

## **[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Kensington Borough].**

### **Contributors**

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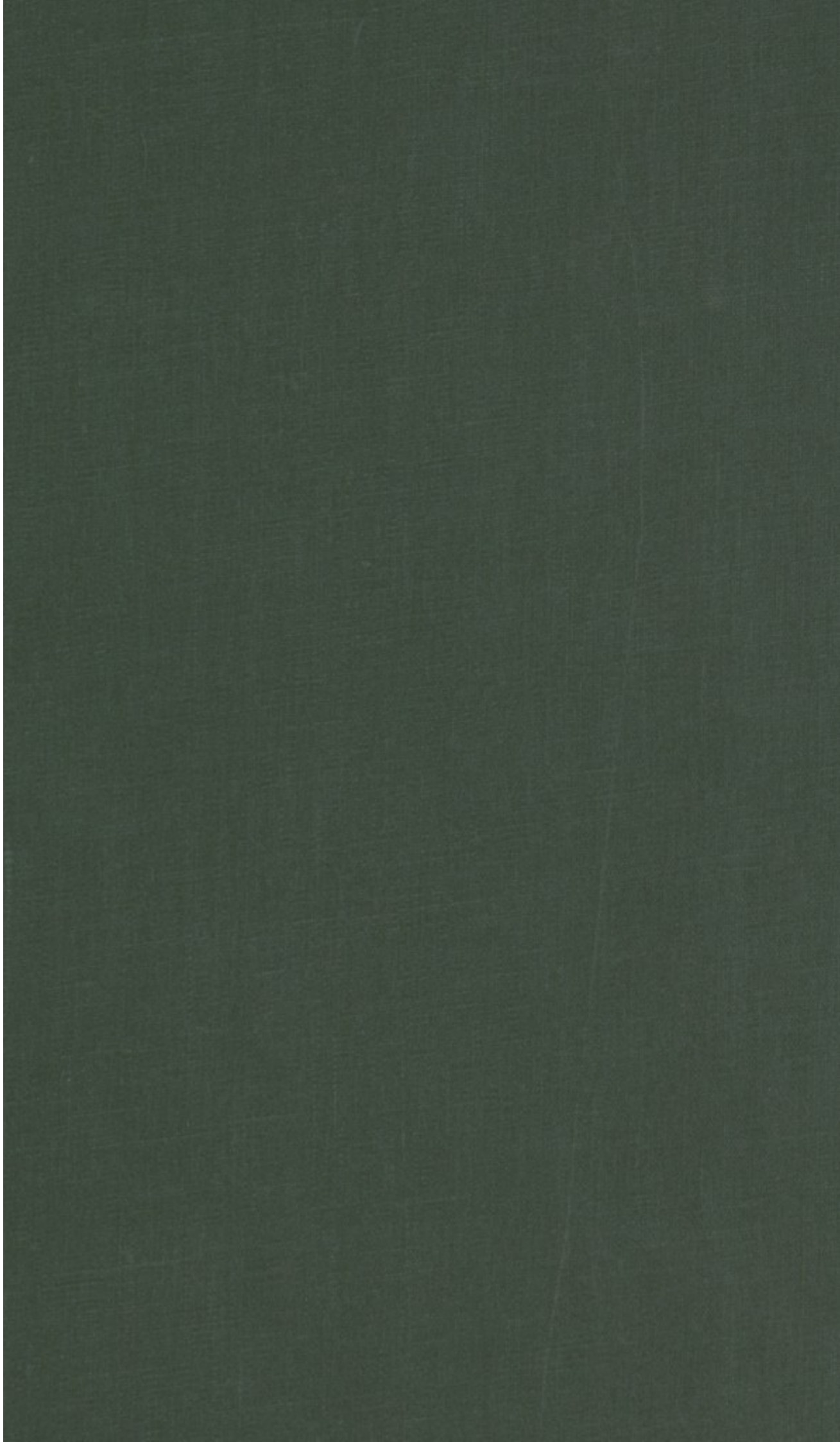
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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON.

ANNUAL (INTERIM) REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

for the Year

1939

by

JAMES FENTON, C.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Population (estimated)...	172,100	Area of borough in acres..	2,291
Density of population per acre.....	75	Product of a ld. rate.....	£12,915
Rateable value.....	£3,449,635	No. of inhabited houses...	36,064
Live births (legitimate)	Total. 1,828	M. 955	F. 873
(illegitimate)	236	100	136
Stillbirths.....	65	37	28
Deaths.....	2,072	931	1141
Birth rate....			12.0
Rate per 1,000 total births.			32
Death rate (after adjustment)...			12.2
Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
Puerperal sepsis.....	3	1.5	
Other puerperal causes..	3	1.5	
Total.....	6	3.0	
Death rate of infants under one year of age:-			Deaths from measles (all ages)..... Nil.
All infants per 1,000 births	64	Deaths from cancer (all ages)..... 337	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births....	60	Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)..... 7	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	81	Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 25	
Deaths from phthisis.....	81	Phthisis death rate.... 0.51	
Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis.....	89	Tuberculosis death rate. 0.55	
Deaths from the zymotic diseases.....	38	Zymotic death rate..... 0.24	
			(lowest rate recorded for the borough)



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W. B. Kensington, W. B.

1949, November

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors of the Royal Borough of Kensington.

I have the honor to submit my annual report for 1949 on the state of the public health in Kensington.

In accordance with the wishes of the Minister of Health, this report has been considerably curtailed.

The year 1949 was one in which various balance measures were adopted to ensure that the work of the public health department should be carried out in the normal way of the public health service.

At the beginning of the year, the public health department was in a state of transition. The public health department was re-organized and the staff was re-arranged. A medical officer, Mr. J. H. ... was appointed to the post of Medical Officer of Health. The public health department was re-organized and the staff was re-arranged. A medical officer, Mr. J. H. ... was appointed to the post of Medical Officer of Health. The public health department was re-organized and the staff was re-arranged. A medical officer, Mr. J. H. ... was appointed to the post of Medical Officer of Health.



When war was declared, the public health department was in a state of transition. The public health department was re-organized and the staff was re-arranged. A medical officer, Mr. J. H. ... was appointed to the post of Medical Officer of Health. The public health department was re-organized and the staff was re-arranged. A medical officer, Mr. J. H. ... was appointed to the post of Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Charles Day, the deputy medical officer of health, was called up for active service at the end of August. Dr. Frank ... was appointed as officer commanding stretcher bearers in October, 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population of the borough as ascertained at the census of 1931 was 180,000 persons, but for the purpose of this report the population for 1949 has been given by the Registrar-General as 182,100 for estimating the birth rate, and 188,800 for the death rate. The latter figure is approximately the population ascertained by national registration at the commencement of the year.

Births, Deaths, and Infant Mortality.

The birth rate was 18.0 per 1,000 population. The death rate, based on the number of deaths of Kensington people, was 18.0 per 1,000 population, but when the adjusting factor, based on the age and sex distribution of the population, is applied, the death rate for the borough becomes 18.2, which is the figure used for comparison with other boroughs.

25th November, 1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Royal Borough of Kensington.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for 1939 on the state of the public health in Kensington.

In accordance with the wishes of the Minister of Health, this report has been considerably curtailed.

The year 1939 was one in which civil defence measures assumed priority over other work, and to a large extent interfered with the normal work of the public health department.

At the beginning of the war, eight full-size first aid posts and one small post were established; these were all equipped with gas cleansing stations and staffed by fully-trained A.R.P. workers. A medical service, composed of doctors practising in the borough, was formed in connection with the first aid posts. Stretcher bearers totalling 500 men were billeted in two depots in the borough, and a service of cars was provided for the purpose of transport. The public health department assisted in the early days of the war in the evacuation of expectant mothers and children under five years of age.

When war was declared, a skeleton maternity and child welfare service was established, but owing to the absence of expected air raids and the consequent gradual return of a large number of women and children to the borough, this service was augmented from time to time. An interesting development of this work was the opening of infant welfare centres at first aid posts, and valuable assistance was rendered by A.R.P. workers at the maternity and child welfare sessions.

Dr. Charles Hay, the deputy medical officer of health, was called up for active service at the end of August. Dr. Frank Stansfield was appointed as officer commanding stretcher bearers in October, 1939.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

##### Population.

The population of the borough as ascertained at the census of 1931 was 180,677 persons, but for the purpose of this report the population for 1939 has been given by the Registrar-General as 172,100 for estimating the birth rate, and 158,800 for the death rate. The latter figure is approximately the population ascertained by national registration at the commencement of the war.

##### Births, Deaths, and Infant Mortality.

The birth rate was 12.0 per 1,000 population.

The death rate, based on the number of deaths of Kensington people, was 13.0 per 1,000 population; but when the adjusting factor, based on the age and sex distribution of the population, is applied, the death rate for the borough becomes 12.2, which is the figure used for comparison with other districts.

JAMES FENTON,  
Medical Officer of Health.





## Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation work carried out during the year:-

No. of pre-school children immunised.....	590
No. of school-children immunised.....	339
Total number of children attending for pre-immunisation schick tests.....	64
No. which gave positive reaction.....	30
No. of children presented for schick testing after having received immunisation inoculations.....	534
No. proving negative.....	462
No. proving positive.....	62

## Whooping Cough Clinic.

Two hundred and ninety-six children were seen either at the clinic or in day nurseries. One hundred and twenty-seven cough plates were taken.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

One hundred and eighty-seven new cases of tuberculosis were notified, of which 163 were respiratory and 24 non-respiratory cases.

Eighty-one persons died from respiratory tuberculosis and eight from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The death rate for respiratory tuberculosis was 51 and that of non-respiratory 4. The rate for all forms of tuberculosis was 55. This figure is the second lowest recorded for the borough, the lowest rate being 50 in 1935.

## Dispensary Service.

Six hundred and twelve patients were examined. Of these, 122 were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, 18 from non-respiratory tuberculosis, seven were new cases still under observation at the end of the year, and 465 persons were diagnosed as non-tuberculous.

Seven hundred and nineteen specimens of sputum were examined. Five hundred and ninety-nine radiological examinations were made; and 2,829 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the women health officers.

Twenty-seven patients made 117 attendances at the dental clinic.

Sixty-eight patients received 1,107 artificial pneumothorax treatments.

Ninety-three patients received grants of extra nourishment. Twenty-four patients were assisted with beds and bedding. The district nurses attended 20 cases in their homes and paid 1,335 visits.

## ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Three hundred and forty-seven patients attended the rheumatism supervisory centre, and 26 notifications were received.

## CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

Two hundred and seventy-one patients attended the chronic rheumatism clinic.

JAMES FENTON,  
Medical Officer of Health.



Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in 1939.

Cause of Death.	Sex.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 35 yrs.	35 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 55 yrs.	55 and under 65 yrs.	65 and under 75 yrs.	75 and upward.
ALL CAUSES.....	(M. 931 F. 1141)	79 50	7 4	3 3	6 6	17 24	32 36	45 46	100 68	194 162	227 295	221 447	
Whooping cough.....	(M. 3 F. 4)	1 3	2 -	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	
Diphtheria.....	(M. 3 F. 1)	1 -	- 1	- 1	P -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	
Influenza.....	(M. 9 F. 32)	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- 1	2 -	2 1	3 8	1 80	
Encephalitis lethargica	(M. - F. 5)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 2	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	(M. 51 F. 30)	- -	- -	- -	- -	5 5	6 9	13 8	12 3	10 1	5 1	3 3	
Other tuberculous diseases.....	(M. 4 F. 4)	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	
Syphilis.....	(M. 5 F. 1)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	3 -	1 -	- -	
General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	(M. 4 F. 2)	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	1 -	- 1	- 1	
Cancer, malignant disease.....	(M. 146 F. 191)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	2 3	3 11	13 18	53 53	49 62	26 43	
Diabetes.....	(M. 9 F. 22)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	2 1	2 6	2 10	3 3	
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.....	(M. 26 F. 56)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	5 1	8 10	7 16	6 28	
Heart disease.....	(M. 253 F. 314)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 8	2 4	5 2	23 12	50 29	76 82	97 177	
Aneurysm.....	(M. 5 F. 6)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 1	2 2	- 3	
Other circulatory diseases.....	(M. 47 F. 86)	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	3 1	9 10	18 27	17 46	
Bronchitis.....	(M. 25 F. 27)	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1 -	5 5	7 7	10 12	
Pneumonia (all forms).	(M. 53 F. 76)	12 7	1 1	- -	- 1	- 1	- 1	- -	3 2	3 3	11 8	7 24	





Cause of Death.	Sex.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 35 yrs.	35 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 55 yrs.	55 and under 65 yrs.	65 and under 75 yrs.	75 and upwards.
respiratory	(M.	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	1	3	1
ases.....	(F.	17	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	8	2
c ulcer.....	(M.	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	2	1	1
	(F.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1
noea, etc.....	(M.	18	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	(F.	9	6	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
icitis.....	(M.	5	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
	(F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
osis of liver.....	(M.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-
	(F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
diseases of liver,	(M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	(F.	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	4
digestive diseases	(M.	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	5
	(F.	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	7
and chronic	(M.	25	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	8	2	5	7
ritis.....	(F.	18	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	2	3	7
eral sepsis.....	(M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
puerperal causes.	(F.	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
ital debility, pre-	(M.	41	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
birth, malforma-	(F.	26	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
, etc.....	(M.	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
ity.....	(F.	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
le.....	(M.	20	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	1	7	1	1
	(F.	12	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	4	2	-	-
violence.....	(M.	42	3	2	1	2	4	8	3	3	3	6	5
	(F.	45	4	-	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	9	18
defined diseases.	(M.	82	3	1	-	1	6	7	5	7	13	26	13
	(F.	81	2	-	-	3	2	2	9	12	18	19	14
ill-defined, or	(M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
own.....	(F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2



The infant death rate was 64 per 1,000 births, which is the second lowest in the history of the borough, the lowest rate being 60 in 1926. This figure is not entirely due to evacuation for the rate for the period 1st January to the 31st August was 67, which is lower than in previous years.

Causes of Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age in Kensington During 1939.

Whooping cough.....	4
Diphtheria.....	1
Influenza.....	1
Tuberculosis.....	1
Bronchitis.....	3
Pneumonia.....	19
Diarrhoea.....	22
Digestive diseases.....	1
Congenital malformation, debility, etc.....	65
Violence.....	7
Other defined diseases.....	5
	-----
Total.....	129
	=====

Maternal Mortality.

There were six deaths resulting from pregnancy and childbirth amongst Kensington women during 1939, which give a maternal mortality rate for the borough of 3.0 per 1,000.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Bacteriological Work.

The work performed at the council's laboratory during the year was as follows:-

<u>Disease suspected.</u>	<u>Examinations.</u>	<u>Positive.</u>
Diphtheria.....	3,134	14
Scarlet fever.....	22	6
Tuberculosis.....	687	47
Typhoid fever (blood).....	4	-
,,    (urine).....	3	-
,,    (faeces).....	71	-
Dysentery (Sonne)(faeces).....	126	4
Gonorrhoea.....	8	-

The following examinations were also carried out:-

Milk, general test.....	109
Milk, for tubercle bacilli.....	12
Virulence tests.....	16
Water from public swimming baths	31
Water from wells, etc.....	31
Miscellaneous.....	19

Professional Nursing in the Home.

On behalf of the borough council, the Kensington district nursing association visited 325 cases, paying 5,081 visits. The total number of cases nursed during the year was 1,404, and the total number of visits paid was 36,103.





## Vaccination.

There were 2,247 births reported in 1938 to the vaccination officer by the Kensington registrars. By the 31st December, 1939, 61.01 per cent. of these had been vaccinated or were insusceptible to vaccination. The other 38.99 per cent. are accounted for as follows:-

Statutory declarations of objection.....	12.33%
Died before vaccination.....	5.25%
Referred to other districts.....	12.91%
Removed, leaving no trace.....	7.74%
Postponed, or unaccounted for.....	0.76%

(In addition, by the 31st December, 1939, 352 certificates of successful vaccination had been received in respect of children living in Kensington who were born outside the borough during 1938.)

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

### Health Visiting Staff.

The work performed by the health visiting staff during 1939 in regard to maternity and child welfare is summarised in the following table:-

First visits to infants (0-1 year).....	1,509
Re-visits to infants (0-1 year).....	6,855
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years....	12,441
Stillbirth enquiries.....	82
Visits to ophthalmia neonatorum cases.....	10
Return visits to ophthalmia cases.....	17
Visits to measles cases.....	51
Visits to whooping-cough cases.....	1,087
Visits to puerperal fever cases.....	7
Visits to puerperal pyrexia cases.....	28
Visits to enteritis cases.....	53
Infantile death enquiries.....	82
Investigations re milk applications.....	254
Pre-natal visits.....	3,826
Half-days at welfare centres.....	2,000
Special visits.....	5,284

### Infant Welfare Centres.

The work at these institutions during 1939 is shown in the following table:-

Births occurring in the area suitable for welfare attention.....	1,584
Sessions at which doctor attended for pre-natal consultations.....	389
Individual mothers who attended pre-natal sessions during the year.....	1,212
Attendances of pre-natal mothers.....	6,656
Sessions at which doctor attended for infant consultations.....	873
Individual children who attended during year	
0-1 year.....	1,954
1-5 years.....	2,040
Attendances of children during the year	
0-1 year.....	8,534
1-5 years.....	6,066
Attendances at centres of children for all purposes	
0-1 year.....	19,132
1-5 years.....	12,239
Weighings.....	29,167





A post-natal clinic is held at No. 304, Westbourne Grove once a week, and during 1939, 105 mothers attended.

#### Dental Treatment.

The following table shows the dental treatment performed at the infant welfare centres during the year:-

Patients.....	1,027
Attendances.....	2,486
Extractions.....	1,551
Fillings.....	243
Dentures.....	125
Other treatments...	1,027

#### Maternity Home.

The following is a statement of the work done during the year:-

Applications for admission.....	129
,,    accepted.....	129
,,    withdrawn after acceptance	25
Women confined during the year.....	86

The gross cost of the scheme to the council during 1939 was £840 3s. Od.

The assessments made in respect of patients whose applications were accepted and not withdrawn during the year amounted to £405 7s. Od. Payments made by patients totalled £403 6s. 9d.

#### The Baby Clinic, 92, Tavistock Road.

One hundred and seven individual mothers, and 549 children attended this institution, making respectively 918 and 6,424 attendances. The average number seen at doctors' consultations was, mothers 29 and children 20.

#### The Baby Hospital, 1, Ladbroke Square.

One hundred and seventy-five patients were admitted to this hospital during the year for in-patient treatment, and the average duration of stay was 27 days.

#### Supply of Extra Nourishment for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and for Infants.

Under the council's scheme, 29,728 packets of dried milk and 728 pints of fresh milk were supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and infants at a cost of £1,760 11s. Od. In addition, 3,520 dinners were supplied at a cost of £62 5s. 9d. Ten thousand, nine hundred and thirty-four packets of dried milk were sold at cost price. The public assistance officer of the London County Council supplied 70 pints of milk at a cost of £1 Os. 5d., and 682 packets of dried milk at a cost of £8 3s. 7d.

#### Home Helps.

One hundred and forty-six home helps were supplied under the council's scheme at a cost of £224 17s. 9d.

#### Convalescent Homes.

Twenty-one mothers and babies received convalescent home treatment under the council's scheme at a cost of £113 Os. 6d.





Other Services.

The following services, etc., were in operation and records of the work done can be seen in the public health department:-

Midwifery arrangements.  
 Treatment at infants' and toddlers' clinics.  
 Orthopaedic treatment.  
 Artificial sunlight treatment.  
 Day nurseries.  
 Day nursery assistance scheme.  
 Boarding-out of children.  
 Travelling expenses.  
 Work of health lecturer.  
 Work at birth control and gynaecological clinics.  
 Child life protection.  
 Work of the advisory committee.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The following table shows a summary of the inspections, etc., carried out by the district and housing inspectors during the year:-

Total complaints received..... 2,381

Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

Complaints received..... 1,930  
 Houses inspected on complaint..... 1,937  
 " " after infectious disease..... 568  
 Re-inspections..... 6,141  
 Inspections of mews..... 135  
 Smoke observations..... 9  
 Other inspections..... 2,738

By-laws re Houses Let in Lodgings.

Complaints received..... 451  
 Houses inspected on complaint..... 445  
 First annual inspections..... 313  
 Re-inspections..... 2,636

Housing Acts.

Initial inspections (including preparation or revision of house-to-house card)..... 601  
 Re-inspections..... 2,943

Underground Living Rooms.

Primary inspections..... 621  
 Re-inspections..... 3,524

Drainage.

Applications made..... 333  
 Plans submitted..... 210  
 House drains tested and inspected..... 507

The following table shows the number of notices which have been issued in respect of nuisances, defects, etc. found during the year:-





<u>Public Health (London) Act, 1936.</u>	
Intimation notices.....	1,466
Statutory notices.....	471
Final notices.....	168
Summonses issued.....	10
<u>Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
Section 9 (repairs).....	33
Section 157 (entry).....	149
<u>Various.</u>	
Rent Restriction Act certificates.....	3
Report of waste of water to M.W.B.....	117
Report of dangerous structures to L.C.C.....	52
Other notices.....	30

The following is a summary of works completed under the supervision of the district and housing inspectors during the year:-

House drains reconstructed.....	86
,,    ,,    additions to.....	122
Defective drains repaired.....	132
House drains cleansed.....	162
Water-closets reconstructed.....	97
,,    repaired.....	168
,,    new provided.....	144
,,    supplied with water.....	290
Soil pipes ventilated, repaired, etc.....	81
,,    ,,    new provided.....	111
Ventilating pipes, new provided.....	91
Baths, new provided.....	329
Sinks, ,, ,, .....	358
Bidets, ,, ,, .....	3
Lavatory basins, new provided.....	529
Waste pipes, ,, ,, .....	399
Cisterns cleansed.....	89
,,    covered.....	32
,,    abolished.....	3
Taps fixed on rising main.....	181
Yards, areas paved, drained, repaired.....	160
Dustbins provided.....	370
Accumulations of filth, etc. removed.....	224
Overcrowding abated.....	126
Animals removed.....	12
Underground rooms, illegal occupation discontinued.....	21
Roofs repaired.....	679
Houses provided with water above basement level.....	58
Dampness in dwellings remedied.....	660
Ventilated food cupboards provided.....	257
Artificial lighting of staircases provided.....	11
Closing orders made under Housing Acts - underground rooms.....	418
Closing orders determined.....	93
Repairs of houses completed under the Housing Acts.....	92
Infectious disease cases removed.....	231
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (including bedding, clothing, etc.).....	485
Rooms in such houses disinfected after infectious disease.....	513
Houses cleansed under houses let in lodgings by-laws.....	447
Cleansing of houses not on register.....	117
Verminous houses cleansed (including bedding, clothing, etc.).....	380
Verminous rooms cleansed in such houses.....	688
Dirty bedding cleansed.....	44
,,    ,,    destroyed.....	3
Other sanitary works executed.....	942





## Legal Proceedings.

During the year, 45 summonses were taken out for various offences, and fines and costs amounting to £87 10s. Od. were imposed.

## Other Services.

The following activities have also been conducted throughout the year, and records of the work done may be seen in the public health department:-

Work at the public baths and washhouses.  
Work at the mortuaries and chapel of rest.  
Removal of aged, infirm or physically incapacitated persons.  
Rats and mice destruction.  
Nuisance from pigeons.  
Pouling of footpaths by dogs.  
Cleansing of verminous persons.  
Disinfection after infectious disease.  
Disinfection of library books.  
Exsuffiation.

## HOUSING.

### Basement Rooms.

All the 418 closing orders made during the year were in respect of basement rooms. At the time the orders were made, 47 of the basements were empty and in 110 cases the basement tenants were able to move upstairs to adequate accommodation in the same house or found their own accommodation elsewhere. Thirty-four families (164 persons) were rehoused by the council or, through their agency, by the London county council or housing associations.

### Overcrowding.

At the beginning of the year, there were 1,927 families living under overcrowded conditions, and during the year 14 new families were discovered to be overcrowded. One hundred and sixty-four of these families were rehoused during the year, leaving a total of 1,777.

### General.

The Minister of Health requires the following particulars for 1939:-

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-
  - (i)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 3,864
  - (b) Number of inspections made for purpose... 18,322
  - (ii)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... 601
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 2,636
  - (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 1
  - (iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 1,499





2.	Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notices:-	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....	Nil.
3.	Action under statutory powers during the year:-	
	(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	33
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices in 1939 or the previous year	
	(a) By owners.....	83
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	9
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts--	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	1,466
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices--	
	(a) By owners.....	1,466
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil.
	(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....	Nil.
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	Nil.
	(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made.....	191 (418 rooms)
	(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit.....	47 (93 rooms)
4.	Housing Act, 1936, Part IV-Overcrowding:-	
	(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	1,777
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein....	1,777
	(iii) Number of 'equivalent' persons dwelling therein.....	7,770
	(b) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	14
	(ii) Number of 'equivalent' persons concerned in such cases.....	64
	(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	164
	(ii) Number of 'equivalent' persons concerned in such cases.....	917
	(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	Nil.

(Note: In obtaining the "number of equivalent persons", children between the ages of one and ten years are counted as 'half-persons'. Infants under one year are not counted.)



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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Milk.

Three hundred and six samples of milk were submitted to the public analyst, and ten were found to be adulterated.

At the end of the year there were on the register <sup>204</sup>173 purveyors registered for the sale of milk in sealed containers, 179 dairymen, and 138 dairies and milkshops. .

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Sixty-two slaughterhouse inspections were made during the year.

Unsound Food.

No unsound food was seized during the year, but a large amount was voluntarily surrendered.

Adulteration of Food.

Five hundred and ninety-nine formal samples of food were taken, of which 15, or 2.5%, were adulterated. Four hundred and two informal samples were taken, of which four, or 1%, were adulterated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

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The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified in the various age periods and wards, the number admitted to hospital, and the total deaths from these diseases in 1939:-





Notifiable disease.	Number of cases notified.											Total cases notified in each ward.								Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.				
	At all ages.	At ages - years.										St. Charles.	Golborne.	Norland.	Pembroke.	Holland.	Earl's Court.	Queens Gate.	Redcliffe.			Brompton.			
		Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.												45 to 65.	65 & over.	
Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever.....	117	1	4	9	11	9	32	22	8	13	2	6	-	40	10	25	15	9	7	3	5	3	111	-	-
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).....	102	7	5	7	11	8	34	11	3	14	2	-	-	39	23	4	3	9	-	11	12	1	100	4	-
Enteric fever.....	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	2	-	8	-	-
Puerperal fever.....	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	5	3	-
Puerperal pyrexia.....	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	28	2	-	-	-	9	8	3	4	6	3	-	-	1	31	3	-
Acute primary pneumonia & acute influenzal pneumonia	109	5	2	2	1	1	8	6	2	19	11	26	26	20	37	13	18	8	5	2	3	3	66	52	-
Dysentery.....	14	2	4	3	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	1	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	12	-	-
Erysipelas.....	45	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	11	5	17	8	11	7	2	5	4	5	2	8	1	27	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	-
Cerebro-spinal meningitis.	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Continued fever.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis.....	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	-
Pulmonary tuberculosis...	157	1	2	-	1	1	3	4	18	39	25	25	9	26	23	17	27	14	21	10	11	8	139	79	-
Other forms of tuberculosis	23	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	7	3	5	1	3	3	5	3	3	2	3	1	1	2	19	7	-
Measles.....	31	2	2	6	-	-	3	2	3	9	2	2	-	4	3	1	5	3	4	1	9	1	15	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum....	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping cough.....	345	47	60	61	69	45	69	2	1	-	1	-	-	129	105	14	7	2	5	50	30	3	66	7	-
Malaria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+Enteritis (diarrhoea)....	31	26	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	4	5	2	-	5	1	-	24	27	-
Food poisoning.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute rheumatism.....	18	-	-	-	-	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	1	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>187</b>	

+ Notifiable in children under the 5 years.  
Cases of misdiagnosis were tabe

MS 118

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

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ANNUAL (LITERARY) REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

for the year

1880

by

JAMES FOSTER, D.M.S., D.P.H., D.P.S.

Medical Officer of Health

Two Parts

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