

Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

Contributors

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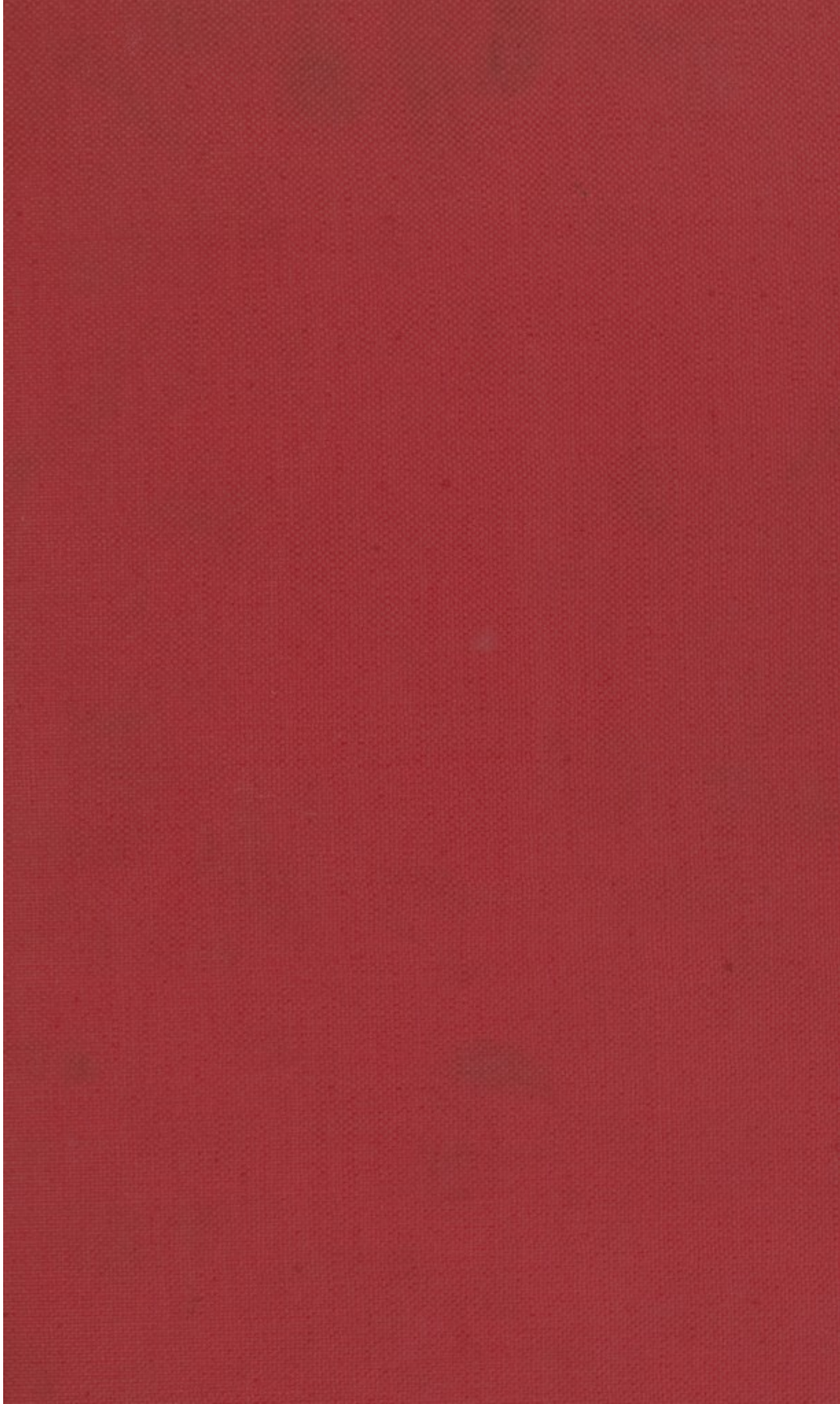
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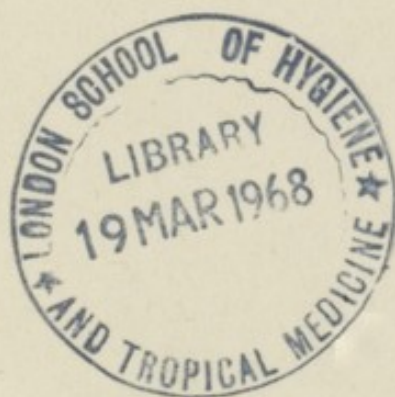
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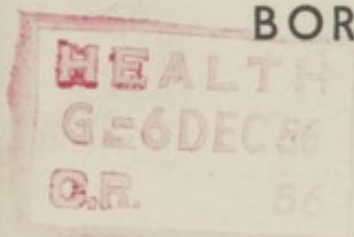


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METROPOLITAN

BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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

Medical Officer of Health

67331



METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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

Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,

SPA ROAD, S.E.16

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955

Chairman Councillor W. H. WARDELL

Vice-Chairman Councillor JOS. MAHONEY

Alderman	A. M. Downing	Councillor	G. J. Gillard
„	A. V. Kidd	„	C. R. Hand
Councillor	F. J. Ackland	„	T. Hendy
„	T. J. Eagle	„	W. M. Leahy
„	W. L. Ellis	„	J. A. Mahoney
„	F. W. Florance	„	Mrs. A. E. Martin
„	Mrs. A. E. Freestone	„	J. H. Newbery
„	P. J. Geoghegan	„	W. E. Nicklin
„	L. H. George	„	P. J. Quirk

Ex-officio.

Councillor P. J. GEOGHEGAN, *J.P.*, Mayor of Bermondsey, 1954/55.

Councillor A. CULLING, *J.P.*, Mayor of Bermondsey, 1955/56.

STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

J. W. J. Saward, A.F.C., M.R.I.P.H.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 and Factories Inspector.
W. A. Campbell, Wharves Inspector and Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

G. F. J. Toll, Wharves and Food Inspector (Retired December, 1955).

H. E. Butcher, Wharves and Food Inspector.

W. C. Tapsfield, Wharves and Food Inspector.

H. J. Bailey, Food and Drugs Inspector (Resigned September, 1955).

A. W. Hancock, Food and Drugs 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 (Resigned March, 1953).

S. R. Weightman, D.P.A.(Lond.), District Inspector.

E. H. Kerridge, District Inspector (Resigned June, 1955).

C. H. Whitelock, District Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF

H. D. White (Senior Clerk).

A. E. Gambrell.

E. T. Hodgkins.

G. A. Hunt.

G. A. Blake.

A. J. Kiddell.

E. M. Watkins.

M. W. Bridgman.

WELFARE ASSISTANT

Mrs. M. V. Reynolds, M.W.I.

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.*

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year
1955.

In doing so, may I express both to the Council and to the staff
my appreciation of the kindness and consideration shown to me during
the year.

I am, Madam, 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, 1954	to 30th June, 1955
111,542	60,640	58,590	57,580

BIRTHS

The total number of births belonging to the borough registered during 1955 was 931 consisting of 473 males and 458 females. The number for 1954 was 986. The birth-rate for 1955 was 16·2 per thousand persons living, compared with 16·8 for 1954.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths belonging to the borough registered during 1955 was 578, consisting of 311 males and 267 females. The number for 1954 was 573. The death-rate for 1955 was 10 per thousand persons living, compared with 9·7 for 1954.

MARRIAGES

The total number of marriages in the borough in 1955 was 501, being 26 above the number for 1954, and 92 below the average for the last 10 years.

The figures have been supplied by the Superintendent Registrar.

Year	No.	Rate
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
1954	475	16·21
Average for years 1945 — 1954.....	593	20·64
1955	501	17·4

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Year	Whole Borough		London	
	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births
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
1954	23	24	1,047	21
Average for years 1945-1954	32	28	1,653	29
1955	21	23	1,157	23

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

In the following Table will be found particulars of deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System since the year 1945.

Year	Whole Borough		London [*]	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
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
1954	14	0.24	596	0.18
Averages for years 1945-1954	31	0.54	1,410	0.44
1955	8	0.14	517	0.16

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1955 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
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
1954	58,590	986	16.8	23	24	673	11.5	455	206	112	579	9.9
Averages for years 1945-1954	58,116	1,125	19.3	16	14	697	12.0	407	180	187	704	12.2
1955	57,580	931	16.2	21	23	643	10.9	452	202	137	578	10.0

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1955.

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	8	—	1	—	—	1	3	2	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Syphilitic disease	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	17	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	35	—	—	—	—	3	14	13	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	11	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	56	—	—	—	—	1	22	11	22
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	66	—	—	—	—	1	17	26	22
Coronary disease, angina	89	—	—	—	—	1	29	29	30

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1955—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	10	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	2
Other heart disease	61	—	—	—	1	4	10	13	33
Other circulatory disease	31	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	19
Influenza	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Pneumonia	25	5	1	—	—	—	6	4	9
Bronchitis	47	—	1	—	—	—	14	16	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	13	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	14	—	—	—	—	2	4	4	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	37	13	—	—	—	1	6	6	11
Motor vehicle accidents	7	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	—
All other accidents	10	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	4
Suicide	7	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL CERTIFIED DEATHS	578	21	4	3	3	19	161	166	201

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages under One Year of Age, 1955.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis and its Sequelæ	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis and Colitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injuries, Post-Natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Infections of the Newborn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy and Immaturity Un- qualified	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Other Causes	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
TOTALS	14	1	1	—	16	—	5	—	—	21

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

Births.

Registered—				Total	Males	Females
Live Births	{	Legitimate .. ..	..	931	459	442
		Illegitimate .. ..	..	30	14	16
				Total	Males	Females
Stillbirths	{	Legitimate .. ..	..	19	13	6
		Illegitimate .. ..	..	2	—	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						21.4

Notified within 36 hours of birth—

(1) Live Births, 898 (2) Stillbirths, 21 (3) Total, 919

						Total	Males	Females
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	578	311	267

Maternal Deaths.

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

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	..	..	22.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..	..	..	22.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. ..	..	..	NIL

Day Nurseries.

Number of day nurseries 4.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms (all ages) 123

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

Twelve 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	18	Pillows	202
Blankets	460	Pillows (cases)	184
Bolsters	3	Quilts	126
„ (cases)	2	Sheets	205
Books	541	Miscellaneous	6,421
Cushions	4	Verminous Clothing	1,884
Overlays	241		

Number of rooms disinfected	332
-----------------------------------	-----

Number of mattresses and other articles destroyed	602
Furniture, Floorcloth, etc., destroyed	87 Loads

CLEANSING STATION

Verminous persons cleansed	Adult Females	44
	Adult Males	139
	Children	504

Persons treated for Scabies:—

	Number treated	Number of baths given
Adult Females	6	19
Adult Males	7	21
Children, Females (School Age)	9	49
Children, Males („ „)	6	26
Children, Females (Under School Age)	2	9
Children, Males („ „ „)	2	11

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

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																
Erysipelas	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	7	1	
Scarlet Fever	113	—	26	80	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	5	7	3	6	4	1	3	4	21	17	35	113	1	
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Dysentery	29	—	14	7	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	4	—	2	4	5	3	2	2	—	—	29	3	
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Acute Polio-Encephalitis	14	—	8	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	2	—	2	3	—	1	14	11	
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Food Poisoning	12	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	2	—	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	1	12	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	23	1	2	3	—	1	4	1	1	2	3	5	3	—	1	4	2	2	1	—	—	3	2	3	2	23	3	
Whooping Cough	51	7	28	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	8	4	4	6	6	1	3	—	1	3	7	5	51	3	
Measles	1271	57	739	461	10	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	109	93	66	164	115	51	74	64	80	100	91	143	121	1271	20	
Scabies	4	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	
Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	54	—	1	3	2	7	9	12	6	3	8	3	5	5	5	8	7	2	3	1	—	2	7	3	6	54	—	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6	—	
Totals	1588	66	818	577	23	14	20	22	13	8	15	12	128	113	87	200	137	72	87	77	87	118	130	176	176	1588	45	

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEARS 1946-1955.

Notifiable Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Small Pox	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	22	34	37	65	3	2	2	1	1	—
Erysipelas	15	12	13	7	9	9	8	7	7	7
Scarlet Fever	82	152	199	85	72	82	87	59	62	113
Meningococcal Infection	5	3	1	—	1	6	2	1	6	1
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Acute Polio-Encephalitis	4	27	7	4	3	2	1	2	—	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	2	5	3	—	1	2	1	1	1
Anthrax	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	4	5	5	4	18	19	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	12
Dysentery	12	4	2	1	4	131	7	25	56	29
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Malaria	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	54	52	57	43	16	28	25	40	19	23
Whooping Cough	233	297	237	40	267	75	40	124	135	51
Measles	521	334	899	771	367	1197	716	514	183	1271
Scabies	253	81	42	7	2	6	4	—	5	4
Tuberculosis—										
Respiratory System	129	100	105	120	105	89	59	72	63	54
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	16	27	12	10	9	8	10	10	6
Totals	1,366	1,125	1,638	1,164	863	1,656	980	857	558	1,588

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, 1955—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	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
5	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	2	5	1	1	—	—	—	—
20	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
75 and upwards	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
	33	24	4	2	7	1	—	1

TABLE II
TUBERCULOSIS, 1955—NOTIFICATION REGISTER

	Respiratory System		Other Forms	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of Cases on Register at commencement of Year	328	251	40	40
Number of Cases Notified during Year	31	23	4	2
Inward Transfers, Un-notified Deaths, etc., during Year	13	8	1	1
Number of Cases Removed from the Register during Year	47	26	4	4
Number of Cases Remaining on the Register at end of Year	325	256	41	39

Summary of Tuberculosis Notifications during the period from the 1st January, 1955, to the 31st December, 1955.

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	1	2	2	6	5	2	9	2	1	31
„ Females	—	—	1	2	1	5	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	23
Non-Pulmonary Males	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
„ Females	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
„ Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Non-Pulmonary Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

HOUSING

A total of 102 flats was completed at Beech, Lewes and Wells Houses.

Five two year hutments were closed and 14 ten year E. F. M. Bungalows demolished. 193 families from waiting list, clearance areas etc. were rehoused during the year and 239 exchanges and transfers were effected to provide more suitable accommodation.

26 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	9
In Bermondsey Borough Council dwellings	2
In London County Council dwellings	—
Total	<u>11</u>

Total number of cases of overcrowding at present on the Register	486
------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

The following table shows the fumigations carried out during 1955 :—

	Disinfested
Council houses or flats	45
Other houses or flats	92

INSPECTIONS, PROCEEDINGS, ETC.

Hereunder will be found particulars of Inspections, Proceedings, etc., for the year 1955 :—

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	3,569
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	18,475
------------------------------------------------------	--------

(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	393
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	565
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	34
(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	337

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	1,088
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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	1,927
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	290
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	6

(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	Nil
(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	19
(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)	15
(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	26
(2) Fines imposed	—
(3) Costs awarded	£78 5 6

REGISTERED PREMISES—

Premises	Number on Register at end of 1955	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions
Common Lodging Houses ..	2	37	—
Seamen's Lodging Houses ..	—	—	—
Milkshops	118	189	—
Ice Cream Premises	188	99	—
Offensive Trades (including Poultry Slaughter-houses)	8	52	—

SMOKE NUISANCES—

Number of observations	287
Number of notices	3
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	604
Number of inspections	1,448

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 1955 :—

Drains Tested	646
Visits to Conveniences and Urinals	323
Other Visits	1,516
Total visits	<u>2,485</u>

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Under the provisions of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954, the Council resolved that after 1st October, 1955, no person shall carry on the business of hairdresser or barber on any premises unless he and those premises are registered by the Council. The Council have made Byelaws for the purpose of securing cleanliness of the premises, instruments, materials and equipment and of persons employed in the premises.

57 persons and 50 premises have been registered under the Act and each person so registered has been supplied with a copy of the Council's Byelaws and a Certificate of Registration which must be kept displayed in the premises registered.

All premises are inspected regularly to ensure that the requirements of the Byelaws are carried out.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

51 applications for Certificates of Disrepair and 31 applications for revocation of Certificates of Disrepair have been granted during the year.

WORK OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS, 1955

		Mr. KERRIDGE	Mr. KNOTT	Mr. WEIGHTMAN	Mr. SPRINGETT	Mr. SMITH	Mr. WHITELOCK	TOTALS
1	House-to-House	22	117	267	8	112	39	565
2	Special Inspections	342	566	305	10	1061	433	2717
3	Complaints	352	562	721	18	698	392	2743
4	Infectious Diseases	276	317	242	25	568	113	1541
5	Rats	27	31	53	2	6	38	157
6	Outworkers' Inspection	21	34	15	—	33	32	135
7	Drains Tested	9	31	53	1	44	29	167
8	Other Calls and Visits	822	3840	2287	85	2180	1403	10617
9	Chimneys watched	18	62	—	—	1	3	84
10	Bakehouses	—	5	—	—	9	3	17
11	Common and Seamen's Lodging	—	1	—	—	24	12	37
12	Butchers	9	98	32	—	71	41	251
13	Fishmongers, Friers and Curers	1	25	2	—	13	19	60
14	Food Stores	4	62	14	1	28	106	215
15	Fruiterers and Greengrocers	1	22	—	—	2	37	62
16	Pet Animals	24	8	—	1	—	18	51
17	Markets	1	66	3	1	44	34	149
18	Restaurants and Eating Houses	—	13	1	—	5	26	45
19	Destruction of Food	5	23	11	1	43	10	93
20	Hairdressers	—	13	8	—	6	31	58
21	TOTALS { Visits	1934	5896	4014	153	4948	2819	19764
	Intimation Notices	244	510	366	14	503	290	1927

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	34	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton Bags	2	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags	1	—	—	—	—	—
The making of Boxes or other Receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	2	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Publishers	5	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carding of Buttons, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Christmas Crackers	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fancy Goods	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	47	—	—	—	—	—

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	269	264	7	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	499	1966	33	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	18	76	—	—
Total	786	2306	40	—

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	1	1	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	39	39	—	4	—
Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work)					
Total	40	40	—	4	—

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 1955 :—

Disposal	Loads	tons	cwts.	qrs.
House Refuse to Barge	10,410	16,690	13	—
Trade Refuse to Barge	3,455	5,988	1	1
Street and Open Markets Refuse to Barge	667	458	14	2
Totals	14,532	23,137	8	3

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 7 licences to keep a pet shop were granted. Three 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	*****	*****	*****	437
Notices served	*****	*****	*****	53
Re-visits	*****	*****	*****	264

WORK OF THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS INSPECTOR

Shops.

Visits	.....	61
Notices served under Shops Act, 1934	.....	—
Notices served under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	.....	—

Factories (with mechanical power).

Visits	251
Notices under Factories Act, 1937	33
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	—

Factories (without mechanical power).

Visits	29
Notices under Factories Act, 1937	7
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936	—

Workplaces.

Visits	NOTES	NOTES	NOTES	NOTES	NOTES	NOTES	NOTES	76
Notices under Public Health (London) Act, 1936								—

Visits to Offensive Trade premises	52
Smoke observations	203
Other calls and visits	549

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 Authority's District	33	15,200	2,297	17,530
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955 as a result of (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) 8	269	125	402
	(b) 9	1	487	497
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major —	—	70	70
	Minor 9	191	225	425
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	6	79	105	190
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.. .. .	15	270	254	539
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 ..				12

FOOD CONTROL.

PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937/48. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Forty-four samples were taken during the year by the Wharves Inspectors.

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Apricots, Dried	1	For presence of preservatives	Satisfactory	
„ „	1	For presence of preservatives	Sulphur Dioxide 6,000 parts per million	Released with warning to Importer
„ „	2	„ „	Satisfactory	Released
„ Drained	1	„ „	Sulphur Dioxide 5,600 parts per million	Re-exported
Beans with Sausages in Tomato Sauce	1	For metallic contamination	Tin 400 parts per million	Whole parcel condemned and destroyed
Butter	1	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	Released
Butter in Tubes from Italy	1	„ „	„	„
Cheese containing Salami	1	To ascertain meat content	„	„
Chutney	1	For presence of preservatives	„	„
Cooking Fat	1	To ascertain composition	Found to be largely if not entirely Lard	Re-exported (Imported without Official Certificate)
Crab, Dressed	3	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	Released
Crab Meat (Norwegian)	1	„ „	„	„
Crab Meat (Japanese)	2	„ „	„	„

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Cream, Tinned	1	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	Released
Cucumbers, Canned	1	For presence of preservatives	Benzoic Acid 260 parts per million	Released with warning to Importer
" "	1	" "	Benzoic Acid 730 parts per million	Re-exported
" "	1	" "	Satisfactory	Released
Cucumbers, Pickled Dill	3	" "	"	" "
" " "	1	" "	Benzoic Acid 700 parts per million	Detained
" " "	1	" "	Benzoic Acid 550 parts per million	"
" " "	1	" "	Satisfactory	Released with warning regarding labelling
Currants, Greek	1	" "	"	Released
Curry Powder	1	To ascertain composition	"	"
Egg Yolk, Glycinerated	1	To ascertain condition and for preservatives	"	"
Gherkins in Glass Jars	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Gherkins in Vinegar	2	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Jelly Crystals	1	For metallic contamination and to ascertain composition	"	"
Lemons in Paper Wrappers	1	For presence of preservatives in wrapper	"	"
Lentil Flour	2	To ascertain condition	"	"
Luncheon Meat	2	To ascertain composition and for metallic contamination	"	"

Article Examined	No. of Samples	Purpose of Examination	Result	Action
Milk, Tinned	1	To ascertain composition	Satisfactory	Released
Mustard, German	1	For presence of preservatives	Benzoic Acid 590 parts per million	Re-exported
" "	1	" "	Benzoic Acid 750 parts per million	"
Peanuts, Flaked	1	To ascertain condition	Satisfactory	Released
Pickles, Mixed	1	For presence of preservatives	"	"
Vegetables, Dried	1	" "	"	"

UNSOUND ONIONS

On August 5th, 1955, the s.s. ORANIE arrived at Mark Brown's Wharf from Malta with a cargo of 13,886 bags of onions (approx. 350 tons). The ship was discharged immediately and the onions were then in good condition. No deliveries, however, were made at that time and, during August, the weather was very hot. The onions began to deteriorate rapidly and letters to the effect that the onions were becoming unsound were sent to the shipping agents and the importers.

The only delivery from this consignment was on the 30th August when the importers removed 415 bags. The remainder of the cargo was not taken up. By the 6th September the onions had become an offensive accumulation and nuisance notices under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, were served on the Wharf Proprietors, the shipping agents and the importers.

The remainder of the cargo (said to be 13,471 bags) was destroyed under the supervision of this Department on 12th to 16th September, 1955.

SECTION 14, FOOD & DRUGS ACT AND DAIRIES

						<i>Inspections</i>
Ice Cream Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	196	98
Preserved Food, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	93	311
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	.....	.....	.....	.....	151
Factory Canteens	.....	.....	.....	.....	70
Groceries and Provisions	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Bakers	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Public Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	153
Food Factories	.....	.....	.....	.....	178
Wholesale Food Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	112
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	—	3	2	—
Meat, Canned	—	9	3	—
Fruit, Canned	—	2	1	18
Vegetables, Canned	—	—	2	8
Tomatoes, Canned	—	—	2	24
Milk, Canned	—	—	3	17
Cheese	—	—	1	10
Bacon	—	1	—	23
Various	—	1	—	20
Total	1	—	2	8

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

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

MILK PREMISES FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938/50 MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Sixteen milk sellers were registered under the above Acts during 1955, and 15 were removed from the Register. There were 118 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	60
To sell Pasteurised Milk.....	92
To sell Sterilised Milk	120

Supplementary Licences.

To sell Pasteurised Milk.....	17
To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	17
To sell Sterilised Milk	22

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 1955 was 512, of which number 208 were taken from schools, hospitals, etc.

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

Condensed Milk	12
Evaporated Milk	4
Sterilised Milk	56
Pasteurised Milk	183
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.....	19
Channel Islands Milk	24
South Devon Milk	3
Liquid Milk (undesigned)	2
	<hr/> 303

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.)	104
Pasteurised Milk (other than from schools)	42
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.....	37
Sterilised Milk	22
Channel Islands (Pasteurised) Milk	3
South Devon (Pasteurised) Milk	1
	<hr/> 209

ICE CREAM

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

1. Bacterial Count.

Up to 500 per 1 c.c.	37
Over 500 to 1,000 per c.c.	9
Over 1,000 to 5,000 per 1 c.c.	17
Over 5,000 to 10,000 per 1 c.c.	2
Over 10,000 to 50,000 per 1 c.c.	13
Over 50,000 to 100,000 per 1 c.c.	3
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.	1
Over 600,000 to 1,000,000 per 1 c.c.	—
Over 1,000,000 per 1 c.c.	2
	<hr/> 91

2. Presence of B. Coli.

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.	—
B. Coli absent in 1 c.c., 1 10th c.c. and 1 100th c.c.	90
	<hr/> 91

3. Methylene Blue Grading.

Grade 1	32
2	23
3	5
4	19
Not graded	12
	<hr/> 91

4. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Fifteen 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 12 cases the analysis disclosed an infringement of the law.

No.	Date purchased	Sample	Infringement	Remarks
971	11.2.55	Dried Parsley	Contained 4% grit and coarse particles of earth	Letter to Manufacturer
239	3.5.55	Dried Mint	Insoluble Ash 2.8% instead of not more than 1.8%	Letter to Manufacturer
280	11.5.55	Pork Sausages	Meat content 46.1% instead of not less than 65%	<i>Prosecution</i> Absolute discharge Costs £3 3s.
355	31.5.55	T.T. Pasteurised Milk	Contained at least 3.1% of added water	Letter to Supplier
367	2.6.55	Dried Parsley	Contained 2.3% grit and coarse particles of earth	Letter to Manufacturer
372	6.6.55	Dried Parsley	Contained 2% grit and coarse particles of earth	Letter to Manufacturer
585	16.8.55	Pork Sausages	Meat content 56% instead of not less than 65%	Letter to Manufacturer
702	16.9.55	Meat Patty	Contained only 7% meat	Letter to Manufacturer
788	11.10.55	Rum & Butter Toffees	Contained 8.1% of fatty matter but no evidence of butter fat.	Letter to Retailer
846	1.11.55	Currants	Live maggots found to be present as well as a considerable amount of frass	Letter to Retailer
893	15.11.55	Margarine with 10% Butter	Contained 496 parts per million Boron Preservative. The Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations forbid the use of Boron Preservative in Margarine now that rationing is abolished	Letter to Manufacturer
939	28.11.55	Cochineal Colouring	Found to be not Cochineal but Cochineal Carmine. Should therefore be labelled 'Sol. of Cochineal Carmine in Isopropyl Alcohol.'	Letter to Manufacturer



AN ASSISTANT OFFICER SAMPLING CHINESE EGG.



UNLOADING FOOD AT A BERMONDSEY WHARF.

CHINESE EGG ALBUMEN

During 1955 a number of samples of Chinese Egg Albumen were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. As a result Medical Officers of Health at ports of entry were asked by the Ministry of Health to increase their sampling of this commodity. Sampling in Bermondsey commenced in July and, during the latter half of the year, tests were made on all Chinese Albumen entering the borough. Bacteriological examination at the Central Public Health Laboratory showed evidence of contamination by salmonella organisms in a number of the samples, and the batches from which these samples were taken were immediately placed under detention. The contaminated albumen was subsequently released either for re-export or for use in high temperature baking.

In November, 1955, the bakery trade, realising that even a negative bacteriological test might not prove conclusive issued the following statement in the trade journals as a further safeguard to the public:—

CHINESE ALBUMEN

Investigations into samples of recent importations of Chinese Albumen for use in food have made it evident that, by reason of the nature of the product, a negative bacteriological test on limited samples is not conclusive evidence that the bulk is fit for use in food unless this use is restricted to certain processes ensuring sterilisation.

After discussion with the trade certain Medical Officers of Health have been releasing albumen which on sampling shows negative results to Salmonellae, and stipulating that it is only to be used in such goods, or products, which during the course of manufacture will be subjected to a temperature of over 212° for upwards of 10 minutes. Hence it can be used for the making of Marshmallow, Macaroon Paste, and similar products where the final article is either baked before consumption or the manufacturing process of the product ensures that the albumen after reconstitution will be subjected to a temperature of 212° for 10 minutes.

It must **NOT** be used for Cream Fillings, Soft Icings, or incorporation into Fondant.

Albumen Preparations:—It must **NOT** be used for Meringue Powders, Marshmallow Powders, etc., unless the container carries a label to the effect that goods made therefrom must be subjected to the sterilising temperature explained above.

Ground Albumen Preparations:—If made from Chinese Albumen should carry a label stating that the product is **NOT** to be used for Royal Icing or any cold process purpose. Conversely, any Albumen product sold for use in the making of Royal Icing should only be made from European Albumen, or Chinese Albumen which has been subjected to an approved heat treatment.

HYGIENE:—

As a further safeguard the following points should be noted:

(1) All utensils used must be thoroughly cleansed by washing in boiling water, and the washing must be so arranged that the washing-up water does not infect other utensils.

(2) Operatives must thoroughly wash their hands and arms before handling other foodstuffs.

**CHINESE EGG ALBUMEN IMPORTED INTO BERMONDSEY
JULY—DECEMBER 1955**

Total weight imported	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,640 tons
Number of Samples taken	.....	.....	.....	.....	370
Number of Samples found to be contaminated					51
Total weight of contaminated Albumen	.....		.....		172 tons
Disposal of contaminated Albumen :					
Re-exported	.....	.....	.....	.....	109 tons
Released for use in high temperature baking	.....				58 tons
Released for experimental sterilisation purposes					5 tons

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.		
Bacon	3	7	1	26	—	13	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beans	86	18	2	7	—	12	—	10	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Biscuits	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	566	12	2	—	—	—	—	—
Butterfat	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beetroot	—	—	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cake	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Casings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	—	15
Cereals	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheese	—	18	1	7	2	14	2	12	20	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chillies	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa Beans	—	—	—	—	1	13	1	13	—	7	—	24	38	3	3	14
Cocoa Crumb	—	2	2	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coconut	7	4	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee Beans	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coriander Seed	3	10	—	—	—	—	2	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooking Fat	6	8	—	—	—	—	2	19	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Cumin Seed	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egg Albumen	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	20	20	—	—	—	25	9	—	—
Egg, Dried	—	—	—	—	2	17	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egg, Frozen	—	—	—	—	6	5	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farinoca	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fish, Canned	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flour	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fondant	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit, Canned	—	6	3	1	36	1	2	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit, Dried	7	6	3	1	3	9	3	20	5	6	—	—	8	11	—	10
Fruit, Juice & Pulp	—	—	—	—	21	7	—	16	7	16	3	18	—	—	—	—
Gherkins	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—
Ginger	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	3	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gum Arabic	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hellebore Root	—	—	—	—	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lard	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	27	—	19	—	23	—	—	—	—
Margarine	—	1	2	—	—	1	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	15
Meat	2	7	1	16	—	9	3	7	—	6	—	—	2	—	—	—
Meat, Canned	10	13	—	10	15	16	2	12	—	—	—	—	28	2	—	22
Milk, Canned	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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			
	Weight				Weight				Weight				Weight			
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.
Milk Powder	39	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mustard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Nuts	15	19	2	—	—	10	1	6	2	15	—	—	1	5	—	24
Offals	—	—	—	—	—	18	1	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—
Olives	—	—	—	—	—	14	2	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onions	—	—	—	—	375	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peas	71	7	2	19	—	2	3	5	—	18	1	14	—	—	—	—
Potatoes	—	—	—	—	1	10	3	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poultry	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preserves:																
Jam	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marmalade	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rice	57	7	3	14	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sage Leaves	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sago	—	15	3	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salad Cream	—	8	2	—	—	—	1	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salami	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Sausages	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	15
Soups	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Soya Lecethin	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tapioca	1	7	3	21	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tea	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes	—	—	—	—	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes, Canned	—	—	—	—	15	9	—	8	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Tomato Concentrate	—	—	—	—	2	7	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomato Juice	—	—	—	—	14	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomato Paste	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomato Puree	—	—	—	—	35	12	—	—	4	11	3	20	—	—	—	—
Tomato Sauce	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Various	7	13	—	—	67	13	2	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables, Canned	—	—	—	—	2	17	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vinegar	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	331	13	—	14	658	18	—	22	636	13	—	15	147	15	3	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

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

Date	Offence	Result
6. 5.55	Selling bread rolls containing live insects.	Fine £70 0s. 0d. Costs £10 10s. 0d.
14. 7.55	Selling meat puddings unfit for human consumption.	Fine £2 0s. 0d. Costs £3 3s. 0d.
10.10.55	Selling cakes contaminated with mice excreta.	Fine £5 0s. 0d.

17 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, 1955

VISITS			Mr. TOLL	Mr. BUTCHER	Mr. TAPSFIELD	Mr. BAILEY	Mr. HANCOCK	Mr. CAMPBELL	TOTALS	
1	Food Wharves and Depots		1276	1798	1602	282	—	137	5095	
2	Food Factories		179	124	137	88	138	19	685	
3	Food Stores		176	364	444	225	24	7	1240	
4	Catering Establishments		—	—	—	—	705	—	705	
5	Various		36	111	19	318	699	9	1192	
6	Ice Cream Premises		—	—	—	86	12	—	98	
7	Milksellers		—	—	—	137	51	—	188	
8	Pharmacy and Poisons		—	—	—	38	8	—	46	
9	Consignments of Im- ported Food Detained		123	73	109	7	—	18	330	
10	Condemnation of Food		361	260	826	111	51	185	1794	
11	Certificates issued for Unsound Food.....		481	721	606	135	101	54	2098	
12	Intimations Served		4	1	—	—	52	—	57	
13	Number of Samples taken for analysis	Chemical	Food and Drugs	—	—	—	625	275	—	900
			Imported Food Regulations	22	5	11	9	—	—	47
			Milk (Special Design- ations) Regula- tions	—	—	—	140	69	—	209
		Bacteriological	Milk for T.B.	—	—	—	2	2	—	4
			Milk for Bac. Abortus	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
			Ice Cream	—	—	—	86	6	—	92
			Canned Meat	—	30	15	—	—	—	45
			Egg Albumen	115	48	163	—	—	—	326
		Radio Activity	Japanese Canned Crab	2	—	—	—	—	—	2

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.

CLUBS:

The activities of the eight clubs have continued throughout the year and classes have been arranged for handicraft and singing. Where conditions were suitable, film shows were provided by the Borough Council. Each club has held a Christmas Party and Club Leaders have arranged outings to the seaside and to pantomimes, ice shows and circuses.

The work undertaken by the Club Leaders and their helpers is of great importance and plays a large part in the relief of loneliness in the aged.

OUTINGS TO WOMEN'S INSTITUTES:

During the summer of 1955 twenty-one visits were paid to various Women's Institutes in and around the Home Counties and once again it is necessary to thank these Institutes for their hospitality and generosity. Some invitations were received from Institutes which had not been visited before and it is a pleasure to extend the activities in this field. Some of the clubs have in turn entertained parties from Women's Institutes.

HOLIDAYS:

Arrangements were made for 150 people to spend holidays by the sea, the majority going to Ramsgate.

MEALS SERVICE:

This service is operated by the Department under the existing arrangements with the Council for the Welfare of Old People who meet all the operating costs. The meals are delivered each day from Monday to Friday and the daily average has increased to 74. The total number of meals delivered during the year was 16,130. As in previous years a special Christmas Dinner was provided for each person on the meals list. This dinner, consisting of traditional Christmas fare, is specially pre-cooked and packed so that it is simple to prepare for consumption. Each person was also given six new laid eggs by a donor who wished to remain anonymous.

OUTINGS:

As in 1954, the afternoon coach outings for the homebound old folk were arranged. Four coach parties were taken for a ride around the countryside and tea was provided en route. Members of the Council for the Welfare of Old People were in charge of the parties and the District Nursing Association arranged for a nurse to accompany each party.

WORKROOMS FOR THE ELDERLY:

The Council have had under consideration the provision of workrooms for the elderly. The object is to provide the elderly with employment within the limits of their capacity, to help them preserve health of body and mind, to find comfort in the company of their fellow workers and the relief of loneliness and, at the same time, receive some remuneration. It is envisaged that the Department will operate the scheme on behalf of the Council for the Welfare of Old People and that a start will be made early in 1956.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, through the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee, requested the Council to set up stations for the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide by the volumetric method and to provide deposit gauges for the measurement of deposited matter. Local Authorities, Government Departments, Industrial Organisations and others have agreed to co-operate in studying the pollution of the atmosphere and its prevention, and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research have undertaken the work of co-ordinating the observations, the object of the investigation being to obtain exact information about the nature and extent of atmospheric pollution. The success of the investigation depends on the proper use of standard methods and instruments which have been developed for the purpose of making observations of atmospheric pollution and only under these conditions, when the results obtained are strictly comparable, can sound conclusions be drawn. Ash and grit can be measured by collecting samples of deposited matter. Smoke and sulphur dioxide can be measured by pumping air through apparatus designed to withdraw and measure specific kinds of suspended impurity.

Two deposit gauges, one on the roof of the Clinic, Grange Road, and one on the roof of Brunel Road flats, were set up on 1st April, 1955, to measure deposited matter. The gauge is exposed for periods of one month and all solid and liquid material, including rain, which falls within the 12 in. diameter circle of the glass collecting bowl passes down the connecting pipe of rubber and stainless steel into a glass bottle. On the first day of the following calendar month the bowl is cleaned with the collected rainwater which is allowed to run into the bottle. The bottle is replaced by a clean bottle and the deposit gauge is ready for another month's exposure. Both deposit gauge bottles are handed to the Public Analyst who carries out an analysis of the deposited matter.

Since October, 1955, regular observations of the daily average concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide have been made by means of apparatus installed in the Municipal Offices. The smoke is measured by drawing a measured volume of air through a white filter paper in such a way that the entire solid impurity from the air remains in the filter paper as a grey stain. The weight of material caught is estimated by matching the stain with a scale of shades, which has been previously calibrated by matching with weighed stains. The sulphur dioxide is measured by drawing air from outside the building at a steady rate of about 50 cu. ft. per day through a hydrogen-peroxide bubbler, the volume of air being measured with a gas meter. The bubbler contains 25 ml. of dilute hydrogen peroxide, and sulphur dioxide is removed from the air to form sulphuric acid. At the end of a day's run the volume of standard alkali needed to neutralize the sulphuric acid is measured. The average concentration of sulphur dioxide during the period of the test can then be calculated by formula.

The amount of deposited matter recorded by the deposit gauges at Brunel Road and the Public Health Centre, Grange Road, is shown hereunder.

Month	Grange Road		Brunel Road	
	Rainfall ins.	Matter deposited in tons per sq. ml.	Rainfall ins.	Matter deposited in tons per sq. ml.
April	0.53	21.15	0.64	22.13
May	3.57	32.91	3.36	22.71
June	2.32	29.20	2.12	23.20
July	0.39	36.31	1.04	22.07
August	0.82	19.81	0.84	15.85
Sept.	2.06	21.44	1.97	17.86
October	2.49	19.85	2.64	24.90
Nov.	0.48	20.79	0.41	22.48
Dec.	1.77	24.98	1.63	23.51

Concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide, recorded at the Municipal Offices for the period 4th October—31st December, 1955, is shown hereunder.

Month	Smoke Expressed in mgs. per cubic metre		Sulphur dioxide Expressed in parts per million	
	Monthly Average	Highest Daily Average	Monthly Average	Highest Daily Average
October	.477	.733	.134	.259
Nov.	.564	1.493	.161	.360
Dec.	.536	1.780	.169	.444

FREE WASHING FACILITIES

During 1954 free handwashing facilities were made available in the public conveniences.

During the year under review the number of persons availing themselves of this service has considerably increased:—

	1954	1955
Males	12,976	25,840
Females	3,244	4,855

STREET AND OPEN MARKETS

Bermondsey Square ('New Caledonian').

Number of available pitches	197
Number of licences in operation during 1955	218
Income for 1955	£3,668 17 6

The New Caledonian Market in Bermondsey Square continued to be well attended during 1955. The demand for pitches was still well in excess of the number available and, in an attempt to alleviate this problem, it was decided, as an experimental measure, to create an additional 18 pitches by 'closing the ranks' of the existing stalls. The experiment proved successful and a further 18 licences were granted. At the end of the year there were 197 traders licensed, of whom 164 were dealers in antiques and similar commodities.



THE USE OF W.C.s AND HAND-WASHING FACILITIES IN THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ARE FREE.

STREET MARKETS

Total Income for 1955 £2,805 5 9.

Albion Street.

The Street Market in Albion Street was originally designated in 1947 to extend from Lower Road to Swan Road. During the ensuing years, however, the number of applications for licences seemed insufficient to justify such a large portion of the street being so designated. The matter was reviewed in January, 1955, when it was decided to de-designate that portion stretching from Renforth Street to Swan Road, thus reducing the number of available pitches from 60 to 25. The total number of licences in operation during 1955 was 7.

Trident Street.

This market, like that in Albion Street, appears to be unpopular among street traders, probably because of its position. Out of the seven pitches available, only three were used during 1955.

Railway Approach.

Number of available pitches	15
Number of licences in operation during 1955	15

The small market in Railway Approach, which was designated in 1952 for the sale of fruit and flowers, has continued to be successful and trouble-free throughout 1955.

Southwark Park Road.

Number of available pitches	47
Number of licences in operation during 1955	45

This market continued to work satisfactorily during 1955. One trader relinquished his licence and there were no new licences granted.

Bermondsey Street.

Number of available pitches	56
Number of licences in operation during 1955	59

This market continues to flourish due, no doubt, to its proximity to the highly popular New Caledonian Market in Bermondsey Square.

Tower Bridge Road.

Number of available pitches	30
Number of licences in operation during 1955	33

There were no untoward incidents during 1955 and the Council's decision, in 1954, to increase the number of pitches from 17 to 30 seems to have been fully justified.

Various.

There are a number of isolated pitches in various streets which have not been designated for the purpose of street trading. The total number of licences in operation in 1955 was 19. One application received was for a pitch outside the 'Globe' Cinema in Aberdour Street but, as there was one trader licensed in that area already, it was felt that, from a traffic point of view, an additional stall might constitute a danger to people leaving the cinema. The licence was granted for a trial period of six months in the first instance but, there being no incidents during that time, was later extended unreservedly.

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

SECTION 50. Under Section 50 of this Act, it is the duty of the Borough Council to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or has been found dead in the Borough where there are no relatives or friends to make the necessary arrangements. With the aid of the Coroner and the Police it is also incumbent upon the Council to ascertain whether or not the cost incurred can be reimbursed from the deceased's estate.

The Borough is bounded on its north side by the River Thames and, during 1955, the bodies of 2 stillborn children and 5 adults were recovered on the foreshore. The cost of interment of the children and 2 of the adults was borne by the Council. Of the remaining adult bodies, 2 were identified by relatives who made arrangements for burial, and 1 proved to be an employee of a shipping company which agreed to meet the funeral expenses in view of the fact that there were no known relatives. In all cases the cost of removal of the bodies to the mortuary was written off as irrecoverable.

The cases reported hereunder were also dealt with under the provisions of Section 50.

1. Information was received at 3 p.m. on 3rd January, 1955, that Mr. W. D. had died the previous morning and that his wife had made no arrangements for the interment. On investigation it was found that the couple occupied two rooms and that Mrs. D. had no financial means to pay for the cost of a funeral as she and her husband had been solely dependent on their retirement pensions. The undertaker was instructed to arrange for the immediate removal of the body as it was lying on the only bed in the couple's possession. Funeral expenses were met by the Council.
2. At the request of the Coroner's Officer, arrangements were made for the interment of Mr. C. H. B. who died in a common lodging house in the Borough on 5th February, 1955. Following extensive enquiries it was found that the deceased had been living for a considerable time in various lodging houses in London; no relatives or friends could be traced and, apart from his clothing which consisted mainly of rags, his only possessions were a pipe, knife, purse, and a tin box containing the sum of 19s. 1d. The balance of the funeral expenses was met by the Council.

3. Following the death of Miss A. M. B., a Coroner's Inquest recorded an open verdict, and the only relative who could be traced was a cousin who requested the Council to make the funeral arrangements. In view of the amount of money in the estate it was decided, with the approval of the deceased's cousin, to arrange for the interment in a private grave. Pending the winding up of the estate, the deceased's effects were taken into store.
4. Following a post mortem on Mr. F. L., who died from coronary thrombosis in a common lodging house in the Borough, arrangements were made for his burial as no relatives could be traced. Funeral expenses, less the sum of £1 17s. 4d. found in the deceased's possession, were borne by the Council.
5. As no relatives could be traced, funeral arrangements were made for Miss A. O. who died on 6th December, 1955. Costs incurred by the Council were met from the estate.

SECTION 47. Under this Section of the Act the Council may 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 1951 empowers a magistrate to order the emergency removal of such people to an institution for periods not exceeding three weeks on certification by the Medical Officer of Health and a general practitioner.

Fifteen persons were regularly visited during the period but in none of these cases was it considered that the use of powers under the Act was advisable ; three cases in need of mental treatment, however, were referred to the duly authorised officer appointed by the London County Council and nine persons were persuaded, in their own interests, to enter institutions voluntarily.

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936, SECTION 122

On a report by the Medical Officer of Health that the dirty condition of personal effects is likely to spread infectious disease the Council are authorised to remove and cleanse such articles.

During 1955 I visited the homes of 18 old persons who were seriously ill, senile or incontinent and, in all these cases, I found there was a considerable quantity of soiled bedding and personal clothing which it was essential to have cleansed in the Disinfecting Station. Where necessary, these articles have been collected at regular intervals, cleansed and returned to the owners.

