
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	55
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
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

UN SOUND 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	—	9	2	12
Meat, Canned	—	3	1	4
Fish	—	—	1	14
Fish, Canned	—	—	—	18
Fruit, Canned	—	3	—	—
Milk, Canned	—	—	2	—
Eggs	—	—	2	18
Vegetables, Canned	—	1	1	27
Various	—	1	—	27
Total	1	—	1	8

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 two contraventions of the Act occurred, poisons being sold wrongly by unlisted vendors. Warning was given in both cases.

MILK PREMISES.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938/50.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Thirteen milk sellers were registered under the above Acts during 1954, and 9 were removed from the Register. There were 117 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	.....	48
To sell Pasteurised Milk.....	.....	79
To sell Sterilised Milk	.....	115

Supplementary Licences.

To sell Pasteurised Milk.....	.....	16
To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	.....	16
To sell Sterilised Milk	.....	21

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, school meals services and hospitals in the borough. The total number of samples submitted for analysis during 1954 was 515, of which number 214 were taken from schools, hospitals, etc.

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

Condensed Milk	.....	11
Sterilised Milk	.....	47
Pasteurised Milk	.....	195
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	.....	20
Channel Islands Milk	.....	19
South Devon Milk	.....	1
Liquid Milk, undesignated	.....	3
		<hr/> 296

For Bacteriological Examination.

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

For Examination under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

Pasteurised Milk (from schools, hospitals, etc.)	.....	107
Pasteurised Milk (other than from schools)	.....	47
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.....	.....	33
Sterilised Milk	.....	32
		<hr/> 219

ICE CREAM.

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

1. Bacterial Count.

Up to 500 per 1 c.c.	22
Over 500 to 1,000 per c.c.	7
Over 1,000 to 5,000 per 1 c.c.	16
Over 5,000 to 10,000 per 1 c.c.	9
Over 10,000 to 50,000 per 1 c.c.	10
Over 50,000 to 100,000 per 1 c.c.	1
Over 100,000 to 200,000 per 1 c.c.	3
Over 200,000 to 400,000 per 1 c.c.	—
Over 400,000 to 600,000 per 1 c.c.	—
Over 600,000 to 1,000,000 per 1 c.c.	2
Over 1,000,000 per 1 c.c.	—
	<hr/> 70

2. Presence of B. Coll.

B. Coli present in 1 c.c. and 1 10th c.c. and 1 100th c.c.	—
B. Coli present in 1 c.c. and 1 10th c.c.	1
B. Coli present in 1 c.c.	1
B. Coli absent in 1 c.c., 1 10th c.c. and 1 100th c.c.	68
	<hr/> 70

3. Methylene Blue Grading.

Grade 1	41
2	14
3	2
4	12
Doubtful result	1
	<hr/> 70

4. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Ten samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis under the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951. All samples were satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year 900 samples were submitted by the Food and Drugs Inspector. In 23 cases the analysis disclosed an infringement of the law.

No.	Date purchased	Sample	Infringement	Remarks
791	16.2.54	Dripping	Contained 4.9% of Free Fatty Acid instead of not more than 1.5%	Letter to manufacturer
874	15.3.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 50% instead of not less than 65%	<i>Prosecution</i> Fine £10 Costs £10 10s.
879	16.3.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 46% instead of not less than 65%	<i>Prosecution</i> Fine £5 Costs £4 4s.
899	19.3.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 60% instead of not less than 65%	Manufacturer warned
949	6.4.54	Milk	Contained 8.22% of Milk Solids other than Milk Fat instead of not less than 8.50%	Letter to supplier
950	6.4.54	Milk	Contained 8.27% of Milk Solids other than Milk Fat instead of not less than 8.50%	Letter to supplier
951	6.4.54	Milk	Contained 8.25% of Milk Solids other than Milk Fat instead of not less than 8.50%	Letter to supplier
67	6.5.54	Dripping	Contained 4.5% of Free Fatty Acid instead of not more than 1.5%	Letter to manufacturer
137	24.5.54	Non-brewed Condiment	Contained 2.1% of Acetic Acid instead of at least 4.0%	<i>Prosecution</i> Fine £4 Costs £3 3s.
282	13.7.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 59.3% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to manufacturer
373	6.8.54	Non-brewed Condiment	Contained 3.1% of Acetic Acid instead of at least 4.0%	<i>Prosecution</i> Fine £2 Costs £2 2s.
377	6.8.54	Machine-skimmed Condensed Milk, Sweetened	Equivalent pints 1.72 instead of 1.875 as stated on label	Letter to manufacturer

No.	Date purchased	Sample	Infringement	Remarks
380	9.8.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 60% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to manufacturer
383	11.8.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 60% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to manufacturer
495	20.9.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 57% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to manufacturer
508	23.9.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 61% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to manufacturer
568	9.10.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 53% instead of not less than 65%	<i>Prosecution</i> Summons dismissed
589	14.10.54	Margarine with 10% Butter	Contained 686 International Units of Vitamin A per ounce instead of not less than 760	Verbal warning to importers
617	25.10.54	Pure Butter Brazils	Contained 3.2% of Butter Fat instead of not less than 4.0%	Letter to manufacturer
660	5.11.54	Pork Sausages	Meat content 61% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to manufacturer
783	10.12.54	Prescription	Deficient in Tincture of Ipecachuana to the extent of 4.3 minims per $\frac{1}{2}$ fl. oz.	Letter to Dispenser
790	15.12.54	Plain Flour	Deficient in Calcium to the extent of $7\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. of Creta Preparata per 280 lbs. sack	Letter to manufacturer
815	22.12.54	Whisky	Alcoholic Strength 32.26° instead of 35° under proof	Letter to Distillers and Brewers

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

	Disposed of for purposes other than human food				Destroyed				Removed for sorting under Sanitary Authority				Re-exported			
	T.	Weight C.	Q.	L.	T.	Weight C.	Q.	L.	T.	Weight C.	Q.	L.	T.	Weight C.	Q.	L.
Arrowroot	—	3	2	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bacon	4	15	1	3	—	3	2	13	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beans	92	15	2	19	—	—	2	—	20	15	—	21	—	—	—	—
Butter	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	14	83	—	1	10	—	—	—	—
Cake	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cake Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Casings	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	12	—	—
Caviare	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cereals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheese	—	1	1	12	2	1	2	3	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa Beans	—	—	—	—	—	14	2	26	9	2	1	17	—	10	2	20
„ Crumb	9	15	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Powder	—	5	3	15	—	—	2	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coconut	6	5	2	—	—	7	3	3	6	13	2	3	—	—	—	—
Coffee Beans	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Confectionery	—	—	—	—	7	15	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooking Fat	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	22	2	17	—	4	—	—	—	—
Cream, Tinned	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	—	—	—	—	6	5	2	9
Custard Powder	—	—	—	—	—	11	1	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egg Albumen	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eggs, Dried	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Frozen	—	—	—	—	—	12	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Powder	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Shell	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farinoca	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fish	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fish, Canned	—	2	—	—	2	9	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flour	9	7	—	21	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fondant	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit	—	—	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit, Bottled	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Canned	—	5	—	9	30	13	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Dried	2	12	2	16	5	16	1	3	25	16	3	4	—	—	—	—
„ Juice & Pulp	—	—	—	—	18	13	3	7	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gherkins	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	1	17	—	—	—	—
Margarine	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meat	—	5	3	14	—	7	2	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Canned	2	12	—	8	33	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	18	1	20
Milk, Canned	—	—	—	4	1	16	1	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Powder	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuts	4	11	2	1	1	3	3	19	25	4	1	10	—	—	—	—
Offals	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
Olives	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onions	—	—	—	—	70	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paprika	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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.
Peas	73	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	2	2	—	—	—	—
Peel	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Potatoes	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poultry	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preserves:—																
Jam	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jelly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lemon																
Curd	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marmalade	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rice	16	18	3	22	—	13	—	6	4	13	3	2	—	—	—	—
Sago	—	2	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salad Cream	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sauerkraut	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sausages	—	1	3	16	2	—	1	24	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Soups	—	—	—	—	—	14	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Soya Lecethin	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suet	—	2	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tapioca	3	6	2	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tea	4	18	2	1	—	—	—	—	5	5	1	17	1	15	2	24
Tomatoes,																
Canned	—	—	—	14	6	13	2	16	32	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomato																
Concentrate	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomato Juice	—	—	—	—	—	12	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Paste	—	—	—	—	—	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Puree	7	5	—	—	28	13	2	16	—	5	—	—	6	2	2	8
Various	14	10	2	19	23	5	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables	—	—	—	—	35	18	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Canned	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Frozen	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whalemeat	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	285	16	—	4	304	6	1	21	222	14	2	23	36	2	3	25

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

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

Date	Offence	Result
24.5.54	Selling loaf of bread containing cigarette end.	Absolute discharge. Costs £3 3s. 0d.
4.8.54	Selling Jam Sandwich, the filling of which was decomposing.	Fine £5 0s. 0d. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
12.8.54	Selling Presta Cola containing particles of film of mould.	Absolute discharge. Costs £3 3s. 0d.
6.8.54	Selling Margarine containing rubber finger stall.	Absolute discharge. Costs £5 5s. 0d.

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

WORK OF THE WHARVES AND FOOD INSPECTORS, 1954

VISITS		Mr. TOLL	Mr. BUTCHER	Mr. TAPSFIELD	Mr. BAILEY	Mr. HANCOCK	TOTALS		
1	Food Wharves and Depots	1451	1878	1486	344	—	515		
2	Food Factories	143	154	183	123	105	708		
3	Food Stores	321	533	485	320	82	1741		
4	Catering Establishments	—	—	—	—	743	743		
5	Various	56	134	14	523	809	1536		
6	Ice Cream Premises	—	—	—	77	—	77		
7	Milksellers	—	—	—	217	7	224		
8	Pharmacy and Poisons	—	—	—	80	—	80		
9	Consignments of Im- ported Food Detained	145	60	109	6	—	320		
10	Condemnation of Food	357	356	781	124	72	1690		
11	Certificates issued for Unsound Food.....	604	919	558	242	71	2394		
12	Intimations Served	2	1	—	3	35	41		
13	Number of Samples taken for analysis	Chemical	Food and Drugs	—	—	—	900	3	903
			Imported Food Regulations	33	17	11	8	—	69
			Milk (Special Desig- nations) Regula- tions	—	—	—	219	—	219
			Milk for T.B.	—	—	—	4	—	4
			Milk for Bac. Abortus	—	—	—	2	—	2
			Ice Cream	—	—	—	70	—	70
			Canned Meat	12	2	11	—	—	25



MEALS SERVICE IN OPERATION

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The staff of the Department have continued to undertake responsibility for the administrative and secretarial work of the Council for the Welfare of Old People, and their duties have been many and varied.

CLUBS:

The activities of the Clubs have continued throughout the year and classes have been arranged for handicrafts and singing. Film shows are provided in most clubs once a month by the Borough Council. Each club has held a Christmas Party and Club Leaders have arranged outings to the seaside and to pantomimes and ice shows. The Entertainments Committee of the Borough Council has very kindly arranged entertainment at the afternoon clubs and this has been very much appreciated by the members.

These clubs play a great part in providing occupation of one kind or another for their members and many old folk enjoy a new lease of life by becoming members of the Clubs. In addition, these clubs provide a means of information by which a large number of old people can be kept informed of current events and matters of national and local importance. The value of the work done by Club Leaders cannot be over-estimated, and we thank them and those who help them in this work.

OUTINGS TO WOMEN'S INSTITUTES:

During the summer nineteen visits were paid to Women's Institutes in and around the Home Counties. There is no doubt that these are much enjoyed by the Club members and our thanks are extended to the Women's Institutes for their hospitality and generosity. Several of the clubs have entertained parties from Women's Institutes at their clubs and this strengthens the happy associations with the Women's Institutes.

HOLIDAYS:

Arrangements were made for 110 people to spend holidays at Ramsgate, Margate and Herne Bay. This was the first year that arrangements had been made for people to go away in any number and from the reports received there seems to be no doubt of the success of the scheme. It is hoped that during the coming summer it will be possible to increase the scope of the holiday scheme.

MEALS SERVICE:

The operation of the Meals Service was undertaken by this Department and the costs were met by the Council for the Welfare of Old People. During the year the daily average number of meals delivered to the homebound had increased from 42 to 52. This increase

has necessitated the use of a second unit in order to meet the demand, and it was also decided to deliver meals on Monday and the service now operates from Monday to Friday. The total number of meals delivered during the year was 10,001.

With the advent of Christmas the Meals Organiser was again approached by a firm of popular caterers who offered to supply a 3-course frozen Christmas Dinner comprising soup, chicken, brussels sprouts, baked potatoes, stuffing and Christmas Pudding at very reasonable cost. The offer was accepted and on Christmas Eve, in addition to the ordinary daily meal, 48 of these special Christmas Dinners were distributed by the Secretary of the Council for the Welfare of Old People, who was accompanied by a member of the staff.

Owing to the closure of the local London County Council restaurant it became necessary to find an alternative source of supply and the Meals Organiser was able to make arrangements with the firm undertaking the catering at the Municipal Offices.

In the autumn 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 pupils to bring such gifts to the school for their Harvest Festival in place of the customary fruit, flowers, and vegetables. The commodities were distributed to the old folk a little at a time and were greatly appreciated.

OUTINGS:

It was decided during the summer to arrange for afternoon outings for homebound old folk. It was known that many old people very rarely have the opportunity, by reason of physical incapacity, of getting outside the four walls of their homes and it was felt that something might be done for them. A letter was sent to local practitioners and others who might have knowledge of these people, outlining the scheme and asking them to furnish names and addresses. As a result of this it was possible to arrange four afternoon coach trips around the countryside with tea provided en route. Thanks are due to those helpers who took charge of the parties and for the co-operation of the District Nursing Association for arranging for a nurse to accompany each party, particularly the male nurse who was of great assistance in carrying many of the old folk in and out of the coaches. Many letters of appreciation were received from those who went on the trips and it is hoped that a similar venture can be undertaken during the coming summer.

During the spring, gifts of flowers were received from the Hampshire Girl Guides' Association and distributed to the old folk. This has brought a great deal of pleasure to them and this kindness shown by the Guides is much appreciated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951.**

SECTION 50. Section 50 of this Act imposes on the Council the responsibility to bury or cremate any person found dead in the borough where there are no relatives or friends to make the necessary arrangements. It is also incumbent upon the Council to make extensive inquiries, with the aid of the Coroner and the Police, to ensure that there are no monies or estate from which the cost can be met.

On its North side, the borough is bounded for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles by the River Thames and, during 1954, 8 male and 2 female bodies were recovered on the foreshore. It is interesting to note that of these only two were ultimately indentified as Bermondsey residents, the remainder coming from as far away as Dublin, Liecester, and Folkestone. In the majority of these cases, however, the bodies were identified by relatives who made arrangements for burial.

The four cases reported below were also dealt with under this Section of the Act:—

1. Mr. G., aged 74 yrs., who lived alone in a large block of flats and was known by the Superintendent to be extremely ill had refused to go to hospital and was in need of care and attention. A member of the staff who called at Mr. G's address within ten minutes of the case being reported, found the front door unlocked but barricaded on the inside by a chair. After entry was effected, the occupant of the flat was found to be dead in bed, fully clothed. The room and the bed were both very dirty and it was obvious that Mr. G., had been incapable of looking after himself for some time. The police were informed and as there was no evidence of foul play, the matter was referred to the Coroner, who issued a certificate following a post mortem, it having been found that death was due to natural causes. No relatives could be traced and the Department arranged for the burial, the cost of which was met by cash in the deceased's possession and sums recovered from the National Assistance Board.
2. The death of Mr. S., aged 68 yrs., was reported to us by his landlady, who requested the Department to arrange for his burial. No National Assistance or Retirement Pension payments were due, and no money or articles of value were found among the deceased's effects. The cost of the interment was borne by the Council.
3. The Department was notified that a female body in a decomposed condition had been discovered in a flat in one of the tenements in the borough. On inquiry it was found that the woman had been living in the flat at intervals whilst acting as housekeeper to the tenant who had been in hospital for some weeks. All that could be ascertained was that the

deceased was a native of Ireland and no relatives could be traced, either by the police or by this Department. The cost of interment was borne by the Council.

4. The body of Mr. A. G., was found in his flat and, on the Coroner's instructions, was removed to Southwark Mortuary where, following a post mortem, death was found to be due to aortic incompetence and stenosis. The Coroner's Officer made extensive inquiries, but no relatives could be traced and, therefore, this Department arranged for the burial. Certain furniture and effects of no value were collected from the deceased's address and destroyed. A National Health Insurance Card was recovered, however, and an amount of £6 was received from the Ministry of Pensions in this case.

SECTION 47. Under Section 47 of the Act, the Council are empowered to apply to a Court for an Order for the removal to hospital, or other institution, of a person who is aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, who is living in insanitary conditions and who is "unable to devote to himself, and is not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention".

In addition, the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, which came into force in 1951, authorises a magistrate to order the emergency removal of such people to an institution on certification by the Medical Officer of Health and another practitioner, for periods not exceeding three weeks.

Twelve cases were brought to our notice during the year, but only in the three cases reported below was it necessary to use the powers under the Act:—

1. At the request of the District Sanitary Inspector I visited a flat in one of the Council's tenements occupied by Mrs. R., aged 86 yrs., and her son, aged 62 yrs. Mrs. R., who was incontinent, had been looked after and kept clean by the son. Unfortunately, he was a cripple and in failing health, and he had reached a state where the worry and physical effort of looking after his mother was causing him nervous disorder. Attempts were made to persuade Mrs. R., to enter an institution voluntarily, but she refused and, in the circumstances, it was necessary to take action under the Acts. I therefore signed a certificate in accordance with Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, which was countersigned by Mrs. R's medical practitioner. Application was then made by the Town Clerk to one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for an Order committing Mrs. R., to to an institution for a period not exceeding 14 days. Mrs. R., was subsequently removed to Newington Lodge, Westmoreland Road, S.E.17, where, I regret to report, she died ten days after being admitted.
2. Following a number of complaints of smells from a cottage in the borough, I paid a visit to Mr. A., aged 61 yrs., the tenant.

The cottage was in a filthy state and there was evidence that Mr. A., was disposing of his excreta and waste food by throwing it out of the door and windows. The medical practitioner attending Mr. A., was consulted and he agreed that application should be made for an Order committing Mr. A., to an institution for a period not exceeding 14 days. Mr. A., was subsequently admitted to Newington Lodge, Westmoreland Road, S.E.17, after having been bathed in the Council's Cleansing Station and supplied with a complete outfit of clothing. Although some difficulty was experienced in persuading Mr. A., to enter an Old People's Home, when the statutory 14 days had expired he expressed a desire to remain in residence at the Home, where he died six months after admission, the cause of death being certified as Huntington's Chorea.

3. After neighbours' complaints of smells emanating from one of the Council's flats occupied by Mrs. Y., I paid a visit and found both Mrs. Y., and the flat in a filthy condition. There was evidence that Mrs. Y., was incontinent, infested with fleas, and unable to devote to herself proper care and attention. Her medical adviser agreed to sign a joint declaration that she should be admitted to an institution for a period not exceeding 14 days. During this period her flat was disinfested, her clothing and bedding cleaned and laundered, and a Home Help thoroughly cleaned the flat. Mrs. Y., returned home and with the aid of neighbours and regular supervision by members of the staff, has kept herself clean and is living a normal happy life.

MORTUARY

This Council maintained a mortuary, complete with post-mortem rooms and chapel, until October, 1935, when, owing to the decreasing use made of these facilities, which was partly due to the Coroner's decision in 1930 to hold no more inquests in this borough, and coincident with the retirement of the then Mortuary Keeper, the Council decided to close the mortuary premises and to enter into an agreement with the London County Council for the reception of bodies into the mortuary attached to St. Olave's Hospital, at a fee of £1 1s. 0d. for each body accommodated. This arrangement worked satisfactorily, and the Council's mandatory function under Section 234 of the Public Health (London) Act 1936 has been discharged in this manner ever since. Consequently, since 1935, in all cases where the Coroner has ordered a post-mortem to be performed the bodies have been taken by the Coroner for that purpose to the mortuary maintained by the borough council in which his Court for this area is situated. For many years inquests on persons dying in Bermondsey were held at Lewisham, but owing to a redistribution of coroners' areas they have been held at Southwark for the past few years. Not only are those bodies removed to Southwark for whose accommodation in St. Olave's

Hospital we are responsible, but in addition a far greater number are removed from the Hospital to Southwark as a result of deaths in the Hospital. Other isolated cases of removal to Southwark may take place arising from police instructions.

Early in the year, the Southwark Borough Council approached this Council with the proposal that Bermondsey, in company with Lambeth and Camberwell, should make a contribution towards the cost of their mortuary premises which include cottage, office, mortuary and viewing room, doctor's room, post-mortem room, and the Coroner's Court. The expenditure, apart from the Coroner's Court which is the London County Council's responsibility, should be borne by the four authorities on the basis of the total number of bodies accommodated on behalf of the four boroughs concerned and the expenditure incurred by Southwark, and it was agreed to contribute year by year our proportion of the expenditure incurred.

The number of bodies removed to Southwark from Bermondsey for post-mortem or inquest purposes during the year 1953 was 186, out of a total of 1,504 accommodated from all the boroughs concerned.

During the year under review, 207 bodies from Bermondsey (66 from private addresses and 141 from hospitals) were accommodated.

WATER SUPPLY

The water for industrial and domestic use for the borough is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. During 1954 the Board took 1,585 samples for chemical examination and 3,604 for bacteriological examination. No complaints were received during the year.

The water is derived from the River Thames at intakes at Walton, Laleham and Staines; stored in the Board's reservoirs at Walton, Littleton and Staines; and filtered and chlorinated at the Board's works at Surbiton, Walton and Hampton. The water is pumped into supply from these works to service reservoirs at Nunhead and Brixton thereby affording a constant supply of water.

Contact tanks are provided at Walton and Hampton works to ensure that chlorine completes its action before the water is pumped into supply; plans for the installation of a similar contact tank at Surbiton works are in the process of being prepared. Chlorination treatment is now fully automatic, the dose being adjusted for changes in quality of the water as well as for changes in rates of flow.

All sections of new and repaired mains are disinfected with chlorine before being restored to supply and 99.4 per cent of samples collected from new and repaired mains from the whole of the Board's area during 1954 were of first class bacteriological quality namely free from *Bacterium coli* in 100 ml. volumes.

FREE WASHING FACILITIES

In the early part of the year a wash-basin was installed at Joiner Street (Male) Convenience for the washing of hands, and in consequence to the demand for its use, similar facilities have now been made available at all the public sanitary conveniences in the borough, both male and female.

The number of persons using this free service:—

Males	12,976
Females	3,244

These considerable and increasing figures are encouraging.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AND INOCULATION

At the request of the Ministry of Health and in order to comply with the International Sanitary Regulations 51 certificates were dealt with during the year.

STREET AND OPEN MARKETS

Number of licences in operation during 1954:—

Street markets	181
Open markets	237
Total	<u>418</u>

Income for 1954:—

	£	s.	d.
Street markets	2,571	0	0
Open markets	3,836	4	6
Total	<u>£6,407</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

Number of prosecutions during 1954 Nil

Southwark Park Road Market.

The land owners of the Open Market site in Southwark Park Road informed the Council in 1953 that they would require the site for development at the end of January 1954. The Council was therefore compelled to look for another site in order to accommodate the existing permit holders on the Open Market. Having considered all possibilities

for the accommodation of the traders and heard representations on their behalf by the Federation of Street Traders' Unions, the Council felt that there was no alternative but to license the traders to trade in a portion of the south side of Southwark Park Road. In view of the prevailing traffic conditions, however, it was decided that there should be a trial period, in the first instance, of six months, to take effect from the 1st February, 1954. The Council later decided that licences should be renewed on an annual basis. I am pleased to say that the new market has been worked satisfactorily and has been trouble-free throughout the year.

Tower Bridge Road Market.

In September, 1954 a deputation from the Bermondsey Street Traders' Protection Association and the Federation of Street Traders' Unions attended before the Public Health Committee in support of a request by the Bermondsey Street Traders that they should be licensed to trade in Tower Bridge Road (west side) between the existing designated section and Rothsay Street. The deputation pointed out that the traders in Bermondsey Street, who had originally been moved from Tower Bridge Road as the result of a Home Office Enquiry, found business in Bermondsey Street very poor. They also stated that the conditions which obtained when the compulsory removal took place were now changed and that the traffic congestion in Tower Bridge Road had been greatly minimised by the abolition of the trams. The Committee considered that there was justification for the application and recommended that the necessary licences be granted for the portion of Tower Bridge Road in question, but that the views of the Home Office be first obtained. The Home Office, on being consulted, had no observations to offer, and 13 licences were accordingly granted. The traders took up their new positions on 13th November, 1954.

London Bridge Area.

The market in Railway Approach, which was designated in 1952, continues to run smoothly, and I am pleased to report that there have been no prosecutions for unlicensed trading during 1954.

The New Caledonian Market.

To the people of Bermondsey today, the term "Cally", signifying the New Caledonian Market, Bermondsey Square, has become as common as the "Blue", a term affectionately applied to the street market in Southwark Park Road. To an older generation of Londoners, however, the "Cally" meant the fifteen acres of ground lying off the Caledonian Road, Islington, where, on Tuesdays and Fridays in pre-war years, as many as 40,000 people would swarm around the 2,000 stalls, looking for bargains.

The old "Cally" is no more—it was closed down on the outbreak of hostilities in 1939, and, in spite of a vigorous campaign by the former stall-holders, has never been re-opened (it is scheduled for a children's playground under the L.C.C. Development Plan). But some of the



THE NEW CALEDONIAN MARKET

spirit of the old market remains notwithstanding the fact that there are on the Bermondsey site only 180 stalls as compared with the pre-war 2,000.

The New Caledonian Market was formally opened on 3rd February, 1950, by Miss Valerie Hobson, the actress. In spite of its small size it has attracted visitors from all over the world. Hollywood film stars make a point of seeing it when they come to England, and a recent visitor was the evangelist—Billy Graham.

The market is open on Fridays and visitors are greeted with a varied array of articles. Gleaming silverware lies next to carvings from the African jungle, and old china next to antiquated firearms; the discerning collector can still occasionally make a "find".

Pitches are in great demand and the Council keeps a long list of traders who are awaiting a vacancy.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

At the request of numerous medical practitioners, I have pleasure in presenting the following notes regarding this service. The nearest laboratory is:— The Public Health Laboratory Service, Room 617, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1. (Director: Dr. A. J. H. TOMLINSON).

The Public Health Laboratory Service is a free national laboratory service for England and Wales, designed to assist all those, including the medical departments of the Defence Services, concerned in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. The benefits are not limited by health authority, hospital region or other administrative boundary. Its laboratories are open to all doctors both for the submission of specimens and for consultation.

GENERAL SCOPE OF THE SERVICE.

Routine Laboratory Work.

The routine work falls under two main heads: the bacteriological examination of (a) "medical" specimens from general practitioners, infectious diseases hospitals and local authorities and (b) "sanitary" specimens from local food authorities. The laboratories of the Service normally do not undertake work which is rightly the province of the hospital or clinical pathologist, but they are prepared to offer all help within their power when facilities for such work are not available elsewhere.

Distribution of Biological Reagents.

The Service performs a useful function in distributing a number of reagents for prophylactic immunization and for certain intracutaneous diagnostic tests.

PROPHYLACTICS

Smallpox vaccine	Available at most P.H.L.S. laboratories for issue to individual doctors or clinics.
Diphtheria prophylactics ..	Available at all P.H.L.S. laboratories for issue to public health departments.
Gamma globulin for prevention or modification of measles.	Available to individual doctors—limited stocks in most P.H.L.S. laboratories for issue under strictly defined conditions.
Anti-rabic vaccine	Available to individual doctors from Liverpool, London, Newcastle and Cardiff laboratories only.
Anti-typhus vaccine ..	Available to individual doctors from Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Exeter, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford, Sheffield and Cardiff laboratories.
Prophylactic anti-anthrax serum.	Available to individual doctors from Bradford, Hull, Liverpool, London, Newcastle, Northampton, Taunton, Worcester and Cardiff laboratories.

SKIN TEST ANTIGENS

Brucellin	} Available to individual doctors directly from Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale.
Trichina	
Casoni	
Frei	
Cat-Scratch Fever	

The Service does not issue any therapeutic sera or anti-toxins, neither does it issue T.A.B. or cholera vaccine, Schick-test toxin, or prophylactics other than those noted above. T.A.B. and most other vaccines are available commercially. Yellow fever vaccination is carried out only in special centres designated by the Ministry of Health.

COLLECTION AND TRANSMISSION OF SPECIMENS

Responsibility for collecting and transmitting specimens to the laboratory lies with the clinician. The laboratory cannot undertake this except under special conditions. Ideally, all specimens should be sent by hand.

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LABORATORY AIDS IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Respiratory Infections.

The bacterial infections of the respiratory tract in which laboratory help is most useful and sometimes essential for diagnosis are sore throat, acute and chronic chest infections, including lobar pneumonia, tuberculosis and whooping cough. Of the virus diseases, influenza, psittacosis and a typical pneumonia are the only ones that can be readily diagnosed by laboratory.

Swabs from cases of sore throat are cultured for diphtheria bacilli, hæmolytic streptococci and other pathogens; stained smears are examined for the organisms of Vincent's angina. A provisional report on any positive result is telephoned on the morning of the day after receipt of the specimen. When a specimen is received late in the day, diphtheria bacilli may not be found until the afternoon of the following day. Rarely, the bacilli may grow so slowly that a provisional negative report telephoned within 24 hours may have to be corrected at 48 hours to a positive report.

Intestinal Infections.

The two main groups of specific infections causing diarrhoea with or without vomiting in this country are bacillary dysentery and food poisoning. Bacillary dysentery due to Sonne's bacillus, which usually causes a mild type of diarrhoea (often unaccompanied by blood or mucus), is common and widespread. With selective media, dysentery bacilli may be readily isolated from fæces during the acute and often the convalescent stages of the disease.

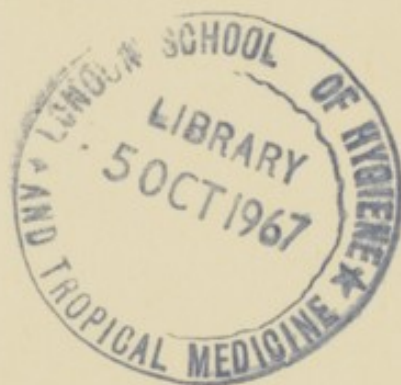
Specimens should also be submitted from the other members of the household when a case of dysentery has been diagnosed, since symptomless excretors among intimate contacts are common. In such circumstances a carefully taken rectal swab may be preferred, because it ensures against "pot" contamination, although as a general rule a sample of fæces is more satisfactory.

A provisional positive report can usually be made after 24 hours, but the full examination of a specimen may take 2 to 3 days.

Food poisoning (excluding Botulism) may be defined as an acute gastro-enteritis, typically characterized by vomiting and diarrhoea, but on occasion with these symptoms considerably modified. The illness can generally be associated with the consumption, within a reasonably short period of time, of a particular meal.

The bacteria most commonly responsible for food poisoning are members of the *Salmonella* group (excluding the typhoid-paratyphoid organisms), *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Cl. welchii*.

The practitioner, who may be the first to recognise a food-poisoning outbreak, should collect faeces, and vomit if available, from all affected persons. Even in the toxic type of food poisoning the examination of faecal specimens may often yield valuable information. Any remains of the suspected articles of food should be obtained and sent to the laboratory. Cases of food poisoning are notifiable, and an outbreak or a suspected case should be reported as soon as possible to the medical officer of health, who will carry out further investigations.



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