

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Battersea Borough].

Contributors

Battersea (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.

Publication/Creation

[1949]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cfnc86en>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

AC 4386

Public Health

BAT 47

Metropolitan Borough of Battersea.

REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

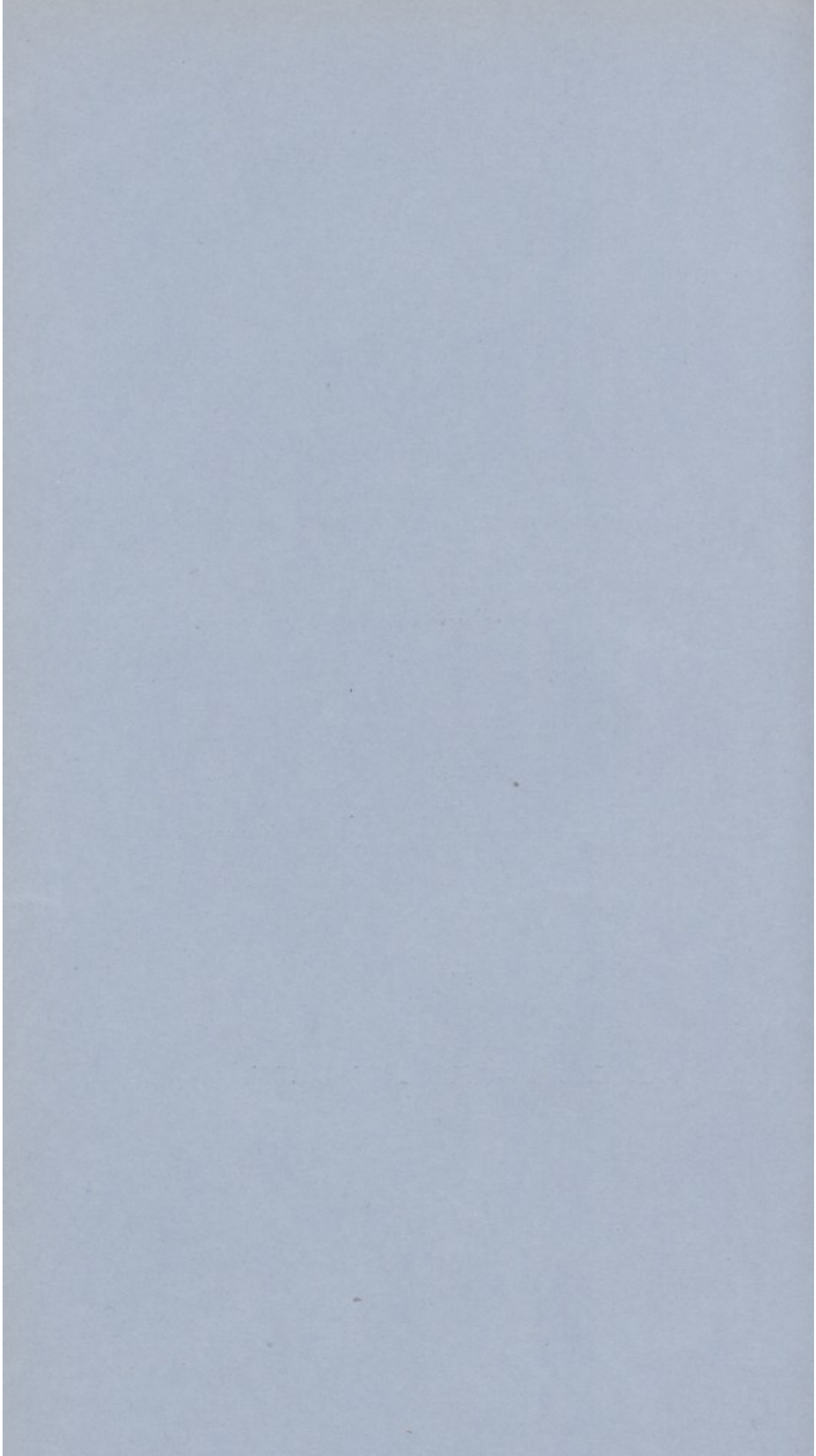
OF THE

Metropolitan Borough of Battersea,

FOR THE YEAR 1948

BY

G. MACDONALD, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Metropolitan Borough of Battersea.

REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Metropolitan Borough of Battersea,

FOR THE YEAR 1948

BY

G. MACDONALD, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

As constituted 9th November, 1947.

Chairman :

Councillor Miss E. A. COLES, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Councillor F. HUMPHREY, J.P.)

Councillor Mrs. E. A. COOPER, J.P.

„ Mrs. C. M. DAVIS.

„ Dr. H. L. GULATI, J.P.

Alderman A. P. HOLDEN.

„ Mrs. H. E. HUGHES.

Councillor A. H. HUMPHREY.

„ A. J. KNOTT.

„ Mrs. N. E. ROBERTS.

„ Mrs. E. STONE.

„ Mrs. D. L. VARRAN.

„ Mrs. A. R. WYE.

As constituted 9th November, 1948.

Chairman :

Councillor Miss E. A. COLES, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Councillor F. HUMPHREY, J.P.).

Councillor Mrs. E. A. COOPER, J.P.

„ Mrs. C. M. DAVIS.

„ Dr. H. L. GULATI, J.P.

Alderman A. P. HOLDEN.

Councillor R. C. HUDSON.

Alderman Mrs. H. E. HUGHES.

Councillor A. J. KNOTT.

„ Mrs. N. E. ROBERTS.

„ Mrs. E. STONE.

„ Mrs. D. L. VARRAN.

„ Mrs. A. R. WYE.

Tuberculosis Care Committee.

Councillor Mrs. E. A. COOPER, J.P. (*Chairman*).

„ Mrs. C. M. DAVIS.

„ Dr. H. L. GULATI, J.P.

„ Mrs. H. N. HALSEY.

Alderman A. P. HOLDEN.

Councillor Mrs. A. R. WYE.

Miss L. AGELASTO, representing Local Social Welfare Committee.

Councillor G. F. MEECHAM, representing Local Social Welfare Committee.

Mr. H. B. ROBINSON, representing London Insurance Committee.

Mr. A. H. MONK, representing Family Welfare Association.

Mrs. F. YOUNG.

Consultative Members :

Dr. C. N. ATLEE, London County Council Divisional School Medical Officer.

Miss A. M. GRAY, London County Council District Organiser.

Miss M. DE FONBLANQUE, Invalid Children's Aid Association.

Dr. F. H. WHITEHEAD, War Pensions Committee.

Miss A. M. STANFORD, South London District Nursing Association.

Miss M. KENNEDY BELL, British Red Cross Society.

Miss M. S. COLTART, Almoner of Brompton Hospital.

Miss B. SPENCER, „ „ St. George's Hospital.

Miss A. B. REED, „ „ St. Thomas's Hospital.

Miss E. W. WHITE, „ „ Victoria Hospital.

Staff of Public Health Department.

†Deputy M.O.H. and Tuberculosis Officer	J. G. S. McQUEEN, M.D., D.P.H.
*Assistant Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare)	(Miss) M. L. HAMILTON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. E. L. TEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
*Medical Officer, Southlands Ante- Natal Clinic	(Miss) ALICE BLOOMFIELD, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.C.O.G.
*Medical Officer, Post-Natal Clinic	(Mrs.) M. A. RADFORD, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
*Medical Officer, Nine Elms Centre	(Miss) E. M. SAXTON, M.D.
†Assistant Medical Officer (Tuber- culosis, part time, temporary)	(Mrs.) M. K. McALLEN, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Public Analyst	J. E. WOODHEAD, B.S.C., F.I.C., PH.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector F. H. CHUTER (a c).

Sanitary Inspectors :

District.

1. W. E. SELWAY (b c).
2. G. W. P. WEEKS (b c).
3. S. W. SIMPSON-SCOTT (b c).
4. P. D. O'GRADY (b c).
5. J. R. GLOVER (b c).
6. R. J. MCCARTHY (a c).
7. A. WEBB (b c).

8. J. R. HOLLOWAY (a c).
9. P. IANSON (b c).
10. J. J. K. HELMER (b c) (appointed
1/4/1948).

Other.

- (Food) J. A. H. BROWNLOW (b c).
 (Factories, etc.) I. R. LEWIS (b c).
 Miss J. ROUND (a d).

Rodent Officer : F. G. DANIELS.

*Superintendent Health Visitor (Miss) B. L. KAYE (a d f).

*Health Visitors :

(Miss) F. B. GOODALL (a d f g). „ A. BANNERMAN (d f). „ V. VENTRIS (e f g). „ H. A. BLACKBURN (b e f g h). „ B. E. PRAGER (e f g h). „ I. M. J. SWEENEY (e f g). „ E. L. FLEMONS (e f g).	(Miss) I. B. ABBOTT (e f g). „ K. I. BROWN (e f g). „ W. M. LLEWELLYN (e f g). „ E. GILROY (e f g). „ M. F. WELLER (e f g). „ D. PIPE (e f g). „ M. HEATON (e f g).
---	---

*Principal Administrative Assistant H. C. GODFREY (a).

Administrative and Clerical Staff :

W. HALSTEAD. *R. GRAHAM. P. BROCKING. *(Miss) M. A. WELLER. (Miss) K. M. HONE.	*(Mrs.) V. M. BENTLEY. F. H. WHITE. E. B. MORETON. J. W. M. MESTON. K. A. PYE.
--	--

*Home Help Organiser Miss E. FONCECA (f).

(For notes see next page.)

STAFF (Continued).

Tuberculosis Dispensary—

*Tuberculosis Nurses—(Miss) M. SCHOTBORGH (*e g h*), (Miss) B. O'CONNOR (*g*).
(Miss) C. THOMPSON (*f g*).

*Secretary and Clerk—(Miss) L. WADHAM (*a d*).

†Clerks—(Miss) C. TURNER. (Mrs.) M. E. WERRETT.

*Disinfecting Station—*Superintendent—T. J. FARROW.

*Mortuary—*Superintendent—W. NEWMAN.

**Nurseries—*Matrons—Battersea Park Nursery—(Miss) G. E. ELLIOTT (*f g*).
Clapham Common Nursery—(Mrs.) E. A. BURNS (*g*).
Nightingale Lane Nursery—(Miss) E. EDWARDS (*f g*).
Sisters Avenue Nursery—(Mrs.) S. NORRIS (*f g*).

- (a) Sanitary Inspectors' certificate of the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board.
(b) Sanitary Inspectors' certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
(c) Meat and other Foods certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute, or Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board.
(d) Health Visitors' certificate, Board of Education.
(e) " " " " Royal Sanitary Institute.
(f) State certified midwife.
(g) State registered nurse.
(h) Tuberculosis certificate.

* These Officers were transferred to the London County Council on the 5th July, 1948, in consequence of the operation of the National Health Service.

† These Officers were transferred to the Hospitals Board on the 5th July, 1948, in consequence of the operation of the National Health Service.

INDEX TO SECTIONS.

	PAGE
Preface	5
Staff of the Public Health Department	3
Principal Figures for 1948	6
Vital Statistics	7
Maternity and Child Welfare	14
Infectious Diseases	22
Tuberculosis	24
Cancer	27
Bacteriological Examinations	28
Sanitary Circumstances	29
Protection of Food Supply :	
(<i>a</i>) Inspection of Food Premises	37
(<i>b</i>) Sampling of Food and Drugs	41
Housing	47
Factories and Homework	51
Miscellaneous Matters	54

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Metropolitan Borough of Battersea.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith my report upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough during the year 1948.

On July 5th, 1948, under the National Health Service Act, certain services, which for many years were administered by the Borough Council, were transferred to the London County Council and the Regional Hospital Board. As a result of this, a number of officers were transferred to the authorities concerned. Many of these had rendered valuable service to the Council for many years. I have no doubt that the experience which they gained in the Council's service will be of the greatest value to the new Authorities under whom they now work and that they will give to them the loyal and devoted service which they have given to your Council in the past.

During the year there was an increase in the number of cases of infectious diseases as compared with the previous year, mainly as a result of the increase in the cases of measles. There were five cases of Poliomyelitis as compared with 23 in 1947 and the number of notifications of Scabies was markedly reduced. A clinic for immunisation against Whooping Cough was opened at Southlands during the year and many parents availed themselves of the opportunity to have their children immunised.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria during the year.

The housing situation in the Borough is one of considerable difficulty and much of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors is concerned with the investigation of complaints received in the Department. The time taken to secure the abatement of nuisances is, for various reasons, generally more prolonged than it was in pre-war years and entails many more visits to premises by the Inspectors. Overcrowding is still prevalent in the Borough, although a large number of overcrowded families were rehoused during the year.

I wish to thank the Mayor and Members of the Borough Council, and more particularly the Chairman and Members of the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for the continued encouragement and assistance I have received from them during the year. I gratefully acknowledge, also, the help I have received from the Chief Officers of the Council and the loyal service always readily rendered by the whole staff of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. MACDONALD,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councilors of the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea.

I present herewith my report upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough during the year 1948.

On July 5th, 1948, under the National Health Service Act, certain services, which for many years were administered by the Borough Council, were transferred to the London County Council and the Regional Hospital Board. As a result of this a number of officers were transferred to the authorities concerned. Many of these had rendered valuable service to the Council for many years. I have no doubt that the experience which they gained in the Council's service will be of the greatest value to the new Authorities under whom they now work and that they will give to them the loyal and devoted service which they have given to your Council in the past.

Principal Figures for 1948.

Area of Borough, excluding tidal water (acres)	2,163
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)	116,500
Structurally separate occupied dwellings	26,843
Rateable value—£969,273. Sum produced by 1d. rate	£3,991
Births (live, 2,248; still, 46)	2,294
Live birth rate	19.30
Deaths—1,314. Death rate	11.28
Maternal deaths—3. Maternal death rate	1.00
Infant deaths—71. Infant mortality rate	31.58

families were rehoused during the year.

I wish to thank the Mayor and Members of the Borough Council and more particularly the Chairman and Members of the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for the continued co-operation and assistance I have received from them during the year. I gratefully acknowledge, also, the help I have received from the Chief Officers of the Council and the loyal service always readily rendered by the whole staff of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) G. MACDONALD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the 1948 mid-year population of Battersea was 116,500 as compared with 114,960 in 1947. The population of Battersea at the census taken in April, 1931, was 159,552, and the Registrar-General's estimate for 1948, therefore, indicates a decrease of 43,052 (or 27 per cent.) since the census, but an increase of 1,540 during 1947/8.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population of the Borough (116,500) has been adopted for the purpose of the statistics contained in this Report.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered in the Borough during 1948 was 2,527 (1,271 male, 1,256 female). Of this number 1,112 were transferred out, the permanent residence of the parents being outside the Borough, and 833 registered outside the Borough were transferred in, giving on balance a total of 2,248 births (1,104 male, 1,144 female, an excess of 40 females) relating to Battersea residents, and a live birth rate of 19.30 per 1,000 of the population. This is a decrease of 3.86 on that of 1947.

Of the Battersea births (live and still) which occurred within the Borough, 909 were "domiciliary births."

Illegitimate births numbered 158, or 7.0 per cent. of the live births.

The number of births occurring in each quarter of the year is shown in the table on page 13.

The live birth rate for the County of London was 20.1 per 1,000 of the population, and for England and Wales the rate was 17.9.

Still-Births.

The registration of still-births is made compulsory by the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926.

During 1948 there were 58 still-births registered in Battersea, of which 22 were of Battersea parents. 24 still-births occurring outside the Borough were registered as belonging to Battersea, making 46 in all, representing a still-birth rate of 20.05 per 1,000 births (live and still) registered. Of the 46 still-births 3 (6.5 per cent.) were registered as illegitimate.

The number of Battersea still-births registered, and the still-birth rates from 1939 to 1948 were as under :—

	No.	Rate		No.	Rate
1939	40	19.6	1945	38	23.3
1940	47	25.5	1946	59	22.7
1941	42	31.5	1947	74	27.0
1942	43	26.7	1948	46	20.1
1943	36	21.6	<i>Mean</i>		
1944	40	24.0	1939-48	46	24.2

Notification of Births.

During 1948 the number of notifications of live births received belonging to the Borough was 2,195. The corrected number of Battersea births registered during the year was 2,248. The proportion of notified to registered births was, therefore, 97·6 per cent.

Forty-five still-births were *notified* under the provisions of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, during the year, the number notified being 97·8 per cent. of the total Battersea still-births *registered*.

The homes from which births are notified are visited and revisited by the Health Visitors.

MARRIAGES.

The marriages registered in Battersea during 1948 numbered 988. The marriage rate (*i.e.*, the number of persons married per 1,000 of the population) was 17·0.

Year.	Marriages.	Marriage-Rate.
1943	810	18·4
1944	730	17·1
1945	1,082	23·9
1946	1,043	19·2
1947	1,085	18·9
<i>Mean, 1943-47</i>	950	19·5
1948	988	17·0

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during 1948 was 1,840. Of these 1,039 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the districts in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 513 deaths of Battersea residents registered outside the Borough. The total (corrected) number of deaths belonging to the Borough was 1,314 (males 697, females 617). This gives a recorded death rate of 11·28, compared with 11·6 for London, and 10·8 for England and Wales, and a decrease of 1·30 on 1947.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the total deaths (corrected) in Battersea during 1948:—

	Under 1 year.	1—	5—	15—	45—	65+	Total.
M	43	6	4	59	196	389	697
F	28	7	4	48	113	417	617
Totals...	71	13	8	107	309	806	1,314
% of Total ...	5·4	1·0	0·6	8·1	23·5	61·4	100

It is well known that in almost all districts the average age at death tends to increase. The position of Battersea in this respect is illustrated by the following figures:—

AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH.

<i>Mean, 1939/1943</i>	.....	.....	60.7
1944	.....	.....	59.9
1945	.....	.....	62.4
1946	.....	.....	61.4
1947	.....	.....	62.6
1948	.....	.....	63.3
<i>Mean, 1944/1948</i>	.....	.....	61.9

During 1948 the deaths of 806 residents of Battersea aged 65 years and upwards were registered. The distribution of these deaths, which constituted 61.4 per cent. of the deaths at all ages, is set out in the following table:—

Sub-District.	65 and under 75.		75 and under 85.		85 and upwards.		Total over 65.		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
North Battersea	84	65	60	71	12	24	156	160	316
South Battersea	127	85	89	134	17	38	233	257	490
Borough	211	150	149	205	29	62	389	417	806

The number of infant deaths in each quarter of the year is shown in the table on page 13.

The natural increase of population (that is, excess of births over deaths) was 934 in 1948 as compared with 1,217 in 1947.

The causes of the 1,314 deaths occurring in 1948 classified in various age groups, are shown in the following tables.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN BATTERSEA
DURING 1948.

The following table is supplied by the Registrar-General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex.	All Ages.	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
ALL CAUSES	M.	697	43	6	4	59	196	389
	F.	617	28	7	4	48	113	417
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
3. Scarlet fever ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough ...	M.	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M.	47	—	—	1	12	23	11
	F.	22	—	1	—	17	3	1
7. Other forms of tuberculosis ...	M.	6	2	2	—	1	1	—
	F.	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases ...	M.	4	—	—	—	1	1	2
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
9. Influenza	M.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
10. Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
11. Ac. polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	M.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Ac. infective encephalitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M.) uterus (F.)	M.	7	—	—	—	1	1	5
	F.	7	—	—	—	—	3	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	M.	22	—	—	—	1	9	12
	F.	17	—	—	—	—	6	11
15. Cancer of breast ...	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F.	23	—	—	—	2	10	11
16. Cancer of other sites	M.	96	—	1	—	6	35	54
	F.	59	—	—	—	4	17	38
17. Diabetes	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F.	10	—	—	—	—	4	6
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	M.	50	—	—	—	1	11	38
	F.	58	—	—	—	1	9	48
19. Heart disease ...	M.	202	—	—	—	10	47	145
	F.	195	—	—	—	4	27	164

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948—(contd.).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex.	All Ages.	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	M.	17	—	—	—	—	5	12
	F.	25	—	—	—	1	2	22
21. Bronchitis	M.	62	3	1	—	2	19	37
	F.	38	1	—	—	1	9	27
22. Pneumonia	M.	46	11	—	—	1	16	18
	F.	29	6	1	—	3	3	16
23. Other respiratory diseases	M.	11	—	—	—	—	4	7
	F.	3	—	—	—	1	—	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	M.	13	—	—	—	3	5	5
	F.	6	—	—	—	1	2	3
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	M.	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	1	—	1	—
27. Other digestive diseases	M.	11	2	—	—	2	1	6
	F.	16	—	1	1	1	4	9
28. Nephritis	M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
	F.	21	—	—	1	3	—	17
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	F.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	F.	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
31. Premature birth	M.	11	11	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	M.	9	7	—	—	2	—	—
	F.	10	9	—	—	—	1	—
33. Suicide	M.	6	—	—	—	1	2	3
	F.	4	—	—	—	2	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	M.	6	—	—	2	1	3	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
35. Other violent causes	M.	15	—	1	—	8	3	3
	F.	16	2	—	—	1	1	12
36. All other causes	M.	40	1	1	—	5	10	23
	F.	34	2	1	1	1	8	21

Infant Mortality.

During 1948 the deaths of 71 infants under 1 year of age were registered as belonging to Battersea. The total number of live births registered during the year was 2,248, giving an infant mortality rate of 31.58 per 1,000 live births as compared with 31.54 in 1947 and 42.42 in 1946.

The infant mortality rates in the County of London and in England and Wales during 1948 were 31 and 34 respectively.

The following table sets out the causes of death in detail.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1948.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGE PERIODS.																				Percentage of Total.			
	Under 24 hours.		1-7 days.		Weeks.						Total under 4 weeks.		Months.						Total deaths under 1 year.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	1-2		2-3		3-4		M.	F.	1-3		3-6		6-9		9-12			M.	F.	
Cerebro Spinal Fever																							1.4	
Whooping Cough ...															2								2.8	
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)																	2						2.8	
Bronchitis ...													3	1									5.6	
Pneumonia ..			1	2					1	2	2	5	1	2	3	1		1					24.0	
Diarrhoea ...													1	3			1		1				8.4	
Digestive diseases ...															2								2.8	
Premature birth ...	6	2	3	2	1	1					10	5	1										22.6	
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases ...	2	3	2	3	1						5	6	2		1		2						22.6	
Violent causes ...		1										1			1								2.8	
Other causes ...			1		1						2					1							4.2	
Totals ...	8	6	5	7	4	2					1	17	16	12	2	9	5	4	4	1	1	43	28	100.0
Percentage of Total	19.7		16.9		8.4					1.4	46.4		19.7		19.7		11.4		2.8			100.0	M. 60.6 F. 39.4	

There were 33 deaths of infants during the first four weeks of life (or 46.4 per cent. of the total infant deaths) as compared with 39 deaths (or 46.4 per cent.) in 1947 and a percentage for the quinquennium 1943-1947 of 50.5.

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 DAY, UNDER 1 WEEK AND UNDER 4 WEEKS FROM 1943 TO 1948.

Year	Under 24 hours	1 to 7 days	1 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	Percentage deaths under 4 weeks of total infant deaths
1943 ...	17	14	15	46	52.3
1944 ...	12	12	9	33	40.7
1945 ...	21	13	6	40	61.5
1946 ...	20	20	16	56	51.8
1947 ...	12	19	8	39	46.4
Mean ...	16	16	11	43	50.5
1948 ...	14	12	7	33	46.4

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The following is a brief résumé of the work and statistics during the period 1st January to 4th July, 1948, after which date control passed to the London County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Districts and Centres.

For administrative purposes, the Borough was divided into fourteen districts, for each of which a Health Visitor was responsible.

There were, at the 4th July, seven Maternity and Child Welfare centres (municipal, 6; voluntary, 1). The situation and times of opening of the centres, municipal and voluntary, and the work carried out thereat, are set out in the tables on page 15.

At each of the municipal centres a clinic was held twice weekly, with a Medical Officer in attendance, as shewn in the table on page 15.

Each centre was under the supervision of a trained Health Visitor, and voluntary helpers assisted in the work. The voluntary centre was conducted on similar lines to those of the municipal centres.

Mothercraft Classes.

Instruction in mothercraft was given weekly at 5 centres, the average attendance being respectively:—

Gideon Road	.....	13·2	Southlands	.....	18·4
Nine Elms	.....	11·4	Women's League of		
Plough Road	.....	20·5	Service (South-		
			lands)	.....	14·0

In total there were 143 meetings with a total attendance of 2,209, giving an average 15·4 attendances per session.

Voluntary Centres.

Women's League of Service.—The Battersea centre of this League (formerly held at 111 Bridge Road West) was established in 1911, and was transferred to Southlands in 1928.

The district served by the League is a populous one adjoining the Thames, and situate between Battersea Bridge Road and Battersea High Street. A qualified Health Visitor (Miss F. Pethybridge) undertook the usual duties of a Health Visitor within the district.

The Centre was carried on as an integral part of the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare scheme, and the Council made a grant of £143 12s. 6d. towards the expenses.

An important feature of the work of the League was the provision of dinners for nursing and expectant mothers and children at a minimum charge or free. Although provided mainly for residents in the League's district, mothers and children from other parts of the Borough were, in suitable cases, sent to the dining rooms and supplied with dinners.

3,037 women and 2,956 children were supplied with dinners on the 123 days on which the Centre was open for this purpose.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (at 4th July, 1948).

Name and situation of Centre (Italics indicate voluntary centre)	Type of Clinic, etc.					
	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Infant Welfare.	Toddlers	Whooping Cough and Diphtheria Immunisation	Mothercraft
All Saints' Parish Hall, Prince of Wales Drive	Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.	—	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	Thursday,* 9.30 a.m.	—	—
Chatham Hall, Chatham Road	Friday, 9.30 a.m.	—	Tuesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	Wednesday,* 9.30 a.m.	—	—
Gideon Road (disused L.C.C. School), Gideon Road ...	Monday, 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	Thursday,* 9.30 a.m.	—	Monday (A), 2 p.m.
Nine Elms Baths, Cringle Street	—	—	Tuesday and Thursday (A), 2 p.m.	—	—	Monday (A), 2 p.m.
Plough Road Baths, Plough Road	Thursday, 9.30 a.m.	—	Monday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	Wednesday,* 9.30 a.m.	—	Wednesday (A), 2 p.m.
Southlands, Shuttleworth Road	Wednesday, 9.30 a.m.	—	Monday and Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Monday,* 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. Thursday, 2 p.m. Friday, 9.30 a.m.	Friday (A), 2 p.m.
<i>Women's League of Service,</i> <i>Southlands,</i> <i>Shuttleworth Road</i>	Tuesday,* 10 a.m.	—	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	—	—	Mondays (A), 2 p.m. Thursdays (A), 2 p.m. (lectures)

* Fortnightly. A Medical Officer attends at all sessions except those marked (A).

SUMMARISED STATISTICS RELATING TO INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, January 1st to July 4th, 1948.

	MUNICIPAL							VOLUNTARY	GRAND TOTAL
	All Saints'	Chatham Hall	Gideon Road	Nine Elms	Plough Road	Southlands	Total	Women's League of Service	Municipal and Voluntary
Sessions held	53	52	52	53	51	50	311	32	343
Weights recorded	2,286	3,403	3,693	1,077	2,238	2,187	14,884	1,378	16,262
Advice only given	269	262	386	171	199	138	1,425	16	1,441
Total attendances	2,555	3,665	4,079	1,248	2,437	2,325	16,309	1,394	17,703
Average per session	48.2	70.3	78.4	23.5	47.8	46.5	52.1	43.6	51.6
First attendances	190	214	194	80	178	139	995	103	1,098
Children attended	456	579	547	227	372	347	2,528	250	2,778
Doctor's attendances	51	49	49	26	49	49	273	26	299
" interviews	863	1,079	965	323	773	765	4,768	659	5,427
" average per attendance	16.9	22.0	19.7	12.4	15.8	15.6	17.5	25.3	18.2
Referred to Hospital	43	46	43	20	21	30	203	9	212

(Summary of the work carried out at other centres will be found as under:—

Ante-natal Clinic, page 18; Post-natal Clinic, page 18; Anti-diphtheria Clinic, page 24; Mothercraft classes, page 14; 'Toddlers' Clinic, page 20.)

Health Visitors.

The personnel of the Health Visiting Staff, which consisted of 1 Superintendent Health Visitor and 14 Health Visitors, is set out on page 3.

Facilities were granted by the Council to students of recognised training bodies for practical instruction and training as health visitors and women sanitary inspectors. Four students from the Hygiene Department, Battersea Polytechnic, received a course of training under the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare scheme, and, on completion of their training, certificates as to their work were supplied to the Polytechnic authorities.

The home visiting carried out by the Council's Health Visitors and those of the voluntary organisation included in the Borough Maternity and Child Welfare scheme is summarised in the following table:—

Visits	Council.	Vol.	Total.
Expectant mothers	1,983	148	2,131
Notified births	5,882	463	6,345
Still-births	34	4	38
Children aged 1-5 years	3,809	431	4,240
Infant deaths	38	2	40
Notifiable infectious diseases	2,276	178	2,454
Non-notifiable diseases	103	18	121
Prevention of diphtheria	37	7	44
Foster mothers and children	141	—	141
Other	395	152	547
Totals	<u>14,698</u>	<u>1,403</u>	<u>16,101</u>

Hospital Provision.

The Council made provision for the needs of children requiring special hospital treatment by arrangement with the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, and the St. Thomas's Babies' Hostel. The Council made a grant to these Hospitals in respect of the facilities afforded. Women and children were referred where necessary from the ante-natal and child welfare centres to appropriate institutions, children being usually sent to one of the above-named hospitals.

The Council's health visiting staff also visited and reported on the home conditions of Battersea women and children receiving treatment in the obstetric, gynaecological and other departments of the various hospitals.

392 cases were referred to hospitals, etc., from the various centres.

Dental Clinic.

Following the destruction of the Dental Clinic by enemy action, arrangements were made with the London County Council for dental treatment to be carried out at St. James' Hospital, this service commencing in March, 1941.

113 mothers and 55 children were referred to the Clinic, and of these 30 mothers and 37 children had attended.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The subjoined table shows in summary the number of attendances, etc., at the municipal ante-natal clinics.

	Clinics held at					Total
	All Saints'	Chat-ham Hall	Gideon Road	Plough Road	South-lands	
Sessions ...	25	26	24	27	26	128
Attendances ...	270	235	313	309	278	1,405
Attendances average	10.8	9.0	13.0	11.4	10.7	11.0
New cases ...	85	65	94	116	73	433
Total patients...	120	99	122	148	113	602
Interviews by doctor	260	231	299	297	251	1,338
Average per session seen by doctor ...	10.4	8.9	12.5	11.0	9.7	10.5
Referred to Hospital	2	19	9	11	8	49

In addition, 13 sessions were held at the Women's League of Service, the attendances being 159. Of the 76 patients who attended, 44 were new and 7 were referred to hospital.

Post-Natal Clinic.

The Post-Natal Clinic was held at Gideon Road Infant Welfare Centre. Twenty-six sessions were held and the total number of attendances was 202. The number of patients seen was 127 of whom 113 were new cases. Ten patients were referred to hospital and 17, who were found to require, on medical grounds, advice on birth control, were referred by agreement to the North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre.

Premature Infants.

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made for information as to the weight of infants to be given on the birth notification when such weight was less than 5½ lbs.

Suitable equipment was also purchased so that it could be loaned out if required. In addition, arrangements were made for the services of a pædiatrician to be available at the request of general practitioners in such cases as were considered necessary. His services were not called upon.

The following table sets out a record of the number of premature infants who were notified during the period under review:—

No. of premature babies	Born		Total
	At Home	In Hospital	
Notified	13	35	48
Nursed entirely at home	12	—	12
Died during first 24 hours	2	5	7
Survived at the end of one month	10	22	32

Nurseries.

There were in the Borough six Day Nurseries. Four of them were maintained by the Council and two privately. The expenses of those maintained by the Council ranked for a grant from the Ministry of Health, whilst to one of the private nurseries—St. Margaret's—a grant was made under the block grant scheme of the Ministry of Health, and to the other—Battersea Central Mission—a grant of 1s. per head per attendance was made by the Council, the amount so expended being recoverable from the Ministry.

The following table shows the attendances at the Nurseries.

Nursery	Places	Total Attendances		
		0—2	2—5	Total
<i>Municipal</i>				
Battersea Park	50	1,490	4,338	5,828
Clapham Common	50	1,656	4,855	6,511
Nightingale Lane	50	1,440	4,815	6,255
Sisters Avenue ...	40	1,554	3,945	5,499
Total, Municipal ...	190	6,140	17,953	24,093
<i>Voluntary</i>				
St. Margaret's ...	27	140	647	787
Battersea Central Mission ...	50	—	5,760	5,760
Grand Total ...	267	6,280	24,360	30,640

Home Helps.

Facilities have for many years been provided by the Council in suitable cases for assistance in the home during the mother's lying-in period or in the case of temporary illness of an expectant or nursing mother. This service was extended so that domestic help could be given in cases of old age, infirmity or illness where considered necessary. In view of the difficulties in securing sufficient help to meet the demand and to ensure adequate supervision the Council appointed a Home Help Organiser, who took up duties in March, 1947. The Home and Domestic Helps were engaged on a part-time and casual basis, were paid at rates laid down by the Joint Industrial Council and the patients assessed to pay a proportion of the cost in accordance with their means.

Home Helps were engaged on 68 cases, the nett cost to the Council amounting to £269 18s. 1d.

So far as the Domestic Helps are concerned, 217 cases were attended, the cost for which amounted to £1,173 7s. 4d., and the contributions from the patients amounted to £98 14s. 4d. The nett cost of this service is the subject of reimbursement by the Ministry of Health.

Toddlers' Clinics.

Toddlers' Clinics were held fortnightly at five of the Infant Welfare Centres.

No. of Sessions held	.....	.....	.....	63
„ Attendances	.....	.....	.....	766
Referred to Hospitals, etc.	.....	.....	.....	61
„ Dental Clinic	.....	.....	.....	35

Invalid Children's Aid Association.

The Battersea Branch of this Association has since 1929 been granted, rent free, the use of a room at Southlands as an office. The Council also made a grant of £25.

Child Life Protection.

The statutory provisions relating to infant life protection, so far as London is concerned, are now embodied in the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

Foster mothers and the children in their care were visited by the health visiting staff, who were appointed by the Council as Infant Life Protection visitors. The number of visits paid by them to foster mothers and children was 141.

At the 4th July, 1948, there were 18 Battersea foster-mothers known to the Council, all of whom had nurse children in their care to the number of 25.

St. Thomas's Babies' Hostel.

Since 1926, cases have been sent from the Borough Maternity and Child Welfare clinics to this Hostel for the encouragement of breast feeding.

The result of this work was as follows:—

TEST FEEDS. Number of cases, 57. Number of attendances, 82.

IN-PATIENT TREATMENT. Battersea cases received—
5 mothers and 8 babies.

Period of stay.

5 mothers, 201 days, and 8 babies, 321 days; average, mothers, 40 days; babies, 40 days.

A contribution of £100 was made by the Council in respect of the work carried out by the Hostel for Battersea mothers.

National Dried Milk and Vitamins.

National dried milk, fruit juice and cod liver oil, supplied by the Ministry of Food, have been distributed to children and expectant mothers through the Public Health Department and the Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics. The totals issued through these sources were: National Dried Milk, 9,125 packets; Fruit Juice, 11,527 bottles; Cod Liver Oil, 3,276 bottles, and 781 packets of capsules.

Nursing Facilities.

The Council had arrangements with the South London District Nursing Association, of 109 Clapham Common North Side, for the nursing of mothers and children under the powers contained in Part XII of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and also of patients suffering from certain infectious illnesses. A payment of £48 15s. 0d. was made to the Association in respect of their services.

The total number of attendances made by the nurses of the District Nursing Association in connection with cases of infectious disease was :—

NURSING SERVICE.

Name of Disease	AGE.				Total	
	Under 5 years		Over 5 years		Cases	Visits
	Cases	Visits	Cases	Visits		
Eye afflictions ...	49	486	—	—	49	486
Ophthalmia neonatorum, etc.	1	10	—	—	1	10
Ears ...	39	532	—	—	39	532
Measles, etc. ...	—	—	1	3	1	3
Diarrhoea and vomiting	1	3	—	—	1	3
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	2	197	2	197
Bronchitis ...	1	9	—	—	1	9
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	1	6	1	6
Pneumonia ...	—	—	4	52	4	52
Influenza ...	—	—	5	6	5	6
Other diseases ...	133	1,105	1	6	134	1,111
Totals ...	224	2,145	14	270	238	2,415

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during 1948 and, for the purposes of comparison, the average number of cases notified annually in the five-years, 1943-47 :—

	Notified 1948	Average 1943/7
Diphtheria	17	40
Erysipelas	31	40
Scarlet Fever... ..	227	201
Enteric Fever... ..	2	1
Puerperal Fever	3	3†
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	10
Meningococcal Meningitis... ..	6	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13	15
Polio-myelitis, etc.	5	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Malaria	—	5
Dysentery	10	13
Pneumonia		
(Acute Influenzal)	12	30
(Acute Primary)	137	118
Whooping Cough	588	405
Measles	1,470	859
Tuberculosis (all forms)	213	201
Scabies	94	578*
Total	2,838	2,533

* Scabies became notifiable on 1st August, 1943; equivalent annual rate.

† Puerperal Fever became notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia as from 1st September, 1948.

In the aggregate, there was a considerable increase in the number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1948 as compared with those of 1947, caused mainly by a periodic outbreak of Measles. Notified cases of Measles rose from 583 in 1947 to 1,470 in 1948. Scarlet Fever also showed an increase.

Notifications of Scabies decreased considerably, there being 94 notifications in 1948 as against 219 in 1947.

Polio-myelitis decreased from 23 cases in 1947 to 5 cases in 1948. One death was recorded as due to this disease.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948, AND DEATHS FROM SUCH DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN BATTERSEA, AT AGES (YEARS).											Total	Deaths	
	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over			
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	2	4	4	4	—	—	1	17	—	
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	8	14	5	31	1	
Scarlet fever... ..	3	10	10	23	21	104	36	13	6	1	—	227	1	
Enteric (typhoid) fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	
Continued fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
*Puerperal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	1	
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	—	10	—	
Meningococcal meningitis	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	6	2	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	
Polio-myelitis, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	5	1	
Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	3	1	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	10	—	
Acute primary pneumonia	14	14	8	3	8	13	2	11	18	24	22	137	75	
Acute influenzal pneumonia	3	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	12	—	
Whooping cough	60	99	87	78	78	172	8	2	3	1	—	588	2	
Measles	81	236	200	224	174	515	28	4	7	1	—	1,470	1	
Scabies	—	3	3	3	1	11	7	27	28	9	2	94	—	
Tuberculosis														
Pulmonary	3	1	2	1	6	7	3	56	71	34	6	190	69	
Non-pulmonary	2	1	1	—	1	4	3	4	5	1	1	23	8	
TOTALS	184	367	316	333	293	835	94	134	159	86	37	2,838	162	

*Puerperal Fever became notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia as from 1st September, 1948.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation was continued until the 4th July, 1948, at Southlands and, in addition, immunisation was also carried out at Nine Elms Welfare Centre, where 62 first and 47 second injections were given.

In the following table the work of the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is set out in summarised form:—

Sessions held	53
Patients attending (new, 994)	1,538
Attendances	3,163
„ Average per Session	59.7
Patients who completed course of immunisation:—	
(a) At Clinic	815
(b) Elsewhere	41
	—————
	856
Post-Schick Tests	714
Readings—	
Negative	680*
Positive	3
No Reading (during period)	8
Reading after July 4th (all Negative)	30
	—————
	721

* Includes 7 from 1947 tests.

Arrangements were in force for private practitioners to immunise children who were unable to attend the clinic, and 9 children were immunised in this way.

The Schick test was offered to all children who had been immunised whether at the Council's clinic or elsewhere. It was found that 99.6 per cent. of the children tested after inoculation were Schick negative. A very stringent standard was maintained in reading the test and most of those found to be Schick positive showed by the mildness of the reaction that they had attained a considerable degree of protection against diphtheria.

There were no Battersea deaths from diphtheria during 1948.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough was commenced on the 25th May, 1948, at Southlands, and held in conjunction with the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic. There were 158 attendances at 6 sessions. 140 children attended, 18 of whom received second injections. No children completed a course of immunisation before the 4th July, 1948, when the clinic was taken over by the London County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1948 there were 213 cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) notified in Battersea as compared with 162 in 1947, 228 in 1946, 199 in 1945, 184 in 1944 and 233 in 1943.

In addition, 39 cases were reported or otherwise came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, making a total of 252 cases for the year.

The case rate per 100,000 population was 216.3.

The following tables give details in age groups of the 252 cases.

AGE PERIODS	Formal Notifications													
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis													
	0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total (all ages)
Respiratory, Males ...	3	—	7	2	3	11	10	21	15	16	15	5	—	108
Respiratory, Females	—	1	2	5	—	8	27	26	9	1	2	—	1	82
Non-Respiratory, Males	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	12
Non-Respiratory, Fem.	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	11

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health otherwise than by formal notification.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION	Number of cases in age Groups														TOTAL
	0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—		
Death Returns from Local Registrars ...	R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	4 (A)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (B)
	N.R.	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (C)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (D)
Death Returns from Registrar-General (Transferable Deaths)	R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2 (A)
		F	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2 (B)
	N.R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2 (C)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (D)
Posthumous Notifications	R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (A)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (B)
	N.R.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (C)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1 (D)
"Transfers" from Other Areas (excluding transferable deaths) ...	R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	8 (A)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	2	4	—	1	—	16 (B)
	N.R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1 (C)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1 (D)
Other Sources	R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (A)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (B)
	N.R.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (C)
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (D)

R.—Respiratory.
N.R.—Non-Respiratory.

TOTALS (A) 14
" (B) 18
" (C) 5
" (D) 2

Total number of Informal Notifications ... 39

TUBERCULOSIS, 1948.
CASES ADDED TO AND REMOVED FROM NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			GRAND TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Already on Register, 31/12/47	424	424	848	61	103	164	485	527	1,012
Primary notifications... ..	108	82	190	12	11	23	120	93	213
Notified after death	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
Unnotified deaths	6	2	8	3	—	3	9	2	11
Restored	4	2	6	—	2	2	4	4	8
Removals into Borough	8	16	24	1	1	2	9	17	26
TOTAL ADDITIONS	126	102	228	17	15	32	143	117	260
Deaths	47	24	71	2	—	2	49	24	73
Notified after death	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
Unnotified deaths	6	2	8	3	—	3	9	2	11
Removals from Borough	22	35	57	5	6	11	27	41	68
Recovered	11	18	29	4	7	11	15	25	40
Diagnosis not confirmed	4	—	4	—	2	2	4	2	6
TOTAL DELETIONS	90	79	169	15	16	31	105	95	200
Net increase	36	23	59	2	—	1	38	22	60
Net decrease	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
On Register at 31/12/48	460	447	907	63	102	165	523	549	1,072

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

During 1948 deaths from Tuberculosis registered as belonging to the Borough of Battersea numbered 77, of which 69 (*i.e.*, 89.6 per cent.) were due to pulmonary tuberculosis, 8 (*i.e.*, 10.4 per cent.) to other forms of the disease.

The death rate per 100,000 of the population during the 48 years ended 1948 in quinquennial averages and in 1946, 1947 and 1948 are given in the following table:—

Years	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1901-1905	138.1	50.9	189.0
1906-1910	126.8	45.9	172.7
1911-1915	124.2	33.8	158.0
1916-1920	134.8	30.0	164.8
1921-1925	92.6	23.0	115.6
1926-1930	91.1	14.2	105.3
1931-1935	81.8	14.4	96.2
1936-1940	76.1	9.2	85.3
1941-1945	91.8	11.0	102.8
Average (45 years) ...	106.2	25.8	132.0
1946	76.5	8.3	84.7
1947	51.3	9.6	60.9
1948	59.2	6.9	66.1

Extra Nourishment.

Extra nourishment was provided during the period ended 4th July, 1948, for 9 necessitous dispensary patients at a cost of £24 8s. 10d.

CANCER.

During 1948 the number of deaths of Battersea residents from Cancer was 232 (males 126, females 106) as compared with 252 in 1947, 224 in 1946, 214 in 1945, and 216 in 1944. The death rate from the disease per 1,000 of the population was 1.99. The deaths from cancer constitute 17.7 per cent. of the total Battersea deaths during the year.

The following gives the comparative average death rates from Cancer in Battersea for quinquennial periods since 1901:—

1901-1905	0.88	1931-1935	1.75
1906-1910	0.95	1936-1940	1.99
1911-1915	1.11	1941-1945	2.44
1916-1920	1.28	1946	2.06
1921-1925	1.33	1947	2.19
1926-1930	1.51	1948	1.99

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the case of the 232 deaths recorded in 1948.

Localisation	No. of Deaths			Percentage of Total
	Male	Female	Total	
Buccal cavity, Oesophagus (M), Uterus (F) ...	7	7	14	6.0
Stomach and Duo- denum	22	17	39	16.8
Breast	1	23	24	10.3
All other sites ...	96	59	155	66.9
Total	126	106	232	100.0

DIABETES.

For some years past, with the sanction of the Ministry of Health, the Council has borne the cost of insulin required by certain necessitous patients who were receiving treatment for diabetes. Insulin was supplied to 18 such cases.

Eleven deaths were attributed to this disease.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The bacteriological examination of clinical material (with the exception of specimens of sputum, which are dealt with at the Tuberculosis Dispensary) is carried out by the Clinical Research Association, of Watergate House, Strand.

During 1948 the number of bacteriological examinations of specimens sent in by medical practitioners practising in Battersea was 383 (exclusive of the specimens dealt with at the Tuberculosis Dispensary).

The following table gives particulars of the bacteriological examinations carried out during the year:—

Suspected disease	Positive Results	Negative Results	Total
Diphtheria	11	347	358
Other	—	25	25
Total	11	372	383

The cost of these examinations is borne by the Council, and in 1948 amounted to £74 19s. 4d.

Sanitary Circumstances.

The following table sets out in summarised form the details of the main work of the Department in relation to sanitation :—

Summary of Main Operations for the Year 1948.

SANITARY OPERATIONS.

Inspections—		Frontage drains constructed or reconstructed	23
New houses	182	New houses—certificates issued <i>re</i> water supply	182
House-to-house	—	Houses supplied with water and fittings repaired	139
Houses let in separate tenements	—	Additional water supplies to tenement houses	16
Houses—following complaints	6,429	Water closets provided, supplied with water, or supply disconnected from drinking water cisterns ...	36
Houses—following infectious disease	466	Water closets and urinals cleansed and repaired	871
Gipsy vans	17	Drinking water cisterns cleansed and repaired	143
Common Lodging Houses	30	Rain-water and waste pipes disconnected or repaired	394
Public urinals and chalets	100	Soil pipes and drains ventilated	65
Re-inspections	27,934	Defective roofs and gutters repaired ...	1,619
Other visits	3,411	Dustbins provided ...	260
Notices served—		Yards paved or repaired	299
Intimations	4,164	Premises disinfected ...	1,039
Statutory (Sec. 197 and 200)	208	Persons cleansed (including 3,266 children)	3,763
Statutory (Fifth Schedule)	2,519	Articles disinfected ...	12,970
Summonses issued ...	304	Rat repression—	
Magisterial Orders obtained	100	Premises inspected...	363
Drains laid to new houses	182	Inspections	3,122
Drains relaid (wholly or partly)	53		
Drains cleansed and repaired	341		
Drains tested (smoke) Found defective ...	114		
Drains tested (water)	676		
Drainage plans received	112		

PROTECTION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

Inspections—		Inspections— <i>contd.</i>	
Butchers' and other food shops... ..	1,364	Dairies and milk shops	344
Slaughterhouses	53	Ice cream premises	233
Fish shops	273	Restaurant kitchens	356
Food storage premises	97	Samples taken	1,200
		Summonses issued ...	17

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND SHOPS.

Inspections— Shops 29 do. (Pharmacy Act) 14 Factories 1,661	Inspections— <i>contd.</i> Outworkers 1,234 Smoke observations 140 Intimation notices served 62 Summonses issued ... 3
---	--

Legal Proceedings.

During the year, legal proceedings were taken by the Council in 326 cases, for the enforcement of various Acts, by-laws, regulations, etc., administered by the Health Department. A summary is set out below, and further details will be found in the sections dealing with the respective matters.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	304
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	16
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	1
London County Council By-laws <i>re</i> Rag and Bone Dealers	3
Housing Act, 1936	1
National Assistance Act, 1948 (Removal of Aged and Infirm Persons)	1
	326

Fines totalling £43 were imposed in connection with these proceedings, and £203 6s. 6d. costs were awarded to the Council.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

The provisions of this Act in regard to Nuisances continued to afford practically the only means whereby the remedy of insanitary conditions found in dwelling houses could be secured.

During the year, 4,164 Intimation, and 2,519 Statutory (Nuisance) Notices were served. The high proportion of Statutory to Intimation Notices gives some indication of the difficulty in securing compliance with the latter. Furthermore, legal proceedings to enforce compliance with Statutory Notices had to be taken in no less than 296 cases. Of these, 100 resulted in Nuisance Orders being made by the Court. The remaining 196 summonses were either adjourned or withdrawn, as the work required to comply with the Notices was either in hand, or had been completed, before the hearing. In no case were the proceedings unsuccessful.

In 33 cases action to enforce compliance with Nuisance Orders had to be taken. In 26 of these, the Council carried out the work in default of the persons on whom the Orders were made. In those cases, the Council were entitled to recover the cost of the works from those persons, and accounts were accordingly rendered to them. Most of these accounts had been settled by the end of the year, but in one instance proceedings for the recovery of the cost had to be taken. An Order for payment was secured. In the remaining 7 cases, the Council elected to take proceedings for non-compliance with the Nuisance Orders. Fines totalling £25 were imposed, and the work was eventually done by the owners.

Common Lodging Houses.

There were at the beginning of the year only two common lodging houses in Battersea, of which particulars are as under :—

Premises	Lodgers authorised	Inspections	Notices		Prosecutions
			Served	Complied with	
MALES— 75 Falcon Road ...	21	9	—	—	—
FEMALES— 67 Winstanley Road	50	21	—	—	—
Total	71	30	—	—	—

Systematic inspection of these houses is carried out by the Council's inspectors and, generally speaking, they are found to be in a sanitary condition, and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the by-laws.

The common lodging house at 75 Falcon Road was closed in May. The annual licence in respect of 67 Winstanley Road was renewed in June.

There are no Seamen's lodging houses in the Borough.

Public Lavatory Accommodation.

Five public conveniences for both sexes and one for females only are provided by the Council in various parts of the Borough, two being underground. In addition to the usual lavatory accommodation (at least one free water-closet being provided for each sex) facilities for washing are also provided. Three public urinals are also maintained.

In addition, the urinals attached to seven licensed premises are, by arrangement with the owners, available to the general public. In one of these cases, three months' notice to terminate the arrangement was given by the owners in December, as they wished to make alterations involving the abolition of the urinal.

Drainage Work.

The by-laws made by the London County Council under the Metropolis Management Acts with regard to drainage, and also those under the Public Health (London) Act relating to water-closets, etc., are enforced by the Council.

During the year new drains were constructed to 182 new buildings, and the drains of 53 old buildings were partially or entirely reconstructed under the supervision of the Officers of the Department.

112 plans of proposed drainage work were deposited in 1948, as compared with 74 in 1947.

During the year drains were tested by smoke on 114 occasions, and 58 were found defective. The water test was applied on 676 occasions, this being mainly to drains in course of construction.

The frontage drains of 23 premises were constructed or reconstructed.

Combined Drainage.

During the year six claims were made by owners of houses drained by combined operations that the common portions of those drainage systems were "sewers" within the meaning of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and that the Council were consequently responsible for their maintenance. In the following five cases the Council admitted the liability and carried out the necessary works to the "sewers" at the cost shown :—

	£	s.	d.
22/24 Ascalon Street	42	10	0
34/36 Glycena Road	225	6	3
108/114 Northcote Road	260	14	1
135/137 St. James' Drive	34	0	8
153, &c., Usk Road	132	10	4
	<hr/>		
	£695	1	4
	<hr/>		

In the remaining case, liability was repudiated, and the work was subsequently carried out by the owner at his own expense.

In all the five cases mentioned above, the drainage systems were, in every sense but the legal one, private drains, and but for the definitions of the terms "drains" and "sewer" in the Act they would have been the responsibility of the owners.

Smoke Nuisances.

During the year a number of complaints were made, alleging nuisances from smoke, dust, grit, etc., emitted from premises occupied by various industrial and public utility undertakings in the Borough. All such complaints were carefully investigated.

By far the most persistent and serious emissions were found to be taking place from the premises of two public utility undertakings. There is no doubt whatever but that these emissions were very extensive, and apart from the danger to health, they seriously affected the amenities of considerable areas around them.

In both cases the emissions were brought to the notice of the Authorities operating the undertakings, and their representatives subsequently discussed the matters with myself and other Officers of the Health Department. The representatives laid great emphasis on the frequency with which fuel of unsuitable type and/or poor quality was supplied to them, and upon the difficulty and delay in securing the replacement of obsolete or worn-out plant. While there undoubtedly was a certain element of truth in these suggestions, I was by no means satisfied that the Authorities were employing the best practicable means to minimise the emissions. Accordingly, meetings were arranged at the premises, at which all aspects of the operation of the plants were investigated. As a result, the Authorities agreed to put into effect various measures. Some of these measures involve the replacement of old plant, and the installation of new, and it will therefore necessarily be some considerable time before they become effective. In the meantime, assurances were given that all possible steps to reduce emissions to the absolute minimum would be taken.

The remainder of the complaints related to small emissions from isolated factories, etc. They also were investigated, and remedial measures suggested. In these cases, also, unsatisfactory fuel supplies were blamed for much of the trouble.

The total number of observations made was 140.

Effluvium Nuisances.

A number of complaints alleging nuisances from effluvia emitted from business and industrial premises were received. In only one case was any justification found for the complaint. This case was reported to the Health Committee, and on their direction a notice requiring the abatement of the nuisance was served. The time allowed for compliance with this notice had not expired by the end of the year.

Offensive Trades.

There are three premises in the Borough at which scheduled offensive trades are carried on. All these businesses have been established for many years and are satisfactorily conducted.

Water Supply.

During the year certificates under Section 95 (2) of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, were issued in respect of 182 new or re-erected dwelling houses or tenements.

In 16 houses additional water supplies on upper floors were provided, in compliance with notices served under Section 95 (5) of the Act.

Twenty notices of waste of water from defective fittings, etc., observed during routine inspections of various premises, were sent to the Metropolitan Water Board.

Over 360 tenements on the Council's Housing Estate at Sheepcote Lane are supplied, in part, with water drawn from deep artesian wells at the Latchmere Baths, supplemented by supplies from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board. The water from the wells is chlorinated, as a safety measure, before passing into supply. Prior to the war, samples for bacteriological examination were taken at fortnightly intervals. During the war, this practice was discontinued, as the Metropolitan Water Board earmarked the wells for use as an emergency supply should their normal supplies be seriously interrupted by enemy action, and themselves took periodical samples. At the end of 1947, the practice was resumed. Twenty-six samples were taken during the year, and the Public Analyst's reports on them showed that the water maintained a high degree of purity.

Rag and Bone Dealers.

Premises occupied by rag and bone dealers in the Borough are subjected to regular inspection. During the year 80 inspections were made. Various small irregularities found to exist were brought to the notice of the occupiers of the premises and were remedied without recourse to formal action.

Three cases of offences against that part of the by-laws relating to rag and bone dealers, which prohibits the giving of toys in exchange for rags, were reported by the Police. By direction of the Health Committee, legal proceedings were taken in all these cases. One summons was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907. In each of the other two cases, a fine of £1 was imposed, and in one of them £1 costs were awarded to the Council.

Verminous Premises.

The number of premises found to be infested by vermin (principally bed-bugs) was markedly less than in previous years. This reduction can be ascribed in part to improved standards of cleanliness, and in part to the advent of the insecticides known as "D.D.T." and "Gammexane," the use of which is now standard practice. They possess the property, not shown by the older types of insecticide, of imparting to surfaces on which they are sprayed or dusted a lethal action against insects, which remains active for some months if undisturbed.

During the year, 270 verminous premises, including 44 flats or houses on the Council's Estates, were treated.

Van Dwellings.

There are four sites in the Borough on which van dwellings have regularly been placed for many years. The number of vans on the sites varies from time to time. All the sites are subject to regular inspection and are in general reasonably well kept.

Dangerous Structures.

Seventy-eight cases in which structures or parts thereof had been noted, in the course of inspections for various purposes, as appearing to be unsafe, were referred to the District Surveyor of the London County Council for his attention.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The provisions of this Act, which give power to require steps to be taken to eradicate infestations of rats and mice, and to prevent infestations, are administered by the Council. The work is carried out by the Rodent Officer, assisted by three Rodent Operatives (one additional Operative having been appointed during the year).

All infestations coming to light, whether by way of complaint or otherwise, are systematically investigated, and the necessary steps taken to deal with them. In some cases the occupier of the affected premises (who is the person primarily responsible under the Act), is called upon to take those steps, and in others the work is carried out by the Rodent Control Staff. In the latter event, the cost is recoverable from the occupier. Except in the case of business premises, where the cost is recovered in full, the charges made are usually nominal. At the same time, steps are taken to ascertain, and to secure the remedy of, the cause of the infestation. This is frequently found to be defective drainage or other defects in the building, for which the owner is responsible, and he is called upon to remedy the defects. The work of the Rodent Control Staff is, therefore, carried on in close co-operation with the Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year, the Staff made 3,122 visits to 363 different premises.

The sewers under the control of the Council were treated on two occasions to destroy rats. The method adopted was that recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, namely, to lay prebait (unpoisoned) on two successive days, and to follow on the third day with poisoned bait.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, under the terms of their Circular N.S. No. 11, pay a grant of 50 per cent. towards the cost of the service in so far as this is not recovered by the Council from occupiers of premises.

In regard to business premises, I should mention that for many years past there have existed arrangements between the Council and the occupiers of a number of business premises, mostly large factories, whereby, in consideration of their paying a fixed annual sum, the Council have carried out all the necessary treatments. For that purpose, routine visits were paid to the premises. This system worked exceedingly well, for it ensured continuity of treatment and saved much time and trouble in rendering periodical accounts. The Ministry, however, took exception to it, for reasons not fully understood. With considerable reluctance, therefore, these arrangements were allowed to lapse, and accounts are now rendered quarterly.

Vacant Sites, Static Water Tanks, etc.

Many complaints were received during the year of nuisances alleged to be caused by the dumping of rubbish on vacant sites and in derelict buildings and disused static water tanks, and by the accumulation of stagnant water in the last named. In many cases the deposits were merely builders' rubbish and other material which, though unsightly, could not be said to be a danger to health, and no action could therefore be taken. In some cases, however, vegetable refuse, dead animals, old bedding and other material of a putrescible nature was found. The whole question of such nuisances was considered by the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee, by whom representations, seeking some solution of the problem, were made to the appropriate Government Departments. It does not appear that anything tangible resulted from these representations. The view was, however, expressed that in the cases of cleared sites and derelict buildings, and of water tanks where the sites had been derequisitioned, the owner of the building or site is responsible, under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for the abatement of any statutory nuisance. The enforcement of this responsibility is by no means a simple matter. In one case, however, of a tank which was in a particularly bad state, a notice was served on the owners, who eventually had the tank removed.

The Council set aside a sum of £100 to be expended in removing any deposit which was causing a serious nuisance. Four cases were dealt with in this way.

On the 23rd June, 1948, the Council made a by-law under which it was made an offence for anyone to deposit rubbish on any land abutting the public highway so as injuriously to affect the amenities of the neighbourhood. No case was dealt with under this by-law during the year.

Burial of Deceased Persons.

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, which came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person dying or being found dead in the Borough, for the disposal of whose body no other suitable arrangements have been made, was transferred to the Council. They are given power to recover from the estate of the deceased, or from any person who, under the Act, was liable to maintain the deceased immediately prior to his death, their expenses incurred in carrying out the duty, in so far as these expenses are not covered by any grant made under Section 22 (5) of the National Insurance Act, 1946.

Between the 5th July and the end of the year, 38 cases were dealt with. The majority were of persons dying in the local hospitals, as the following table shows :—

Died in St. James's Hospital .....	.....	.....	20
„ „ St. John's Hospital .....	.....	.....	13
„ at home .....	.....	.....	4
Found drowned in river .....	.....	.....	1
			—
			38
			==

Only 10 of these persons were residents of Battersea.

The burials were carried out by a local undertaker under contract with the Council, and not more than one coach is provided for relatives who wish to attend the funeral.

The Health Department make arrangements with the undertaker, and collect all available information regarding any estate left by the deceased and the existence of any liable relatives. This information is passed to the Borough Treasurer so that he may take any steps necessary to recover the cost.

The total cost incurred in dealing with the 38 cases was £237 12s. 7d., of which £68 9s. 4d. had been recovered by the end of the year.

Aged and Infirm Persons.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, which came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, repealed, and re-enacted, with certain modifications, Section 224 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, which had previously provided power to apply to the Court for an Order for the removal to a suitable hospital or other place of any person who is aged or infirm or suffering from some grave chronic disease, and is living under insanitary conditions. The principal modifications are :—

- (1) There is now no need to obtain a second medical report.
- (2) The application for the Order has to be made to the Court by the Council, and not, as formerly, by the Medical Officer of Health.
- (3) Seven days' notice (in lieu of three days as previously) has to be given to the person concerned and to the hospital, etc., authorities.

One such case was dealt with during the year.

A number of other cases of persons, mostly of advancing years, alleged to be living under unsatisfactory conditions, were reported. In none of these was there justification for certifying that an application for an Order for removal be made. In some cases, however, it was found possible to arrange voluntary admission to hospital, and other cases were under observation at the end of the year.

The question of the care and maintenance of old persons, especially those living alone, is one which clearly calls for urgent and thorough consideration.

PROTECTION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

(A)—INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Regular and systematic inspection of all premises where food for human consumption is prepared, stored, or sold is carried out as a routine measure. In general, they have been found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner, such irregularities as were found being mainly of a minor nature, the remedy of which was secured without difficulty. In the following two cases, however, recourse had to be had to legal proceedings:—

- (a) A factory where jelly crystals, soup powders, tomato sauce and similar commodities were being prepared and packed. The undermentioned contraventions of Section 13 (1) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were found to exist:—
- (i) A sanitary convenience communicated directly with the part of the building where the food was being handled.
 - (ii) A sufficient supply of hot water and clean towels was not provided for the use of the employees.
 - (iii) Proper precautions to protect the food from contamination were not being taken, as the premises generally were in a dirty and untidy state, and materials such as scouring powder, soap powder, etc., were being manufactured and packed in close proximity to the foodstuffs.

After repeated warnings had failed to secure the remedy of these conditions, legal proceedings were taken against the firm occupying the factory, and against their principal director for permitting the offences. The cases came before the Court on the 20th May and were adjourned to the 25th June, and then further adjourned to the 20th August, to enable alterations to be carried out to the factory. By the last-named date the first two contraventions had been remedied, and the summonses in respect of them were not separately dealt with. On the summonses for the third offence, the firm was fined 40s., and the director 40s., and £10 10s. 0d. costs were awarded to the Council. The firm, through their Counsel, gave an undertaking that, pending sub-division of the building to separate the food and non-food processes, the latter would be discontinued. The position was under observation at the end of the year.

- (b) A mobile canteen, operated by a man and his wife, serving meals to men engaged on building sites in adjacent areas. It was found that the food sold from this canteen was being prepared and stored in one room in a house in Battersea, in which room the two persons lived and slept. Legal proceedings were taken against both the persons, and were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907, on payment of 4s. costs. In connection with this case, it was ascertained that a licence to operate the canteen had been issued by the London Divisional Food Office, apparently without any enquiry as to the conditions under which the food would be prepared. This matter was reported to the Council, who decided to refer it to the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee with a view to representations being made to ensure that no licence of this nature should in future be issued without prior consultation with the Local Authority, on the subject of compliance with statutory requirements.

Slaughterhouses.

There is only one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough. It is used only occasionally, for the slaughter of calves. Fifty-three visits were made to it during the year, and 22 calves were examined, all of which were passed as fit for human consumption.

Butchers' Shops.

There are 71 butchers' shops in the Borough, and in addition a number of shops where cooked meats are sold. All these shops are systematically inspected, 1,364 visits having been made during the year. In general, the shops are well conducted, and no formal action was found necessary.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

No contravention of these Regulations was reported during the year.

Dairies and Milkshops.

The following table gives the dairies and milkshops registered in the Borough, and the changes during 1948:

- (a) Dairies, where loose milk is sold, and both the premises and the occupier are registered:—

	Retail	Wholesale	Total
On register at 1st January	53	7	60
Added during year	—	—	—
	53	7	60
Removed during year:—			
(i) Premises closed	—	—	—
(ii) Transferred to (b) below	1	—	1
On register at 31st December	52	7	59

(b) Milkshops, where milk is sold only in sealed containers, and only the occupier is registered :—

On register at 1st January	23
Added during year, by transfer from (a) above	1
	<hr/>
	24
Removed during year.....	—
	<hr/>
On register at 31st December	24
	<hr/>

A total of 344 visits were made to these shops during the year. Generally they are very well conducted. In 17 cases, however, it was found necessary to draw the occupier's attention to minor contraventions of the statutory requirements. These were rectified without recourse to formal action.

Legal proceedings were taken under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, in respect of the use of a dirty bottle for the delivery of milk. The defendant Company was fined £5, and £5 5s. 0d. costs awarded to the Council.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

The designations authorised by these Orders are "Accredited," "Tuberculin Tested," and "Pasteurised." Metropolitan Borough Councils are the authorities, within their respective areas, for the issue of licences authorising the use of these designations.

The number of licences issued during 1948 was as follows :—

	Full	Supplementary
Accredited	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	28	9
Pasteurised	24	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	52	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>

One licence to pasteurise milk was granted, and is included in the above figures.

Ice Cream Premises.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage, and/or sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 63, 16 having been added and 1 removed during the course of the year.

All these premises are regularly inspected. 233 visits were made and 5 notices served. Particular attention is paid to premises where manufacture takes place, and not only are the premises, plant, and methods of operation scrutinised, but samples of the product are taken for examination by the methods suggested by the Ministry of Health. The premises generally are found to be well conducted. In particular, much new and up-to-date plant has been installed to comply with the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, &c.) Regulations, 1947. Further reference to sampling of ice cream will be found on page 46.

Cheese	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78 tins, 34 lbs.
Bread and biscuits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	377 lbs.
Cakes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Crumpets	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	660
Flour and cereals	.....	.....	.....	.....	592 tins and packets,	420 lbs.
Tea	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Sugar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Jams, syrups and preserves	.....	.....	.....	.....	710 tins and jars	
Pickles and sauces	.....	.....	.....	.....	249 tins, jars and bottles	
Paste (meat and fish)	.....	.....	.....	.....	313 tins and jars	
Patent foods and beverages	.....	.....	.....	.....	96 tins	
Sweets	.....	.....	.....	.....	142 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	
Baking powder	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 tin	

Legal proceedings were taken in respect of a bun which had been sold from a local baker's shop and found to contain a cigarette end. The defendant was fined £5, and £5 5s. 0d. were awarded to the Council.

Food Poisoning.

During the year five cases of food poisoning were notified. All were isolated cases and of a minor nature, and call for no special comment.

PROTECTION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

(B)—SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The analysis of samples of food and drugs, procured under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or informally (*i.e.*; without following the procedure prescribed by the Act), and the examination of samples of heat-treated milk and of ice-cream by the prescribed tests, is carried out by the Public Analyst for the Borough at his laboratory at 325 Kennington Road, London, S.E.11.

The total number of formal samples taken under the Act during 1948 was 596, of which 4, or 0.7 per cent., were certified to be adulterated. In addition, 604 informal samples were procured, of which 2, or 0.3 per cent., were reported against.

The percentage of samples reported by the Public Analyst to be adulterated during the quinquennia 1921 to 1945 and yearly from 1946, is given in the following table:—

Year	Formal samples (per cent.)	Informal samples (per cent.)
Mean 1921—1925	6.4	7.4
„ 1926—1930	3.3	2.4
„ 1931—1935	1.8	2.1
„ 1936—1940	0.9	0.9
„ 1941—1945	1.4	1.1
1946	1.5	1.2
1947	0.5	1.7
1948	0.7	0.3

The following tables give details of the articles of which samples were obtained for the purpose of analysis.

TABLE I.

Main Statement.

Nature of Sample	Examined			Adulterated		
	Formal	Infor- mal	Total	Formal	Infor- mal	Total
Bread	—	3	3	—	—	—
Butter	28	—	28	—	—	—
Cocoa	—	11	11	—	—	—
Coffee	7	3	10	—	—	—
Confectionery ...	2	1	3	—	—	—
Flour, Self-Raising...	13	2	15	—	—	—
Jam and Marmalade	9	2	11	—	—	—
Margarine	1	—	1	—	—	—
Milk	402	—	402	—	—	—
Milk, Condensed ...	2	2	4	—	—	—
Mince	1	—	1	1	—	1
Sausages and Sausage Meat	22	6	28	—	—	—
Suet, Shredded ...	3	—	3	—	—	—
Tea	3	—	3	—	—	—
Vinegar:—						
Malt	22	4	26	—	—	—
Non-Brewed ...	7	1	8	1	—	1
Spirit	1	—	1	—	—	—
Other Articles ...	72	433	505	1	1	2
Drugs	1	136	137	1	1	2
Totals	596	604	1,200	4	2	6

Other Articles.

Nature of Sample	Examined			Adulterated		
	Formal	Infor- mal	Total	Formal	Infor- mal	Total
Apple Pulp	1	—	1	—	—	—
Arrowroot	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder	—	3	3	—	—	—
Beverages	16	6	22	—	—	—
Bun & Cake Mixture	1	28	29	—	—	—
Cereal Preparations	4	7	11	—	—	—
Chewing Gum	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory						
Essences	1	8	9	—	—	—
Cooking Compound...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cooking Fat... ..	15	—	15	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	12	12	—	—	—
Fish Paste	—	45	45	—	—	—
Flavouring Essence	—	17	17	—	—	—
Fru-Bar	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fruit, Dried	5	—	5	—	—	—
Gelatine	—	16	16	—	—	—
Golden Raising Powder	—	4	4	—	—	—
Gravy Preparations	—	21	21	—	—	—
Jelly	1	—	1	—	—	—
Lemon Crystals	—	10	10	—	—	—
Meat Preparations—						
Black Pudding	3	—	3	—	—	—
Meat Extract	—	1	1	—	—	—
„ Paste	—	44	44	—	—	—
„ Pie	5	—	5	—	—	—
Meat and Vegetable						
Cubes	—	2	2	—	—	—
Mustard Preparations	—	11	11	—	—	—
Oils, Edible—						
Olive Oil	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tea Seed Oil	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pastries, Jam Tarts	2	—	2	—	—	—
Pea Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pickles and Sauces...	13	45	58	1	1	2
Pudding Mixture	—	21	21	—	—	—
Rissoles	1	—	1	—	—	—
Soup, Canned	—	21	21	—	—	—
„ Packet	—	16	16	—	—	—
Soya Flour	1	2	3	—	—	—
Spices & Condiments	—	71	71	—	—	—
Tablets—						
Fruit Preserving...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Malted	—	2	2	—	—	—
Saccharin	—	11	11	—	—	—
Table Dessert	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vegetable Extract	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total	72	433	505	1	1	2

Drugs.

Nature of Sample	Examined			Adulterated		
	Formal	Infor- mal	Total	Formal	Infor- mal	Total
Camphorated Oil ...	—	7	7	—	—	—
Castor Oil ...	—	11	11	—	—	—
Cough Mixture ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cream of Tartar ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Epsom Salts... ..	—	5	5	—	—	—
Glauber's Salts ...	—	9	9	—	—	—
Iodine, Solution of...	—	8	8	—	—	—
Ointment, Boracic ...	—	4	4	—	—	—
Ointment, Sulphur ...	—	7	7	—	—	—
Ointment, Zinc ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Paraffin, Liquid ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Seidlitz Powder ...	—	11	11	—	—	—
Soda, Bicarbonate of	—	13	13	—	—	—
Syrup of Figs ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Tablets, Aspirin ...	1	22	23	1	1	2
Tablets, various ...	—	21	21	—	—	—
Totals	1	136	137	1	1	2

Milk.

Of the 402 samples of milk, all of which were formal samples, none were reported as adulterated.

In the 5 years 1943-47, and in 1948, the percentage of adulterated (formal) samples of milk was as under :—

Year	Samples taken	Adulterated	
		No.	Percentage
1943	576	5	0.9
1944	462	5	1.1
1945	459	2	0.4
1946	430	0	0.0
1947	415	0	0.0
Mean	468.4	2.4	0.5
1948	402	0	0.0

The average composition of the 402 samples of milk reported as genuine, proved to be as under :—

Total milk solids	.....	.....	.....	12.38 per cent.
Milk fat	.....	.....	.....	3.55 „
Non-fatty solids	.....	.....	.....	<u>8.83</u> „

The Analyst reports that the content of milk fat in these 402 samples ranged as follows :—

4 per cent. and over	26 samples or 6.5 per cent.
Between 3.9 and 4.0 per cent.	15 „ „ 3.7 „ „
„ 3.8 „ 3.9 „	27 „ „ 6.7 „ „
„ 3.7 „ 3.8 „	40 „ „ 9.9 „ „
„ 3.6 „ 3.7 „	65 „ „ 16.1 „ „
„ 3.5 „ 3.6 „	48 „ „ 11.9 „ „
„ 3.4 „ 3.5 „	71 „ „ 17.7 „ „
„ 3.3 „ 3.4 „	75 „ „ 18.7 „ „
„ 3.2 „ 3.3 „	24 „ „ 6.0 „ „
„ 3.1 „ 3.2 „	8 „ „ 2.0 „ „
„ 3.0 „ 3.1 „	3 „ „ 0.8 „ „
	<u>402</u> <u>100.0</u>

The following action was taken in regard to the 4 formal samples certified as adulterated :—

- (1) *Salad Cream.* Containing 600 parts per million of benzoic acid as a preservative, contrary to the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations. This product appeared, from the label, to have been imported from Holland. In the course of enquiries, it was learned that the presence of the preservative had already been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Food, and that steps were being taken to stop the importation of any further supplies. The Health Committee thereupon decided to take no action. The whole of the stock remaining in the hands of the retailer from whom the sample was obtained was returned to the wholesaler.
- (2) "*Mince.*" This substance appeared to have been sold as a substitute for mincemeat, which it closely resembled. There is a standard for mincemeat set up by the Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1944, to which the "mince" did not conform. The Council's Solicitor, however, advised that a prosecution was unlikely to be successful, particularly as no "points" had been given up. In view of this, and that the manufacturer had ceased business, the Health Committee decided to take no action. The facts of the case were, however, communicated to the Ministry of Food.
- (3) *Non-brewed Vinegar.* Certified to contain only 1.56 per cent. of acetic acid, instead of the usually accepted minimum of 4 per cent. Summonses were issued, but before they came before the Court it was learned that adverse decisions on

similar cases had been given by several Magistrates' Courts. In one of these, the Local Authority had appealed against the decision, which was that as there was no prescribed standard for non-brewed vinegar, no offence had been committed. The Divisional Court allowed this appeal, pointing out that if there were no such standard the Court had to fix one on the evidence before it, and in this particular case there was overwhelming evidence in favour of a minimum acetic acid content of 4 per cent. The Health Committee then further considered the matter, and in view of the lapse of time since the summonses had been issued, and the previous good record of the retailer, decided to withdraw the proceedings, but to send a cautionary letter.

- (4) *Aspirin Tablets.* Containing 4.3 grains of acetylsalicylic acid per tablet, as against 5 grains declared on the label and required, within certain tolerances, by the British Pharmacopœia. Proceedings were taken against the manufacturers in respect of the deficiency, and for giving a false warranty to the retailer. On the first count a fine of £2 was imposed, and £3 3s. 0d. costs awarded to the Council. The second summons was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907.

The two informal samples were of "mince" and aspirin tablets, and it was in consequence of adverse reports on them that the formal samples of these articles, referred to above, were taken.

Heat Treated Milk.

Samples of heat treated milk are taken at regular intervals for submission to the Public Analyst for phosphatase and methylene blue tests, and during the year samples as under were taken with the results set out:—

	Phosphatase		Methylene Blue	
	Satisfactory	Failed	Satisfactory	Failed
Pasteurised	10	—	10	—
Heat Treated	49	—	48	1
Sterilised	24	—	24	—

Monthly returns of the samples taken, and of the results of the examinations, are sent to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food, and they are at once notified of any adverse report.

Milk supplied to Schools and Hospitals.

Samples of milk in course of delivery to Schools and Hospitals in the Borough are regularly taken, both for chemical analysis and for submission to the "Phosphatase" and "Methylene Blue" tests. These samples are included in the general totals given on pages 42 and 45. The results of the analyses and examinations are communicated to the London County Council or to the appropriate Hospital Area Board.

Ice Cream.

Seventy-one samples of ice cream were taken during the year, each sample being submitted to the presumptive test for coliform organisms in 3 tubes at 1/10 ml. dilution, and to the methylene blue test, in accord-

ance with the technique suggested by the Ministry of Health. The following is a summary of the results:—

COLIFORM TEST.			METHYLENE BLUE TEST.		
Positive in 3 tubes	.....	32	Provisional Grade 1	.....	17
" " 2 "	.....	3	" " 2	.....	12
" " 1 tube	.....	4	" " 3	.....	10
Negative	.....	32	" " 4	.....	32
		71			71
		71			71

These results indicate a state of affairs which is far from satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that all ice cream is, by virtue of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, &c.) Regulations, 1947, now required to be subjected to a prescribed method of heat treatment, unless it is made by the "complete cold mix" process from materials already subjected to heat treatment.

Where samples of ice cream made at premises in the Borough received unsatisfactory reports, the premises, plant, and methods of operation were examined, and, where possible, improvements were suggested.

It is worthy of comment that some of the poor samples were of ice cream made by reputable manufacturers, operating the most up-to-date plant, and usually wrapping the product at the place of manufacture. It is difficult to explain why this should be so. Doubts have, however, been expressed as to whether the coliform and methylene blue tests really give a true picture of the bacteriological condition of ice cream, and it is understood that the Ministry of Food is now working on new tests.

Housing.

Provision of New Accommodation.

Sheepcote Lane Area. Redevelopment by the Council of the first section of this area, which was the subject of a Clearance Order made prior to the war, was completed during the year, a total of 34 houses and flats being provided.

Work on an extension of the original area was in hand at the end of the year.

Hibbert Street Area. Redevelopment of this area, comprising Hibbert Street, Linda Street, and parts of Wynter Street, Maysoule Road, Hope Street, and York Road, is being carried out by the London County Council. By the end of the year, 3 blocks, containing 105 flats, had been completed.

Honeywell Road/Broomwood Road. This site resulted from the demolition, by enemy action, of 25 houses, and was subsequently acquired by the Council. Redevelopment was completed during the year, 30 flats being provided.

19/20 Bolingbroke Grove. This site was formerly that of the Council's Maternity Hospital, which was closed in 1938. During the war, the buildings were used as a Civil Defence Depot, and afterwards as Offices for the War Damage Repair Organisation and for other purposes. During the year the buildings were demolished and the erection of new flats commenced.

Other Permanent Housing Sites. Consideration was given during the year by this Council, and by the London County Council, to the acquisition of a number of sites, with a view to their redevelopment as housing sites.

Prefabricated Bungalows. Early in the year the Council's programme for the provision of these bungalows was completed by the erection of 9 further bungalows. The total number provided since the war is 463.

Private Enterprise. During the year 4 houses, which had been demolished by enemy action, were rebuilt by the owners, and the rebuilding of two more commenced.

Summary of New Accommodation Provided.

By Battersea Borough Council (Permanent)	64	
(Temporary)	9	
	—	73
By London County Council .....	.....	105
By Private Enterprise .....	.....	4
		—
		182
		—

Conversion of Existing Houses.

During the year the Council converted into flats 12 houses held under requisition. 28 family units were made available in this way.

Repair of Unfit Houses.

The question of the maintenance of existing housing accommodation is one of grave concern. Virtually all houses, with the exception of those which have had major works of repair following damage by enemy action, have had very little maintenance work done to them for the past ten years. Furthermore, many of them have, by reason of the general shortage of housing accommodation, been occupied by more families than would normally have been the case, and have suffered an amount of extra wear and tear. Very many houses, being of considerable age, and not too well constructed, simply will not stand up to continued neglect, and it is no exaggeration to say that quite an appreciable number have already reached a stage of disrepair at which it is problematical whether they can, without virtual reconstruction, be rendered fit for habitation. Very many more are fast approaching that stage. It is abundantly clear that, at the present rate of progress in the provision of new accommodation, a lengthy period will elapse before the general shortage of houses is overtaken, to say nothing of the replacement of those which have come to the end of their useful life. The maintenance of existing houses is, therefore, a matter of paramount importance. This question of maintenance is complicated by the large increase in the cost of building work, coupled with the pegging of practically all rents at pre-war levels. These two factors have led to a situation in which the owner of the average house is often unable to overtake arrears of maintenance, and to keep it fit for habitation, without incurring an expenditure out of all proportion to the income from the house. Unless a remedy is found, there will inevitably be a serious and progressive decline in the general standard of housing accommodation.

Prior to the War, the Council operated, with considerable success, their powers under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, relating to the repair of unfit houses. During and after the war, these operations, through force of circumstances, were brought to a standstill. Towards the end of 1948, consideration was given to the question of resuming use of these powers. It was decided to do so on a limited scale, and that every effort should be made to secure the repair of the houses by informal action, without recourse to the service of formal notices. In this connection, particular thought was given to the question of "reasonable cost." Prior to the war, the Council had decided, as a general rule, that if the cost of repairing the house exceeded 50 per cent. of its value when repaired, this should be regarded as unreasonable. The rise in building costs over the last ten years, however, and the necessity for preserving as many houses as possible, have obviously rendered this figure obsolete. This matter was under consideration at the end of the year, with a view to formulating a new basis.

Acting on these new arrangements, informal notices were served in respect of 23 houses. All these notices were served in the last two months of the year, and work had been commenced in only 5 cases.

Closing Orders.

One Closing Order under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, was made during the year, in respect of a basement room.

A survey of all parts of houses in respect of which Closing Orders had been made by the Council in past years was undertaken, for the purpose of ascertaining whether these Orders were being observed. In 4 cases it was found that contraventions were taking place. In 3 of these cases, the illegal occupation ceased immediately the existence of the Order was brought to the notice of the occupier, and no action was taken beyond the sending of a cautionary letter. In the remaining case, the Housing Committee ordered proceedings to be taken, but the summons was not due for hearing till after the end of the year.

Demolition Orders.

Undertakings given during 1947, under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, by the owners of two houses, were complied with during 1948. One undertaking was to demolish the dwelling portion of a combined shop and dwelling-house, and the other was to carry out all works necessary to render a house fit for habitation.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No special action was taken in respect of such houses.

Overcrowding.

712 cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year, 642 in consequence of applications for housing accommodation made either to this Council or to the London County Council. In some of these cases it appeared that the circumstances were such as to give rise to an offence against the relevant provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, but in view of the difficult housing situation it was considered inadvisable to take any legal action.

326 overcrowded families were rehoused during the year, 305 by this Council and 21 by the London County Council.

Housing Accommodation Applications.

All applications made to the Council are normally dealt with by the Housing Manager, who refers to me those cases in which the application is based wholly or partly on medical grounds. He also refers to me certain cases in which some special feature (*e.g.*, fitness of basement rooms, etc.) is involved.

During the year 464 cases were so referred, and the following recommendations were made on them:—

Rehousing essential	.....	.....	.....	106
„ advisable	.....	.....	.....	124
No recommendation	.....	.....	.....	234

Eighty-nine families, in respect of which “essential” recommendations had been given in 1947 and 1948 were rehoused in 1948.

The London County Council also refer cases in which there appears to be overcrowding, for the submission, in appropriate cases, of an “orange form.” Overcrowding was found to exist in 70 instances.

The London County Council also notify cases in which the application alleges sanitary defects. The houses are inspected and action to secure the remedy of any defects found is taken.

Increase of Rent, &c., Acts.

Six certificates that houses or parts thereof were not in a reasonable state of repair were issued to tenants.

Four reports that houses or parts thereof were in a reasonable state of repair were issued to landlords.

Statistics for the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

Number of new dwellings (including prefabricated bungalows), erected or re-erected	.....	.....	.....	182
Number of houses demolished:—				
In pursuance of clearance orders	.....	.....	27	
In pursuance of demolition orders	.....	.....	—
In pursuance of undertakings to demolish	.....	.....	1	
			—	28
Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	.....	.....	.....	6,974
Number of inspections made for that purpose	.....	.....	.....	34,908
Number of houses at which defects found:—				
Dealt with under Housing Act (informally)	.....	.....	23	
Dealt with under Public Health (London), Act	.....	.....	3,331	
			—	3,354
Number of houses where defects remedied:—				
As result of action under Housing Act	.....	.....	1	
As result of action under P.H. Act	.....	.....	3,500*	
			—	3,501
Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Number of underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	.....	.....	.....	1
Number of closing orders determined	.....	.....	.....	Nil

* Representing 4,506 notices complied with. In 26 of these cases the Council carried out the work in default of the owner.

Factories and Homework.

Factories Act, 1937.

Metropolitan Borough Councils are responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this Act in regard to :—

- (i) Sanitary conveniences—Section 7—In all factories.
- (ii) Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Temperature, Ventilation, and Drainage of Floors—Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6—In all factories where mechanical power is not used.
- (iii) Certificates of Suitability for Basement Bakehouses—Section 54—In all basement bakehouses.
- (iv) Water Supply (where derived from a source other than the public mains)—Section 53—In all factories.

The following table gives the number of factories on the register at the end of the year, with the number of inspections, defects found, and action taken.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

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 ...	113	602	15	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	301	1,102	31	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	5	—	—
TOTAL ...	416	1,709	46	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	10	—	5	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	4	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	14	14	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	24	24	—	10	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	54	54	—	17	—

The table on page 53 shows the factories in the Borough, classified according to the trades carried on.

FACTORIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO TRADES.

Trade	Mechanical Factories				Non-Mechanical Factories			
	At 1 Jan.	Added	Closed	At 31 Dec.	At 1 Jan.	Added	Closed	At 31 Dec.
Baker	38	—	—	38	2	1	—	3
Boot Repairer ...	20	—	—	20	3	—	—	3
Builder	3	2	—	5	8	—	—	8
Carpenter & Joiner	4	5	—	9	1	1	—	2
Chocolate Maker...	5	—	—	5	1	—	—	1
Coach Builder ...	1	2	—	3	2	1	1	2
Cycle Repairer ...	4	—	—	4	1	—	—	1
Engineer (General)	35	8	—	43	1	—	—	1
Engineer (Motor)	18	3	—	21	13	3	—	16
Farrier	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Firewood Cutter ...	6	—	—	6	1	—	—	1
Florist	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Food Manufacturer	8	1	—	9	2	—	—	2
Mason	5	1	—	6	1	—	—	1
Printer	12	3	—	15	—	—	—	—
Rag Sorter... ..	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	11
Sign Writer	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	2
Steam Laundry ...	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
Wearing Apparel...	16	—	—	16	16	—	—	16
Other Trades ...	77	15	2	90	38	6	5	39
TOTAL	261	42	2	301	103	16	6	113

Outworkers.

During the year, 52 lists of outworkers were received, 24 from Battersea employers, containing 246 names, and 28 from other authorities containing 118 names. Some of these lists included outworkers not residing in Battersea. These were forwarded to the appropriate authorities. After eliminating them, and duplicate entries, there remained 222 names and addresses of Battersea outworkers.

The total number of registered outworkers' premises in the Borough at the end of the year was 231 (including 4 contractors), 163 premises having been added, and 24 removed, during the year. The total number of inspections made was 1,234, most of them by the female Inspector. The premises were found to be generally satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to serve any notices or take any other action.

Two cases of infectious disease occurred at outworkers' premises, and the usual precautions to prevent spread of infection were taken.

The following table gives details of the outworkers' premises:—

Trade	Number on Register		Persons employed
	Premises	Workrooms	
Wearing Apparel.....	106	107	120
Curtains, etc.	3	3	3
Artificial Flowers.....	5	5	5
Boxes, etc.....	6	6	6
Lampshades	111	112	125
	<u>231</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>259</u>

Bakehouses.

There were 41 bakehouses on the register at the end of the year. All of these are classed as factories, and 38 of them use mechanical power. Fifty-six inspections were made and 16 notices served for defects of various kinds, all of which were complied with.

Nine of the bakehouses are "basement bakehouses" within the meaning of the Factories Act, 1937, and the quinquennial inspection of such bakehouses, for the purpose of deciding whether or not the "Certificate of Suitability" should continue in operation, fell due to be made in the year commencing 1st July, 1948. One of these bakehouses was inspected, and on consideration of the report on its condition the Council decided to give notice to the occupier that the certificate would cease to operate as from a period of three months from the date of the notice. The notice was served on the 15th December. The occupier has right of appeal against it to a Court of summary jurisdiction, this right to be exercised within 21 days of the date of service. He had not exercised it by the end of the year.

Miscellaneous Matters.

Student Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year practical training was given to 3 student sanitary inspectors, under the Government's Special Scheme for the training of Sanitary Inspectors. Each of these students attended in the Public Health Department for a period of 8 weeks, and spent similar periods with each of two other local authorities.

In addition, practical training was given to two members of the Clerical Staff of the Health Department who are studying for the Qualifying Certificate, at such times as they could be spared from their normal duties.

Conferences.

The Council were officially represented at the undermentioned Conferences dealing with matters within the purview of the Public Health Department.

Conference.	Delegates.
Family Relations Group—"Education for Family Life." London. 5th and 6th January.	Cllrs. Mrs. N. E. Roberts and Mrs. A. R. Wye.
Royal Sanitary Institute. Harrogate. 24th to 28th May.	Cllr. Miss E. A. Coles, J.P., and the Medical Officer of Health.
Sanitary Inspectors' Association. Blackpool. 7th to 11th June.	Cllr. Mrs. E. A. Cooper, J.P., and the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
National Association for Maternity and Child Welfare and Prevention of Infant Mortality. London. 23rd to 25th June.	Cllr. Mrs. E. A. Cooper, J.P., and the Assistant Medical Officer of Health (M. & C.W.).

National Smoke Abatement Socy. Cheltenham. 29th September to 1st October.	Ald. A. P. Holden and the Medical Officer of Health.
Public Health and Municipal- Engineering Annual Congress and Exhibition. London. 15th to 20th November.	Ald. A. P. Holden and Cllr. Mrs. A. R. Wye.
National Old People's Welfare Committee — "Care of Old People." London. 26th and 27th November.	Cllr. A. H. Humphrey and Mrs. E. Stone.

Coroner's Court and Mortuary.

Details as to the number of inquests held at the Coroner's Court, and bodies received into the Mortuary during 1948 are set out in the following table:—

Battersea Mortuary, 1948.

Details of Bodies received	Usual place of residence				Total
	Batter- sea	Wands- worth	Else- where	Resi- dence un- known	
Post-mortem only...	111	251	95	5	462
Post-mortem and inquest	42	137	107	7	293
<i>Total post-mortems</i>	153	388	202	12	755
Inquest only ...	—	—	3	2	5
<i>Total inquests</i> ...	42	137	110	9	298
Sanitary and other reasons	—	—	—	2	2
<i>Total bodies received</i>	153	388	205	16	762
VERDICTS AT INQUESTS HELD					
Natural causes ...	11	32	46	4	93
Accident and mis- adventure ...	23	67	54	2	146
Open verdict ...	—	2	2	2	6
Suicide	7	36	7	1	51
Homicide	1	—	1	—	2
<i>Total</i>	42	137	110	9	298

The Wandsworth Borough Council again made a grant of £250 towards the cost of maintaining the Mortuary.

Personal Cleansing Station.

During the year 1948 there were 3,266 children and 497 adults cleansed and treated at the station. Of the 3,266 children attending, 713 were suffering from scabies or itch, a contagious parasitic skin affection. The remainder were verminous. Of these children 3,116 attended from the public elementary schools in the Borough by arrangement with the London County Council, who have entered into a contract with the Borough Council for the use of their Personal Cleansing Station. The cleansing and treatment of the school children is carried out under the supervision of officers of the London County Council while the disinfestation of the clothing and (if necessary) of the homes is carried out concurrently by the Borough Council's sanitary staff.

Head Lice.—It has been the practice for many years to refer to the Personal Cleansing Station all cases of head lice discovered by the staff during home visiting, at the Welfare Centres, or at Day Nurseries.

The following table shows the numbers of persons cleansed and treated at the Personal Cleansing Station and the expenditure incurred since 1906, the year in which the cleansing of verminous persons was begun :—

NUMBER OF BATHS, &C.

Year	Adults	Children	*Expenditure	*Amount Contributed
	Verminous and Scabies	Verminous and Scabies	£	£
1906-1915 ...	10,443	6,430	1,037	303
1916-1925 ...	3,269	39,117	5,007	3,155
1926-1935 ...	2,404	39,293	8,521	4,045
1936 ...	265	4,524	723	403
1937 ...	389	4,256	729	403
1938 ...	432	3,808	820	402
1939 ...	534	2,820	795	402
1940 ...	778	3,497	866	404
1941 ...	2,558	5,456	1,026	435
1942 ...	3,083	6,656	1,059	440
1943 ...	2,017	5,223	1,149	422
1944 ...	1,798	3,931	1,100	441
1945 ...	1,885	3,277	1,179	454
1946 ...	1,822	4,229	1,352	443
1947 ...	986	4,179	1,402	424
1948 ...	497	3,266	1,808	408
Total ...	33,160	139,962	28,573	12,984

* Financial year ending 31st March. Other columns, calendar year.