

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

### **Contributors**

Battersea (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.

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# REPORT

ON THE

# HEALTH

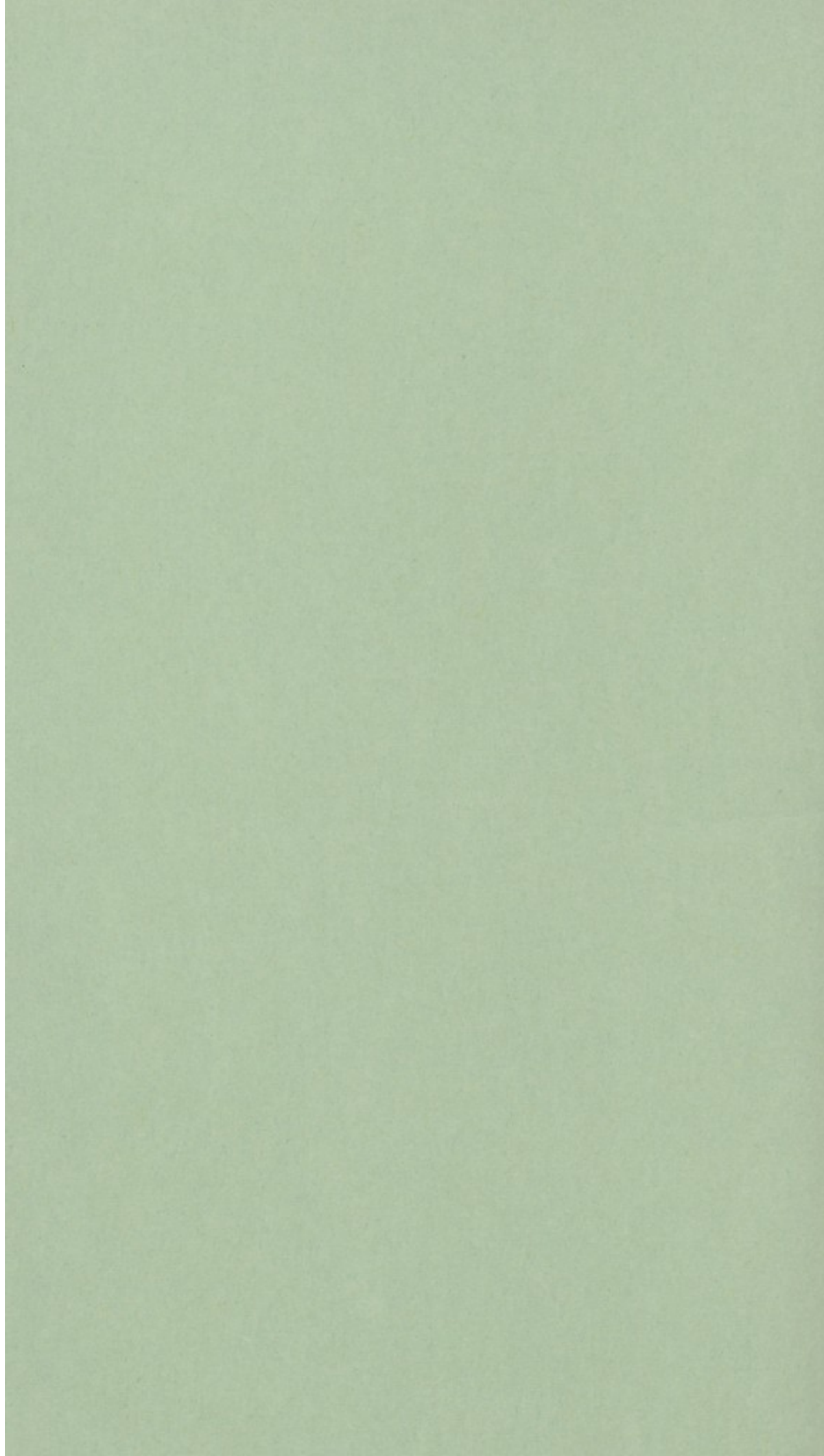
OF THE

Metropolitan Borough of Battersea

FOR THE YEAR 1957

BY

J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



# Metropolitan Borough of Battersea.

## REPORT

ON THE

## HEALTH

OF THE

# Metropolitan Borough of Battersea

FOR THE YEAR 1957

BY

**J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.**

*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.*

**Health Committee.**

As constituted 23rd May, 1956.

*Chairman:*

Councillor Miss E. A. COLES, J.P.  
 THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
 (Councillor Mrs. E. A. COOPER, J.P.)  
 Councillor Mrs. C. M. DAVIS.  
 „ Dr. J. FAIRLEE.  
 „ E. J. GETTING.  
 Alderman Mrs. H. N. HALSEY.  
 „ D. KING  
 (*appointed September*).  
 Councillor C. E. LANG (*Vice-Chairman*).  
 Alderman S. E. PAUL (*resigned June*).  
 Councillor Mrs. E. REYNOLDS.  
 „ T. J. A. ROSE.  
 Alderman Mrs. A. M. SMITH.  
 Councillor C. F. WALLER.  
 „ G. WHITEHEAD.

As constituted 20th May, 1957.

*Chairman:*

Councillor Miss E. A. COLES, J.P.  
 THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
 (Councillor E. W. BOYS, J.P.)  
 Councillor Mrs. E. A. COOPER, J.P.  
 „ S. A. T. COOPER.  
 „ Mrs. C. M. DAVIS.  
 „ Dr. J. FAIRLEE.  
 „ E. J. GETTING.  
 Alderman Mrs. H. N. HALSEY.  
 Councillor C. E. LANG.  
 „ Mrs. E. REYNOLDS.  
 „ T. J. A. ROSE.  
 Alderman Mrs. A. M. SMITH.  
 Councillor G. WHITEHEAD.

**Staff of Public Health Department.**

*Medical Officer of Health* ... .. J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.  
*Deputy Medical Officer of Health* ... .. A. GARLAND, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
 (*resigned June*)  
 D. M. O. LOWRY, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.  
 (*appointed August*)  
*Chief Public Health Inspector*  
*and Principal Administrative Officer* ... .. G. W. P. WEEKS (*b c e*).  
*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector*  
*and Principal Administrative Officer* ... .. J. R. HOLLOWAY (*a c*).  
 (*superannuated July*)  
 R. J. MCCARTHY (*a c*).  
 (*appointed August*)

**Public Health Inspectors :***District*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. W. E. SELWAY ( <i>b c</i> ).                               | 6. R. J. MCCARTHY ( <i>a c</i> ).                                  |
| 2. L. H. WHANSLAW ( <i>b c</i> )<br>( <i>resigned July</i> ). | 7. L. BURROWS ( <i>b c</i> ).                                      |
| 3. A. WEBB ( <i>b c</i> ).                                    | 8. J. R. HOLLOWAY ( <i>a c</i> )<br>( <i>superannuated July</i> ). |
| 4. A. W. E. PORTER ( <i>b c</i> ).                            | 9. P. IANSON ( <i>b c</i> ).                                       |
| 5. J. W. PARTON ( <i>b</i> ) ( <i>resigned May</i> ).         | 10. J. J. K. HELMER ( <i>b c</i> ).                                |

*Other*

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

*Catering Establishments* :  
 Miss A. L. JONES (*b c*).

**Rodent Officer: F. G. DANIELS****Administrative and Clerical Staff:**

P. BROCKING.  
 A. C. COOLES.  
 (Miss) O. L. GOLDSMITH.  
 R. GREAVES.

E. B. MORETON.  
 (Miss) E. TOWN.  
 S. J. P. WHITBREAD.

*Disinfecting Station—Superintendent* ... .. J. MANDRY  
*Mortuary—Superintendent* ... .. W. NEWMAN (*deceased January*)  
 W. F. HAINES (*appointed February*)  
*Public Analyst* ... .. J. E. WOODHEAD, B.SC., F.R.I.C., PH.C.  
*Deputy Public Analyst* ... .. D. G. FORBES, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

- (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) Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1957 on the Health of the Borough of Battersea. In accordance with precedent, the report is mainly statistical, with comments as they appear to be necessary, and as in previous years, in this preface I refer to one or two matters of particular interest.

I mentioned last year the slight decrease in the population of the Borough, which had been noticed over the previous two or three years, and in 1957 this decrease continued. The home population was 111,800, as compared with 112,900 in 1956. The live birth rate, which in 1956 was 15.6, was, in 1957, 16.42, showing a slight increase, while the death rate in 1957 was 10.89, compared with 10.83 the previous year. The infant mortality rate in 1957 was 22.33 compared with 23.74 in 1956. Forty-one deaths of infants under one year compared with 42 in the previous year were recorded. There were 3 deaths from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth, the same as in the previous year, but as there was a slight increase in the number of births, the rate is slightly below that of 1956, at 1.59 per 1,000 births.

I have on previous occasions discussed the importance of infant mortality, particularly the number of infant deaths in the first month of life, and more particularly in the first week of life. The causes of death in the first month, and more particularly in the first week, of life are very complicated. The causes of still-births, and the causes of deaths of infants in the first week of life are closely related, and an extensive nation-wide investigation has just been started to throw light on this problem. We are co-operating in this investigation which, it is hoped, will provide data to enable measures to be taken to reduce the number of still-births and the number of deaths of infants in the first week of life.

Infectious diseases showed an increase in the number of notifications received, as compared with the previous year, this being mainly due to the increased prevalence of measles; in 1957, 1,402 cases were notified compared with 274 in 1956. As against this, however, the number of cases of dysentery, to which I made reference last year, dropped considerably, from 157 to 32, a decrease of 125, and there was also a reduction in the number of cases of whooping-cough.

Many parts of the country, including parts of London, experienced a sharp increase in the number of cases of poliomyelitis in 1957. I am happy to say that Battersea remained comparatively free. Eleven cases of this disease were notified to this Department, but in two of these cases the diagnosis was not confirmed, so that we had only 9 confirmed cases of poliomyelitis, of which three had some residual paralysis. There was one death recorded due to this disease. In the previous year, there were 29 cases, with one death.

In the late autumn, Battersea, like most parts of the country, was swept by "Asian" influenza. It was not possible to ascertain the exact number of cases which arose, because influenza as such is not a notifiable disease, but from information we received from schools and

other institutions, it was evident that the illness was very widespread. It did not, fortunately, take a very severe form, and most cases recovered fairly quickly. Towards the end of the year the number of cases tailed off, although there seemed to be a small secondary wave in the New Year.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified was 100, compared with 108 in the previous year. The number of cases, however, which came to the knowledge of the Health Department otherwise than by notification was 70, so that in all 170 cases came to our notice, compared with 165 in 1956. The table on Page 17 shows the way the death rate of this disease has dropped over the years.

Work under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which I mentioned in last year's report, continued in 1957, and considerable headway has been made. I am happy to say that we received considerable co-operation from tradespeople, and although it cannot yet be said that the Regulations are fully complied with in Battersea, the number of premises which are not complying must now be comparatively few.

In 1957, two pieces of legislation fell to be administered, in part at least, by the Public Health Department. The Rent Act, 1957, came into operation and that part of the Act dealing with Disrepair Certificates, which formerly were dealt with under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, continued to be the responsibility of the Health Department. The new Act, as far as we were concerned, was more complicated to administer, but in spite of the large number of applications under this Act, the work was handled expeditiously, and although a number of problems arose, mainly of a legal nature, we were able to deal with them in conjunction with the legal department.

The second measure which came into force in 1957 was the Clean Air Act, 1956, particularly those sections relating to Smoke Control Areas. This has meant a good deal of extra work for the Department, and I am happy to say that quite good progress has been made. At the time of writing, application has been made by the Council to the Minister in connection with the making of a Smoke Control Order, and, in the meantime, a detailed survey of the area in question is proceeding. It is hoped, also, to hold a Clean Air Exhibition, in connection particularly with the first Smoke Control Area, and no doubt I shall be able to report on this next year. Although it will be some considerable time before the whole of Battersea will be free from smoke, at least a start has been made, and it is to be hoped that it will not be too long before the whole Borough will be a Smoke Control Area.

I feel that I should make some reference to a matter which is causing grave concern to everyone associated with public health, namely, the shortage of Public Health Inspectors. As I pointed out last year, public health is constantly changing, and as some problems are at least partially solved, others arise. The two examples cited earlier in this preface, namely, the new legislation on clean food and clean air, demonstrate the added emphasis which is being placed on clean food and pure air, although the necessity for these had always been evident. The important point is, that in spite of progress from both the social and health aspects (the two of course are very closely connected) there will always be problems to be tackled in public health, and there will always be a demand for qualified and experienced workers in the field



of public health. It is therefore a matter for concern that very few health departments are able to recruit their full establishment of Public Health Inspectors, and in Battersea our establishment of qualified Inspectors is now half of what it should be, with little immediate prospect of our recruiting new Inspectors up to our normal complement. Towards meeting this problem, the Council has approved a scheme for training Public Health Inspectors, and we have one student Inspector now working in the Department, but this is a long term policy, and will not yield quick results. In the meantime, in spite of our depleted staff the work of the Public Health Department must continue, and every effort is being made to ensure that standards do not fall. It would, however, not be realistic to ignore the fact that standards may not always be as high as we would wish, if present circumstances continue, although every effort will be made to maintain them. Meanwhile, a considerable burden falls on the existing inspectorial staff, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the way the extra responsibility is being met.

In 1957, Dr. A. Garland, who had been Deputy Medical Officer of Health since 1952, left the Department to take up an appointment of a similar nature in Wandsworth. Fortunately, Dr. Garland has not completely severed his connection with the Battersea Health Department, because under the tripartite agreement, he is still available to act for me when necessary and has in fact done so already on one or two occasions during the year. I should like to thank Dr. Garland for his excellent work over the five years he was a member of the Battersea Health Department. He left with the good wishes of everyone, both members of the Council and officers.

To take Dr. Garland's place, the Council appointed Dr. D. M. O. Lowry as Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Lowry took up his new duties in August, 1957, and very quickly proved to be a great help in the Department. I should like to thank him for the assistance he has given me during his first six months in office.

It is again a pleasure to express my thanks for the help I have received from Councillor Miss E. A. Coles, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee, and also the various Committees with which this Department is concerned, particularly the Health and Housing Committees. I should like also to thank the Chief Officers of the Council and their Departments who have again been most helpful and co-operative in many matters. Finally, I should like to thank the members of the staff of the Health Department in all grades, and particularly the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. G. W. P. Weeks, for their continued and loyal support.

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

Your obedient Servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

August, 1958.

# Vital Statistics.

## POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year home population of Battersea was 111,800 as compared with 112,900 in 1956, a decrease of 1,100.

The estimated population at the Census taken in April, 1951, was 117,140; the 1957 figure of 111,800, when compared with this, shows a decrease of 5,340 (or 4.5 per cent).

The estimated mid-year home population figure of 111,800 has been adopted for the purpose of the statistics contained in this Report.

## Public Health in Retrospect 1857 - 1957.

The following has been extracted from a report made by Dr. Connor, Medical Officer of Health for the Battersea Parish, in 1857.

"Particular attention is called by Dr. Connor to the unsanitary condition of the houses in Francis Street, in one of which seven cases of Scarlet Fever had occurred, and which he conceived had been greatly aggravated by the filthy state and defective drainage of this locality. In one of the returns, there is also mentioned an inspection of Ford's Buildings, which disclosed similar deficiencies as those found in Francis Street, the keeping of pigs (77 in number, in the rear of the buildings), contributing in no small degree to the unhealthiness of the neighbourhood. Other inspections are alluded to, and the houses said to be greatly deficient in drainage, dustbins, and traps to the gullies. The health of this sub-district is spoken of as having been tolerably good throughout the quarter, but that several of the diseases of the zymotic class had been prevalent."

As a matter of interest, Francis Street was re-named in 1887, and is now known as Lithgow Street. Ford's Buildings were in York Road, and the site is now occupied by Durham Buildings, erected approximately in 1902.

The number of Battersea still-births registered and the still-birth rates from 1943 to 1957, were as under:—

	No.	Rate		No.	Rate
1943	56	21.6	1952	42	23.2
1944	40	24.0	Mean		
1945	38	23.3	1943-52	47	22.9
1946	59	22.7	1953	38	20.9
1947	74	27.0	1954	50	28.0
1948	46	20.1	1955	32	18.1
1949	43	20.8	1956	48	26.42
1950	53	27.2	1957	51	27.01
1951	37	19.2			

The still-birth rate in 1957 for England and Wales was 21.5.

of public health. It is therefore a matter for concern that very few health departments are able to recruit their full establishment of Public Health Inspectors, and in Battersea our establishment of qualified Inspectors is now half of what it should be, with little immediate prospect of our recruiting new Inspectors up to our normal complement. Towards meeting this problem, the Council has approved a scheme for training Public Health Inspectors, and we have one student Inspector now working in the Department, but this is a long term policy, and will not yield quick results. In the meantime, in spite of our depleted staff the work of the Public Health Department must continue, and every effort is being made to ensure that standards do not fall. It would, however, not be realistic to ignore the fact that standards may not always be as high as we would wish, if present circumstances continued. Meanwhile, a considerable number of staff are being recruited, and I should like to thank the Council for the extra responsibility which has been placed on the

In 1957, Dr. A. Garland, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, has prepared the following report on the health of the Borough, based on a report made by Dr. G. W. P. Weeks, Chief Public Health Inspector, in 1957.

#### Principal Figures for 1957.

Area of Borough, excluding tidal water (acres) ... ..	2,163
Home population (1951 Census) ... ..	117,140
Home population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ... ..	111,800
Structurally separate occupied dwellings ... ..	29,818
Births (live, 1,836; still, 51) ... ..	1,887
Live Birth rate ... ..	16.42
Deaths—1,217. Death rate ... ..	10.89
Maternal Deaths—3. Maternal death rate ... ..	1.59
Infant Deaths—41. Infant mortality rate ... ..	22.33

It is a pleasure to thank the members of the Council for their interest in the health of the Borough, and for the many matters of interest which have been discussed at the Council's meetings. As a matter of interest, Francis Street was re-named in 1887, and is now known as Ladbroke Street. Ford's Buildings were in York Road, and the site is now occupied by Durham Buildings, erected approximately in 1887. I should like to thank the members of the Council for their interest in the health of the Borough, and for the many matters of interest which have been discussed at the Council's meetings. Finally, I should like to thank the members of the staff of the Public Health Department in all grades, and particularly the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. G. W. P. Weeks, for their continued and loyal support.

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

Your obedient Servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

Medical Officer of Health

# Vital Statistics.

## POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year home population of Battersea was 111,800 as compared with 112,900 in 1956, a decrease of 1,100.

The estimated population at the Census taken in April, 1951, was 117,140; the 1957 figure of 111,800, when compared with this, shows a decrease of 5,340 (or 4.6 per cent.).

The estimated mid-year home population figure of 111,800 has been adopted for the purpose of the statistics contained in this Report.

## BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered in the Borough during 1957 was 536 (267 male, 269 female). Of this number 107 were transferred out, the permanent residence of the parents being outside the Borough, and 1,407 registered outside the Borough were transferred in, giving on balance a total of 1,836 births (931 male, 905 female, an excess of 26 males) relating to Battersea residents, and a live birth rate of 16.42 per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 0.75 on that of 1956.

Of the Battersea births (429 live and 8 still) which occurred within the Borough, 426 were "domiciliary births."

Illegitimate live births numbered 151 or 8.2 per cent. of the live births.

The live birth rate for England and Wales was 16.1.

## Still-Births.

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

During 1957 there were 8 still-births registered in Battersea, all of which were of Battersea parents. Forty-three still-births occurring outside the Borough were registered as belonging to Battersea, making 51 in all, representing a still-birth rate of 27.01 per 1,000 births (live and still) registered. Of the 51 still-births 6 (11.8 per cent.) were registered as illegitimate.

The number of Battersea still-births registered and the still-birth rates from 1943 to 1957, were as under:—

	No.	Rate		No.	Rate
1943 ...	36	21.6	1952 ...	42	23.2
1944 ...	40	24.0			
1945 ...	38	23.3	<i>Mean</i>		
1946 ...	59	22.7	1943-52	47	22.9
1947 ...	74	27.0	1953 ...	38	20.9
1948 ...	46	20.1	1954 ...	50	28.0
1949 ...	43	20.8	1955 ...	32	18.1
1950 ...	53	27.2	1956 ...	48	26.42
1951 ...	37	19.2	1957 ...	51	27.01

The still-birth rate in 1957 for England and Wales was 22.5.

**MARRIAGES.**

The marriages registered in Battersea during 1957 numbered 966.

The marriage rate (*i.e.*, the number of persons married per 1,000 of the population) was 17.3.

Year	Marriages	Marriage Rate
1952 ... ..	884	15.2
1953 ... ..	876	15.3
1954 ... ..	912	16.0
1955 ... ..	971	17.1
1956 ... ..	896	15.9
<i>Mean</i> 1952/56 ...	908	15.9
1957 ... ..	966	17.3

The marriage rate for England and Wales was 15.4.

**DEATHS.**

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during 1957 was 2,060. Of these, 1,212 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the districts in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 369 deaths of Battersea residents registered outside the Borough. The total (corrected) number of deaths belonging to the Borough was 1,217 (641 males and 576 females). This gives a recorded death rate of 10.89 compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the total deaths (corrected) in Battersea during 1957 :—

	Under 1 year	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75+	Total
M. ...	26	1	1	3	34	188	183	205	641
F. ...	15	5	4	4	24	90	148	286	576
Totals ...	41	6	5	7	58	278	331	491	1,217
% of total	3.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	4.7	22.9	27.2	40.3	100.0

Of the 1,217 Battersea deaths 748 (or 61.5 per cent.) occurred in hospitals, etc.

The average age at death is shown in the following table :—

AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH.					
1945 ... ..	62.4	1950 ... ..	65.5		
1946 ... ..	61.4	1951 ... ..	66.7		
1947 ... ..	62.6	1952 ... ..	67.7		
1948 ... ..	63.3	1953 ... ..	68.9*		
1949 ... ..	65.3	1954 ... ..	67.2		
<i>Mean</i> , 1945/1949	63.0	<i>Mean</i> , 1950/1954	67.4		
1955 ... ..	67.7				
1956 ... ..	66.9				
1957 ... ..	67.2				

\*During 1953 all deaths, with the exception of those from tuberculosis, that occurred in St. John's Hospital, a hospital for the aged sick, were assignable to Battersea, irrespective of the home address of the patient prior to admission.

The deaths of 822 residents of Battersea aged 65 years and upwards were registered during 1957. These 822 deaths constituted 67.5 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages.

The natural increase of population (that is, excess of births over deaths) was 619 in 1957 as compared with 546 in 1956.

The causes of the 1,217 deaths in 1957 classified in various age groups, are shown in the following table.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN BATTERSEA DURING 1957.

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

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
ALL CAUSES	M.	641	26	1	1	3	34	188	183	205
	F.	576	15	5	4	4	24	90	148	286
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	M.	7	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	1
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	M.	7	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	1
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
4. Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
7. Ac. poliomyelitis and polio- encephalitis	M.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	M.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10. Cancer of stomach	M.	26	—	—	—	—	—	13	4	9
	F.	15	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	4
11. Cancer of lung, bronchus	M.	63	—	—	—	—	2	27	27	7
	F.	10	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	2
12. Cancer of breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	28	—	—	—	—	1	13	9	5
13. Cancer of uterus	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	2
14. Cancer of other sites	M.	68	—	—	—	—	6	22	18	22
	F.	58	—	1	1	—	3	16	14	23
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—



### Infant Mortality.

During 1957 the deaths of 41 infants under 1 year of age were registered as belonging to Battersea. The total number of live births registered during the year was 1,836 giving an infant mortality rate of 22.33 per 1,000 live births as compared with 23.74 in 1956 and 24.71 in 1955.

The infant mortality rate in England and Wales during 1957 was 23.1.

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

#### INFANT MORTALITY, 1957.

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

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE PERIODS												Total deaths under 1 year	Percentage of Total						
	Under 24 hours		1-7 days		Weeks			Total under 4 weeks	Months											
	M.	F.	M.	F.	1-2	2-3	3-4		1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12								
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	4.9			
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2.4			
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	4.9			
Congenital malformations	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	6	1	17.1		
Other defined and ill-defined diseases:—																				
Prematurity	10	8	2	—	1	2	—	13	10	—	—	—	—	—	13	10	56.1			
Other causes	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	14.6			
	13	10	4	2	1	2	1	19	15	2	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	26	15	100.0
TOTALS ...	23	6	3	2	—	—	—	34	2	3	1	1	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of total	56.2	14.6	7.3	4.9	—	—	—	83.0	4.9	7.3	2.4	2.4	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	M. 63.4 F. 36.6

There were 34 deaths of infants during the first four weeks of life (or 83.0 per cent. of the total infant deaths) as compared with 35 deaths (or 83.2 per cent.) in 1956 and a percentage for the quinquennium 1952-1956 of 67.6.



TABLE SHOWING DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 DAY, UNDER 1 WEEK AND UNDER 4 WEEKS FROM 1952 TO 1957.

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
1952 ...	8	8	1	17	54.8
1953 ...	7	8	3	18	54.5
1954 ...	15	6	4	25	75.8
1955 ...	13	15	2	30	69.8
1956 ...	14	17	4	35	83.2
Mean ...	11	11	3	25	67.6
1957 ...	23	6	5	34	83.0

#### Deaths of Illegitimate Infants.

The death rate amongst illegitimate children during 1957 was 46.36 per 1,000 illegitimate live births, as compared with 48.78 in 1956. The corresponding death rate of legitimate children in 1957 was 20.18, the ratio of mortality rate of illegitimate infants to that of legitimate being 230 to 100. The corresponding figure for 1956 was 223 to 100.

#### Maternal Mortality.

During 1957 there were three deaths from "diseases or accidents of child-birth," which is equivalent to a fatality rate of 1.59 per 1,000 births (live and still). There were three such deaths during 1956.

The rate for England and Wales in 1957 was 0.47.

#### Comparative Statistics of Births, Mortality, etc.

(Compiled from Registrar-General's Returns.)

Year	Population	Live Birth Rate	Death Rate	Maternal Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1948 ...	116,500	19.3	11.3	1.00	31.6
1949 ...	117,510	17.2	12.1	0.97	25.2
1950 ...	117,700	16.1	11.2	1.02	26.9
1951 ...	117,000	16.1	12.4	0.00	27.6
1952 ...	116,400	15.2	11.9	1.66	17.6
1953 ...	114,800	15.5	12.8	0.55	18.6
1954 ...	114,300	15.2	10.1	0.56	19.0
1955 ...	113,700	15.3	11.4	1.69	24.7
1956 ...	112,900	15.7	10.8	1.65	23.7
1957 ...	111,800	16.4	10.9	1.59	22.3

## Infectious and Other Diseases.

There was a large increase in the number of notifications received during 1957, as compared with 1956. Notifications to the number of 1,831 were received, which, compared with 910 received during the previous year, shows an increase of 921. This is accounted for mainly by a rise in the incidence of measles, 274 cases being notified in 1956 against 1,402 in 1957, an increase of 1,128. To offset this increase, dysentery notifications dropped from 157 in 1956, to 32 in 1957, being a decrease of 125. Also whooping cough notifications declined from 178 to 118.

No major outbreaks of dysentery occurred during 1957. In the latter part of the year there was a slight outbreak in one of the Day Nurseries in the Borough, but this was quickly contained and of a short duration.

One case of enteric (typhoid) fever was notified. A member of the crew of a ship that visited West African ports was taken ill on his arrival home and removed immediately to hospital, where he was diagnosed as suffering from this disease.

There was again no case of diphtheria notified, the last case occurring in 1953.

Eleven cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, but in 2 of these the diagnosis was not confirmed, leaving 9 confirmed cases (3 paralytic and 6 non-paralytic). The death of an adult male was recorded as due to this disease. There were 29 cases during the previous year, 1956, with one of these cases proving fatal.

### Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation,

### Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation and vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis were carried out during the year under the control of the London County Council.

ANALYSIS OF CASES (AFTER CORRECTION OF DIAGNOSIS) OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN BATTERSEA, AT AGES (YEARS)											
	Total	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	32	3	1	3	3	2	8	1	2	5	3	1
Encephalitis (acute) :—												
Infective ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric (typhoid or paratyphoid) fever ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
Food poisoning ... ..	26	1	—	1	1	—	5	3	5	7	2	1
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	1402	59	147	161	172	205	635	16	3	4	—	—
Membranous croup ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection... ..	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, acute primary ... ..	33	—	2	—	1	2	1	1	1	4	9	12
Pneumonia, acute influenzal ... ..	35	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	3	9	14	4
Poliomyelitis (acute) :—												
Paralytic ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Non-paralytic ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Scabies ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	57	—	3	2	2	8	36	4	2	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :—												
Pulmonary ... ..	89	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	22	33	21	10
Non-pulmonary ... ..	11	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	5	1	1
Whooping cough ... ..	118	18	16	16	14	10	39	3	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	1831	86	171	183	195	229	731	34	46	72	55	29

### TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1957 there were 100 cases of tuberculosis (all forms) notified in Battersea as compared with 108 in 1956, 129 in 1955, 140 in 1954, 165 in 1953 and 188 in 1952.

In addition 70 cases were reported or otherwise came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, making a total of 170 cases for the year.

The case rate per 100,000 population was 152.1.

The tables on page 18 give details in age groups of the 170 cases.

### Deaths from Tuberculosis.

During 1957 deaths from tuberculosis registered as belonging to the Borough of Battersea numbered 11, of which 10 were due to pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1 to another form of the disease.

The death rate per 100,000 of the population during the 50 years ended 1950 in quinquennial averages and the years 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957 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
1946-1950 ... ..	53.1	6.1	59.2
Average (50 years) ...	101.0	23.9	124.9
1951 ... ..	39.3	3.4	42.7
1952 ... ..	29.2	2.6	31.8
1953 ... ..	12.2	4.4	16.6
1954 ... ..	17.5	3.5	21.0
1955 ... ..	12.3	—	12.3
Average (5 years 1951-55)	24.1	2.8	26.9
1956 ... ..	12.4	0.9	13.3
1957 ... ..	8.9	0.9	9.8

The death rate per 100,000 population was 10.6 for England and Wales.

#### TUBERCULOSIS, 1957.

##### CASES ADDED TO AND REMOVED FROM NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			GRAND TOTAL		
	Males	Fem.	Total	Males	Fem.	Total	Males	Fem.	Total
Already on Register, 31/12/56	638	540	1,178	25	50	75	663	590	1,253
Primary notifications ...	52	37	89	4	7	11	56	44	100
Notified after death ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnotified deaths ...	5	1	6	—	1	1	5	2	7
Restored ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Removals into Borough ...	35	26	61	1	1	2	36	27	63
From other sections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b> ...	<b>94</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>172</b>
Deaths ...	13	3	16	—	—	—	13	3	16
Notified after death ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnotified deaths ...	5	1	6	—	1	1	5	2	7
Removals from Borough ...	50	33	83	4	3	7	54	36	90
Recovered ...	19	18	37	3	3	6	22	21	43
Diagnosis not confirmed ...	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
To other sections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL DELETIONS</b> ...	<b>89</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>159</b>
Net increase ...	5	8	13	—	2	—	3	10	13
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
On Register at 31/12/57 ...	643	548	1,191	23	52	75	666	600	1,266

## Formal Notifications, 1957

AGE PERIODS	Number of primary notifications of new cases of tuberculosis													Total (all ages)
	0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	
Respiratory, Males ...	1	—	—	1	—	6	3	7	8	6	12	5	3	52
Respiratory, Females...	—	—	1	—	—	4	9	11	7	3	—	1	1	37
Non-Respiratory, Males	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
Non-Respiratory, Fem.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	7

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4 (A)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1 (B)	
	N.R. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (C)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 (D)	
Death returns from Registrar-General (transferable deaths)	R. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1 (A)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (B)	
	N.R. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (C)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (D)	
Posthumous notifications ...	R. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (A)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (B)	
	N.R. M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (C)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (D)	
'Transfers' from other areas (excluding transferable deaths)	R. M	—	—	—	—	3	3	5	10	7	4	2	—	1 35 (A)	
	F	—	—	1	—	1	2	6	9	3	3	—	1	26 (B)	
	N.R. M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (C)	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (D)	

R.—Respiratory.

N.R.—Non-Respiratory.

TOTALS (A) 40

„ (B) 27

„ (C) 1

„ (D) 2

Total number of informal notifications 70

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The bacteriological examination of clinical material (with the exception of sputum which is dealt with at the Chest Clinic) and foodstuffs suspected of being the cause of food poisoning was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1. No charge is made to the Council for these examinations. During the year 590 examinations were made as follows:—

Description	Disease	Number of Specimens or Food Samples	Positive Results
Faeces ... ..	Dysentery or Food Poisoning	539	136
Faeces ... ..	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever	21	Nil
Throat Swabs...	Diphtheria ...	22	Nil
Foodstuffs ...	Food Poisoning	8	1

## INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION and INOCULATION.

At the request of the Ministry of Health arrangements are made for the authentication, by the Medical Officer of Health, of certificates of vaccination and inoculation issued by medical practitioners in the Borough in respect of persons going abroad.

During 1957, 500 certificates were authenticated.

## CANCER.

During 1957 the number of deaths of Battersea residents from cancer was 278 (157 males, 121 females) as compared with 231 in 1956, 247 in 1955, 214 in 1954 and 242 in 1953. The death rate from the disease per 1,000 of the population was 2.49. The deaths from cancer constitute 22.8 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	1936-1940 ... ..	1.99
1906-1910 ... ..	0.95	1941-1945 ... ..	2.44
1911-1915 ... ..	1.11	1946-1950 ... ..	2.11
1916-1920 ... ..	1.28	1951-1955 ... ..	2.07
1921-1925 ... ..	1.33	1956 ... ..	2.05
1926-1930 ... ..	1.51	1957 ... ..	2.49
1931-1935 ... ..	1.75		

Details in age groups and the localisation of this disease will be found on page 11.

## 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 1957.

SANITARY OPERATIONS.	
Inspections—	Work carried out—(contd.)
Complaints ... .. 2,998	Water closets installed 42
Houses let in lodgings 18	Water cisterns cleansed
Certificates of Disrepair 337	or repaired ... .. 30
Slum clearance ... 759	Water supplies rein-
Urinals and conveniences 224	stated ... .. 69
Caravans ... .. 139	Water fittings renewed
Water certificates ... 45	or repaired ... .. 67
Infectious disease cases—	Water certificates issued 18
Notifiable ... .. 310	Sinks, lavatory basins,
Non-notifiable ... 138	baths renewed ... 44
Tuberculosis ... 40	Plaster renewed ... 570
Drainage inspections ... 2,573	Floors and stairs re-
Other visits ... .. 1,626	paired ... .. 193
Re-inspections ... 10,202	Doors and windows re-
Notices served—	paired ... .. 347
Intimation ... .. 1,607	Fireplaces and flues
Statutory (Infectious	repaired ... .. 135
Disease) 77	Additional lighting,
Statutory (Nuisance) ... 740	ventilation 3
Summonses issued ... 65	Rooms cleansed ... 58
Magistrates' Orders ob-	Premises disinfested ... 121
tained ... .. 17	Dustbins provided ... 105
Work carried out—	Yard paving renewed
Drains—	or repaired ... .. 44
Smoke tests ... .. 128	Other defects remedied 181
Water tests ... .. 1,057	Dangerous structures
Found defective ... 45	referred to District
Repaired ... .. 61	Surveyor ... .. 203
Reconstructed ... 22	Water waste referred to
Sealed off ... .. 11	M.W.B. ... .. 55
Ventilated ... .. 45	Premises disinfested ... 662
Frontages laid ... 26	Articles disinfested ... 5,657
Roofs repaired ... 525	Personal Cleansing
Rainwater pipes and	Treatments—
gutters renewed/re-	To adults ... .. 289
paired ... .. 266	To children ... .. 1,535
Dampness remedied ... 597	Rodent Control—
Waste pipes renewed/	Premises dealt with—
repaired ... .. 98	Rats ... .. 125
Water closets repaired	Mice ... .. 89
or cleansed ... .. 198	Inspections ... .. 2,889

### Legal Proceedings.

During the year, legal proceedings were taken by the Council in 66 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 at the pages stated.

	Cases	Page No.
Public Health (London) Act, 1936 ... ..	64	21
Food and Drugs Act, 1955 ... ..	1	35
By-laws as to Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc. ... ..	1	—
	66	—

Fines totalling £3 0s. 0d. were imposed in connection with these proceedings, and £13 13s. 0d. costs were awarded to the Council.

#### Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

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

During the year, 1,607 Intimation Notices (relating to 1,290 premises) and 698 Statutory (Nuisance) Notices (relating to 538 premises) were served. It was found necessary to refer 97 cases to the Council's Solicitor with instructions to take steps, by legal proceedings if necessary, to enforce compliance with Statutory Notices. In 33 of these cases a warning letter from the Solicitor had the desired effect. In the remaining 64 cases, however, summonses had to be issued. As a result, Nuisance Orders were made by the Court in 17 instances. The remaining 47 summonses were ultimately withdrawn, the Notices having been complied with subsequent to the issue of the summonses.

In 15 cases action to enforce compliance with Nuisance Orders had to be taken, and 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.

During the year defective conditions in 1,217 houses were remedied—631 by owners following the service of Intimation Notices; 571 by owners following the service of Statutory Notices, and the Council's workmen entered and did the work in default of the owners on 15 occasions.

#### Dustbins.

Procedure with regard to the service of notices requiring the provision of dustbins has been simplified with the passing of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954. The notice is served upon the owner, and he has a right of appeal to the Court. Information as to these rights is always included when notice is served.

During the year, 105 dustbins were provided, 24 of these being supplied by the Council in default of the owners, from whom the cost was afterwards recovered.



### **The London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1955.**

Section 25 of the above Act relative to choked drains was used on 30 occasions. This Section enables a notice to be served upon an owner or occupier to clear a stopped-up drain, water closet or soil pipe, within forty-eight hours. If the notice is not complied with the Council may carry out the work and recover the cost. It was necessary for the Council to do the work on seven occasions.

Section 26 enables the Council to re-instate a water supply to a dwelling after the supply has been withdrawn by the Metropolitan Water Board following a defect in the supply pipe or fittings. Notices were served on six occasions and in two cases the Council did the work in default.

Authority was given by the Council to the Medical Officer of Health, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and the Chief Public Health Inspector to serve Section 27 notices on behalf of the Council to remedy nuisances within a specific time where unreasonable delay would be occasioned by following the normal procedure. Six such notices were served, and the Council did the work in default in two cases.

#### **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. All the lavatory accommodation at each of the conveniences is provided free, and, in the interests of public health, free washing facilities are also available.

Three public urinals are maintained, and in addition the urinals attached to ten licensed premises are, by arrangement with the owners, available to the general public.

#### **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, 1936, relating to water closets, etc., are enforced by the Council.

During the year new drains were constructed to 291 new dwellings, and the drains of 22 old buildings were partially or entirely reconstructed under the supervision of the Officers of the Health Department.

133 plans of proposed drainage work were deposited in 1957, as compared with 118 in 1956.

During the year drains were tested by smoke on 128 occasions and 45 were found defective. The water test was applied on 1,057 occasions, this being mainly to drains in course of construction.

The frontage drains of 26 premises were constructed or reconstructed.

#### **Combined Drainage.**

No claims were made against the Council in connection with combined drainage.

### Local Land Charges.

Enquiries relating to Local Land Charges in connection with Notices served by the Department, information concerning the issue of Disrepair Certificates, and the way in which premises are drained, are regularly received. These enquiries require a careful search of records and drainage plans. During the year, 1,244 enquiries were dealt with.

### Atmospheric Pollution.

During the year, 16 complaints were made alleging nuisances from smoke, dust, grit, etc., emitted from premises in various parts of the Borough. All these complaints received careful and sometimes prolonged investigation.

In addition to dealing with specific complaints, observations are kept upon the chimneys of any industrial plant which merits observation, and the appropriate action taken.

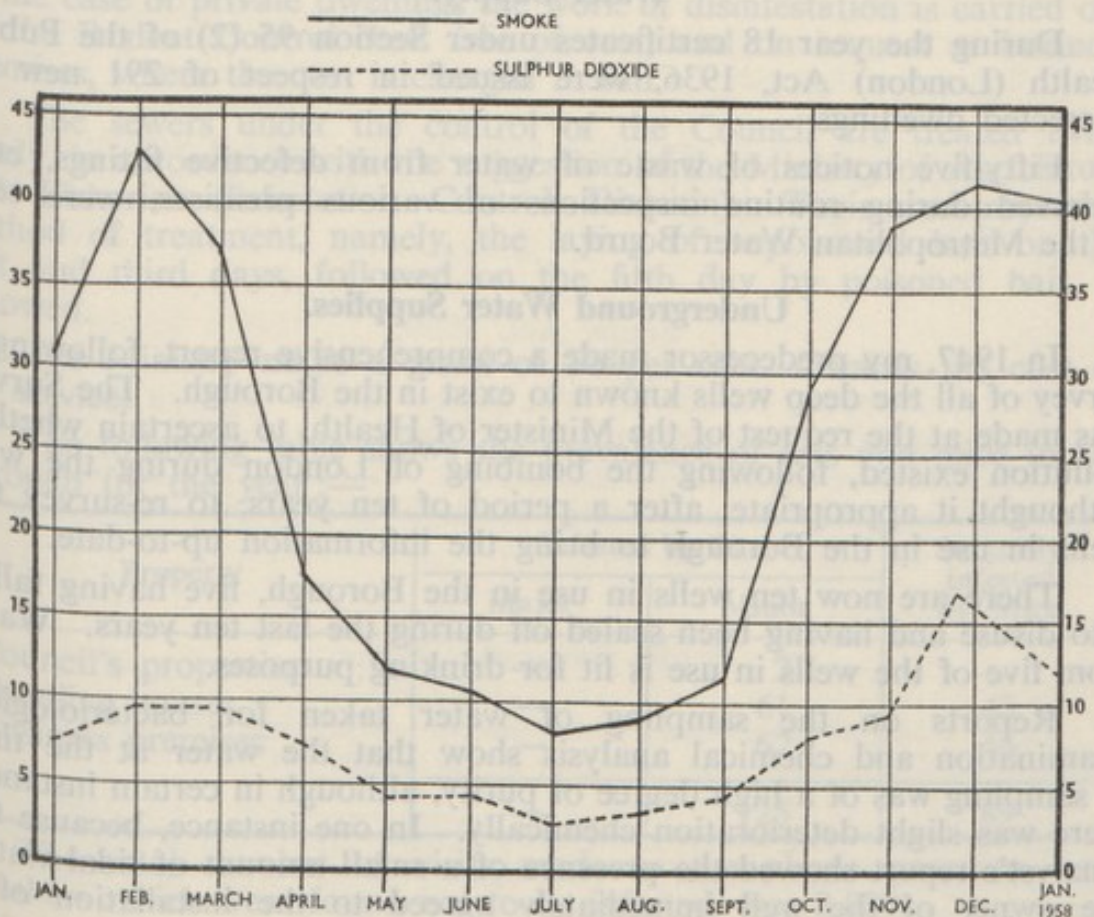
A total number of 208 observations were made.

No notices were served.

### Smoke Measuring Station.

A smoke measuring station was installed in the Public Health Department in the latter part of 1956, but insufficient readings were available at the end of that year to include any information of value. The station has been successfully run by the Inspectors of the Department throughout 1957, and the following graph indicates the variation of sulphur dioxide and smoke in the atmosphere noted throughout the year. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research receive the results and collate the information received from Authorities all over the country.

AVERAGE CONCENTRATION OF SMOKE IN MILLIGRAMS PER 100 CUBIC METRES  
AVERAGE CONCENTRATION OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN PARTS PER 100 MILLION VOLUMES OF AIR



## **Clean Air Act, 1956.**

### **Smoke Control Areas.**

The Clean Air Act, 1956 (Appointed Day) Order, came into operation on the 31st December of that year, and brought certain provisions of the Act into effect. Section 11, one of the effective Sections, gave the Council power to establish smoke control areas by means of Orders confirmed by the Minister. Following the coming into operation of a smoke control order, if on any day smoke is emitted from a chimney within the area, the occupier of the building would be guilty of an offence, the maximum penalty being £10 for each day the offence is committed. No offence, however, will be committed providing an authorised fuel has been used. The Act provides for payment of Exchequer and Council grants towards the cost of conversion or adaptation of any fireplace to burn smokeless fuel in a private dwelling. Following a detailed report, the Council decided that the area surrounding St. James' Hospital was a suitable area to declare as their first smoke control area, and a preliminary survey was made. The area is compact, and is bounded by Belle Vue Road, Wiseton Road, Nottingham Road, St. James' Drive, Upper Tooting Park, Boundaries Road, Heslop Road and Ravenslea Road. Approximately 570 private dwellings are involved. Following this survey, the matter was reported to the Council for further consideration, and work is now in hand on a detailed survey of the area.

### **Offensive Trades.**

There are two premises in the Borough at which the scheduled offensive trade of fat melting is carried on. The firms concerned have been established for many years, and the trades are conducted satisfactorily.

### **Water Supply.**

During the year 18 certificates under Section 95 (2) of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, were issued in respect of 291 new or re-erected dwellings.

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

### **Underground Water Supplies.**

In 1947, my predecessor made a comprehensive report, following a survey of all the deep wells known to exist in the Borough. The Survey was made at the request of the Minister of Health, to ascertain whether pollution existed, following the bombing of London during the war. I thought it appropriate, after a period of ten years, to re-survey the wells in use in the Borough to bring the information up-to-date.

There are now ten wells in use in the Borough, five having fallen into disuse and having been sealed off during the last ten years. Water from five of the wells in use is fit for drinking purposes.

Reports on the sampling of water taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis show that the water at the time of sampling was of a high degree of purity, although in certain instances there was slight deterioration chemically. In one instance, because the Analyst's report showed the presence of a small amount of tidal water, the owner of the well immediately agreed to the installation of a

chlorination plant. The plant has now been fitted, and gives very satisfactory results.

In another instance, because of a positive bacteriological result, and an adverse chemical report, the water, originally used for drinking purposes, is now not used for that purpose. A second bacteriological examination proved negative.

Water from wells used for drinking purposes has been proved satisfactory by chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations, the position being safeguarded by regular sampling, and the submission of the results of analysis to the Public Health Department throughout the year.

#### **Rag and Bone Dealers.**

Premises occupied by rag and bone dealers in the Borough are subjected to regular inspection. During the year 109 inspections were made.

No offences by rag and bone dealers were reported.

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

This Act gives power generally to the Council to require steps to be taken to eradicate infestations of rats and mice and where possible to prevent infestations occurring. These duties are carried out by the Rodent Officer, assisted by two Rodent Operatives.

All infestations coming to light whether by way of complaint or otherwise, are systematically investigated, and the appropriate action taken. Where the cause of the trouble is obviously defective drains or other defects in the building, the owner is called upon to effect the necessary repairs. This aspect of the work involves close co-operation between the Rodent Control Staff and the Public Health Inspectors. In the case of private dwellings the work of disinfection is carried out by the Rodent Control Staff free of cost, and on request at business premises, where the cost is charged in full.

The sewers under the control of the Council are treated twice yearly, in accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division). Their recommended method of treatment, namely, the laying of unpoisoned bait on the first and third days, followed on the fifth day by poisoned bait, is followed.

The Ministry make a grant of 50 per cent. towards the cost of the service.

The following table shows the prevalence of rats and mice in the Borough for the year:—

Property	Infested by Rats		Seriously infested by Mice
	Major	Minor	
Council's properties ...	—	2	—
Dwelling houses ...	—	61	43
Business premises ...	—	62	46
	—	125	89

The total number of visits made to the above premises, and to others which were found not to be infested, was 2,889.

### **Verminous Premises.**

During the year 121 premises which were found to be infested with vermin were disinfested. The insecticide used contains Pybuthrin and Lindane/D.D.T. and gives a prolonged residual effect.

### **Van Dwellings.**

The sites in the Borough on which van dwellings have regularly been placed for many years are generally well kept. The newer sites, however, need constant inspection to prevent overcrowding of the site, and to ensure that sufficient watercloset accommodation and water supply are available.

Inspections were carried out on 139 occasions.

### **Dangerous Structures.**

During the course of inspection for any purpose carried out by the officers of the Department, should any dangerous structure or any dangerous condition appertaining to a building be noticed, the District Surveyor of the London County Council is notified for any action he may decide to take. 203 of such cases were notified.

### **Vacant Sites, Static Water Tanks, etc.**

Nuisances caused by the dumping of rubbish and the accumulation of rainwater in disused static water tanks, and the dumping of rubbish on cleared sites, is still proving a problem, but the number of complaints is gradually diminishing due to the sites being used for rebuilding and other purposes.

Arrangements are in operation whereby the Council are empowered to clear static water tanks and to obtain refund of the cost from the London County Council.

### **Shops Act, 1950.**

One exemption certificate was issued under Section 38 of this Act in respect of a shop where restricted space precluded the provision on the premises of a sanitary convenience. The application was granted on the grounds of access to suitable alternative accommodation being available.

### **Public Swimming Baths.**

The Council maintain four public swimming pools—three at Latchmere Baths and one at Nine Elms Baths.

Samples of the water from these pools are taken fortnightly for bacteriological examination. The results show that the water has consistently maintained a high degree of purity.

# Protection of Food Supply.

## (A)—INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The regular inspection of all premises where food for human consumption is prepared, stored or sold has always been carried out as a routine. The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, was a consolidation measure repealing the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954, and consolidating it with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and certain other enactments amending and supplementing Part V of the Act in relation to slaughterhouses and knackers' yards.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, made under the new Act, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. They are in the main being implemented, and a complete register of all food premises in the Borough has been compiled.

Two exemption certificates were granted in connection with the Regulations during the year.

### FOOD PREMISES.

As at 31st December, 1957.

Milk Distributors ... ..	136
Wholesale Milk Dealers (registered as Dairymen) ...	2
Restaurants, Cafés ... ..	150
Canteens, Kitchens ... ..	70
Butchers ... ..	69
Horseflesh (for human consumption) ... ..	1
Ice Cream (Sale) ... ..	248
Ice Cream (Manufacture) ... ..	3
Fish Shops (Wet and Fried) ... ..	40
Food Factories ... ..	25
Bakehouses (Not underground) ... ..	18
Bakehouses (Underground) ... ..	4
Preserved Food ... ..	111
Bakers ... ..	50
Greengrocers ... ..	81
Confectioners ... ..	210
Grocers and Provisions ... ..	273
Miscellaneous (Chemists, Public Houses, Off-Licences)	202
Stalls :—	
Confectionery ... ..	1
Grocers ... ..	2
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... ..	63
Fish and/or Poultry ... ..	10

There are 1,098 food premises in the Borough, together with 75 food stalls. Some of the premises shown above are listed under more than one trade category.

### Dairies and Milk Distributors.

At the end of the year there were 138 premises in the Borough registered for the sale of milk. Two of these premises, occupied by wholesale dealers, were registered as dairies. The occupiers of the remaining 136 premises were registered as milk distributors.

All these premises were visited during the year, and 11 notices concerning non-compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations were served.

In addition, 29 distributors selling milk in Battersea from premises in other Boroughs were on the "Out-of-Borough" Register.

### Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Under the above Regulations three designations are prescribed—Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised.

Tuberculin Tested milk must be supplied in a properly closed container. If the container is a bottle, the cap must bear the address of the premises at which the bottle was filled and the words "Tuberculin Tested Milk." Any other type of container must be closed with a tightly fitting cover and suitably sealed and labelled.

Pasteurised milk must be delivered in containers closed at the dairy where they were filled, with a cap or cover over-lapping the lip of the container and labelled "Pasteurised Milk."

All persons who pasteurise or sterilise, or deal in special designation milk, are required to hold licences, which (except in the case of producers of raw milk) are issued by Food and Drugs Authorities.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1951, requires that all milk sold by retail (other than in catering establishments as part of a meal or refreshment) in the areas specified must be sold under one or other of the special designations. The whole of the County of London is included in such areas.

The number of licences issued by the Council for 1957 was as follows :—

	Full	Supplementary
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	63	24
Pasteurised ... ..	95	25
Sterilised ... ..	135	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	293	74
	<hr/>	<hr/>

One licence to sterilise milk was issued, and is included in the above figures.

Details of examination of samples of pasteurised and sterilised milk are given of page 34.

### Ice Cream Premises.

Section 16 (a) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, provides for the registration of premises used for the sale, or manufacture for the purpose of sale, of ice cream, or the storage of ice cream intended for sale. The

number of premises registered at the end of the year was 251, and 239 inspections were carried out during the course of the year. To ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 8 notices were served.

Particular attention is paid to premises where manufacture takes place. Not only are the premises, plant and methods of operation scrutinised, but samples of the products are taken for examination by the methods suggested by the Ministry of Health. There are three such premises registered in the Borough.

### **Butchers' Shops.**

There are 70 butchers' shops in the Borough, and in addition a number of shops where cooked meats are sold. All these shops are systematically inspected, 1,100 visits having been made during the year. In general, the shops are well conducted, and only one notice concerning non-compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations was served.

One shop where horseflesh is sold for human food is included among the butchers' shops mentioned above.

### **Fish Shops.**

Shops in which fish, either cooked or uncooked, is sold, or where the curing or smoking of fish is carried on, are regularly inspected. There are 40 such shops in the Borough. 128 inspections were made, and 4 notices served in respect of breaches of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

### **Preserved Food Premises.**

Section 16 (b) of the the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, provides for the registration of premises used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. A total of 111 premises were registered at the end of the year. In addition to butchers' and fish shops, 17 inspections of other preserved food premises were carried out, and 3 notices served under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

### **Catering Establishments.**

All restaurants, cafés, canteens and kitchens are regularly inspected throughout the year. There are 220 of these premises on the Register, and 681 inspections were made.

### **Food Stalls.**

All street stalls from which food for human consumption is sold are regularly inspected and, where the food sold is stored in the Borough, the storage places are also inspected.

### **Festival Pleasure Gardens, Battersea Park.**

Regular inspections are made of catering establishments in these Gardens. Any alterations to such premises entailing drainage work are carried out under the jurisdiction of Council officers. Many thousands of visitors use these Gardens, and there was no recorded case of an illness being traced to food purchased in the Gardens.



## FOOD PREMISES.

### Summary of Operations.

Inspections—		Work carried out—	
Butchers' shops ...	1,100	Sanitary conveniences cleansed, improved or repaired ...	31
Fish shops ...	128	Cold water provided ...	41
Milk shops ...	62	Hot water provided ...	82
Other Food shops ...	1,020	Wash hand basins pro- vided ...	44
Food stalls ...	166	Soap, drying facilities, etc., provided ...	23
Food storage premises	37	Sinks provided ...	23
Ice cream premises ...	239	Ventilation provided or improved ...	9
Preserved food premises	17	Premises cleansed or repaired ...	58
Catering establishments	681		
Notices served ...	54		

### (B)—SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The analysis of samples of food and drugs purchased formally and informally under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Public Analyst for the Borough, J. E. Woodhead, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Ph.C., at his laboratory at 325 Kennington Road, London, S.E.11.

General bacteriological examination, and the examination of samples of heat-treated milk and of ice-cream, is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The total number of formal samples taken under the Act during 1957 was 274, of which 1, or 0.4 per cent., was certified to be adulterated. In addition, 285 informal samples were procured, of which 8, or 2.8 per cent., were certified to be adulterated.

The percentages of samples reported by the Public Analyst to be adulterated during the quinquennia 1921 to 1955 are given in the following table. The years 1956 and 1957 are shown separately.

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—1950 ...	1.0	1.1
„ 1951—1955 ...	2.1	2.2
1956 ...	0.7	0.0
1957 ...	0.4	2.8

## Milk.

One hundred formal samples of milk were taken during the year.

Of the 100 samples, 17 were designated as "Channel Islands" or "South Devon" milk, for which a higher minimum percentage (*viz.*, 4 per cent.) of milk fat content is provided for under arrangements made between the producers and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. All of these samples were reported to be in conformity with this standard, their average composition being:—

Milk fat	...	...	...	...	4.48 per cent.
Non-fatty solids	...	...	...	...	9.12 "
Total milk solids	...	...	...	...	<u>13.60</u> "

The milk fat content of the 17 samples of "Channel Islands" or "South Devon" milk ranged as under:—

	Over 5.0 per cent.	1 sample.
between 4.8 and 4.9	"	Nil.
" 4.7 " 4.8	"	2 samples.
" 4.6 " 4.7	"	3 "
" 4.5 " 4.6	"	2 "
" 4.4 " 4.5	"	4 "
" 4.3 " 4.4	"	4 "
" 4.2 " 4.3	"	1 sample.
		<u>17</u>

All the 83 samples of ordinary milk were reported as genuine and their average composition was as follows:—

Milk fat	...	...	...	...	3.68 per cent.
Non-fatty solids	...	...	...	...	8.77 "
Total milk solids	...	...	...	...	<u>12.45</u> "

Their content of milk fat ranged as follows:—

	Over 4.0 per cent.	5 samples or	6.02 per cent.
between 3.9 and 4.0	"	7	" " 8.43 "
" 3.8 " 3.9	"	11	" " 13.25 "
" 3.7 " 3.8	"	19	" " 22.89 "
" 3.6 " 3.7	"	16	" " 19.28 "
" 3.5 " 3.6	"	16	" " 19.28 "
" 3.4 " 3.5	"	4	" " 4.82 "
" 3.3 " 3.4	"	4	" " 4.82 "
" 3.2 " 3.3	"	1 sample	" 1.21 "
		<u>83</u>	<u>100.00</u>

In the five years 1952-6 and in 1957 the percentage of adulterated samples of milk was as under:—

Year	Samples taken	Adulterated	
		No.	Percentage
1952 ... ..	101	0	0.0
1953 ... ..	100	1	1.0
1954 ... ..	100	6	6.0
1955 ... ..	100	3	3.0
1956 ... ..	100	0	0.0
1957 ... ..	100	0	0.0

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

Nature of Sample	EXAMINED			ADULTERATED		
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total
Almonds, Ground ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Barley Water Crystals ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Blancmange Powder ...	—	9	9	—	—	—
Bread ...	—	5	5	—	1	1
Butter ...	21	1	22	—	—	—
Cake and Pudding Mixture	3	21	24	—	—	—
Cereal Preparations ...	—	22	22	—	—	—
Cheese ...	3	2	5	—	—	—
Chocolate Spread... ..	—	7	7	—	—	—
Cocoa ...	—	7	7	—	—	—
Coconut ...	4	—	4	—	—	—
Coffee ...	1	1	2	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2	6	8	—	—	—
Confectionery, Flour ...	7	—	7	—	—	—
Confectionery, Sugar ...	4	3	7	—	—	—
Crab, Dressed ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Essence of Rennett ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fish Paste ...	—	10	10	—	—	—
Flavourings ...	—	9	9	—	—	—
Flour ...	1	1	2	—	—	—
Foam Crystals ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Fruit, Dried ...	6	—	6	—	—	—
Fruit Preserving Tablets ...	—	3	3	—	3	3
Gelatine ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Glucose ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Golden Raising Powder ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Gravy Preparations ...	—	9	9	—	—	—
Ice Cream ...	4	—	4	—	—	—
Jams and Preserves ...	9	2	11	—	—	—
Jelly ...	5	3	8	—	—	—
Junket Preparations ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lard and other Fats ...	27	1	28	1	—	1
Mayonnaise ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Meat Preparations :—						
Beef, Minced ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Black Pudding ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Frankfurters ...	4	—	4	—	—	—
Meat Paste ...	—	10	10	—	—	—
Meat Pie ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sausages ...	22	—	22	—	—	—
Sausage, Breakfast ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sausage, Liver ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Sausage Rolls ...	5	—	5	—	—	—
Milk ...	100	—	100	—	—	—
Milk Shake ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Mustard ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Non-brewed Condiment ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Carried forward ..	239	165	404	1	4	5

Nature of Sample	EXAMINED			ADULTERATED		
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total
Brought forward ...	239	165	404	1	4	5
Olive Oil ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pea Flour ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Pickles ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Sandwich Spread...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Sauces ...	2	7	9	—	—	—
Soft Drinks ...	7	5	12	—	—	—
Soups ...	—	12	12	—	—	—
Spices and Condiments ...	—	21	21	—	1	1
Stuffing ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Suet ...	3	—	3	—	—	—
Sugar ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tea ...	2	2	4	—	1	1
Vegetables, Tinned ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Vinegar ...	11	2	13	—	—	—
Wines, British ...	4	—	4	—	—	—
Yeast Extract ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Yoghourt ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	270	242	512	1	6	7

### Drugs.

The following table gives details of the drugs of which samples were obtained for the purpose of analysis :—

Nature of Sample	EXAMINED			ADULTERATED		
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total
Cream of Tartar...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Glycerine ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iodine, Tincture of ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Laxative ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Linctus ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
Oil, Camphorated ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Oil, Castor ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Ointment, Sulphur ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ointment, Zinc ...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Paraffin, Liquid ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Rose Hip and Orange ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Salts, Epsom ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Salts, Glauber ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Seidlitz Powder ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Senna Pods ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Soda, Bicarbonate of ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Tablets :—						
Aspirin ...	—	4	4	—	—	—
Milk of Magnesia ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soda Mint ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	43	47	—	2	2

### Adulterated Samples.

Adulterated samples were reported as follows:—

#### Formal.

No. 2. Lard—excess of free acid.

#### Informal.

No. 10. Mint—some plant other than mint.

No. 27. Fruit preserving tablets—10% deficient in sulphur dioxide.

No. 51. Bread—containing coarse paper or cardboard.

No. 52. Fruit preserving tablets—44% deficient in sulphur dioxide.

No. 54. Fruit preserving tablets—30% deficient in sulphur dioxide.

No. 64. Tea—containing an admixture of maize starch.

No. 92. Zinc ointment—0.3% deficient in zinc oxide.

No. 284. Cream of tartar—20 parts per million excess of lead.

Cautionary letters were sent to the manufacturers in appropriate cases. The deficiency of sulphur dioxide in the fruit preserving tablets was due to storage, and existing stocks were consequently withdrawn.

### Heat Treated Milk.

Samples of pasteurised and sterilised milk are taken at regular intervals for submission to the Public Health Laboratory Service for the prescribed tests, and during the year samples as under were taken with the results set out:—

	Phosphatase		Methylene Blue	
	Satisfactory	Failed	Satisfactory	Failed
Pasteurised ...	37	—	37	—
			Turbidity	
			Satisfactory	Failed
Sterilised ...	...	...	32	—

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

### Milk supplied in Schools and Hospitals.

Samples of milk in course of delivery to Schools and Hospitals in the Borough are taken, both for chemical analysis and for submission to the prescribed tests for such milk. The samples are included in the general totals given on pages 31, 32 and 34. The results of the analyses and tests are communicated to the London County Council or to the appropriate Hospital Management Committee.

### Ice-Cream.

Forty-eight samples of ice-cream were taken during the year, each sample being submitted to the methylene blue test.

The samples were, as a result of the test, placed in the following grades:—

Provisional Grade 1	...	...	...	29
" 2	...	...	...	11
" 3	...	...	...	6
" 4	...	...	...	2
				<u>48</u>

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

### Foreign Matter in Food.

There were 14 instances of foreign matter in food dealt with during the year, and in 13 of them cautionary letters were sent to the persons concerned. In one case a summons was issued and a fine of £3 obtained with £2 2s. 0d. costs to the Council. This was in connection with a piece of cloth in a bun.

### Unsound Food.

The following table gives particulars of the unsound foodstuffs which, under the provisions of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, Section 180 (8), were voluntarily surrendered to the Council.

Beer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	354 bottles.
Cakes and biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 st.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 cwt., 1 st., 1 lb.
Cordials and fruit juices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 tins, 513 bottles.
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 tins.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61.
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 cwts., 3 qtrs., 7 lbs.
Fish (preserved)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159 tins.
Flour and cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 qtr., 1st., 3 lbs., 6 tins.
Fruit (fresh)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 barrels of grapes.
Fruit (preserved)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	635 tins.
Jams and preserves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20 tins, 23 jars.
Meat (fresh)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 cwts., 3 qtrs., 1 st., 12 lbs.
Meat, meat products (preserved)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 cwts., 1 qtr., 8 lbs., 818 tins.
Milk (tinned)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75 tins.
Mussels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 bags.
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 cwts., 6 lbs.
Peanuts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32 lbs., 6 tins, 2 jars.
Pudding and cake mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 tins.
Soups and gravy preparations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75 tins.
Savouries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 jars, 2 tubes.
Vegetables (preserved)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	601 tins.

### FOOD POISONING.

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year—one at a school, and the other originated at a café.

The school outbreak affected 20 children; the causative agent, following laboratory investigation, proved to be *Clostridium welchii*. All those affected made a complete recovery.

The café outbreak affected 3 persons, and was caused by a *Staphylococci* infection. This was isolated from the remains of the peas consumed. The staff of the café were all in a good state of health, and the kitchen and premises were in a clean condition. The illness was of a short duration, recovery being complete in 24 hours.

# Housing.

## Provision of New Accommodation.

During the year 1957 construction of the following 291 new dwellings was completed:—

By Battersea Borough Council:—

33, 35, 62, 64 Devereux Road ... ..	4 houses
21/70 Berry House ... ..	50 flats
60/78 (even), 68a, 78a Sarsfeld Road ...	{ 4 houses 6 flats 6 maisonettes
1/70 Macdonald House ... ..	70 flats
60/90 (even) Boundaries Road ... ..	{ 4 houses 6 flats 6 maisonettes
20/28 (even), 33/43 (odd) Fontarabia Road	11 houses
36/46 (even) Marmion Road ... ..	6 houses
1/19 Bishopstone House ... ..	19 flats
1/16 Farnhurst House ... ..	16 flats
1/77 Dresden House ... ..	77 flats
19/27 (odd) Nansen Road ... ..	5 houses
	<hr/> 290

By Private Owners:—

79 Kyrle Road ... ..	1 house
Total Dwellings ... ..	<hr/> 291 <hr/>

## Slum Clearance.

Representations for slum clearance were made in respect of ten areas, 93 premises being represented out of 175 inspected. The ten areas concerned are situated in the Battersea Park Road area and the Winstanley Road area.

Following a Public Inquiry concerning one area represented in 1956, the Order was subsequently confirmed.

The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector is engaged with the initial inspections and the submission of detailed reports. Further inspections are made by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector, and the selected premises are then represented. Determination as to unfitness for human habitation is governed by Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957, in individual cases, and by this Section and Section 42, as respects an area to be represented. A considerable amount of specialised work devolves on the clerical side of the Department.

## Closing Orders.

Thirty-four Closing Orders under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, were made during the year, in respect of basement rooms, and sixteen Closing Orders in respect of dwelling houses under Section 17 of the Act.

### Demolition Orders.

Two Demolition Orders in respect of houses were made during the year. Both houses formed parts of clearance areas.

### Certificates of Disrepair.

#### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

#### Rent Act, 1957.

Work under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act continued until July, 1957, when the Rent Act, 1957, came into operation.

The following tables give the relative figures :—

#### January—July. (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	9
Certificates of Disrepair issued ... ..	9
Certificates of Disrepair refused ... ..	—
Application for revocation of Certificates received	7
Revocations of Certificates issued ... ..	8
Revocations of Certificates refused ... ..	—

#### August—December. (Rent Act, 1957).

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	323
Decisions to issue Certificates of Disrepair (Form J)	257
Undertakings received from landlords (Form K)	108
Certificates of Disrepair issued ... ..	72
Certificates of Disrepair refused ... ..	2
Applications for Cancellation of Certificates received	10
Cancellations of Certificates issued ... ..	7

It will be seen that the work increased considerably, following the operation of the new Act. One of the chief difficulties experienced by the Inspectors was the interpretation of the tenants' G. Forms, when the majority of tenants had little knowledge of building terms, and, in consequence, were unable to describe the defective conditions to which they wished to draw attention. The administrative work, in connection with the applications and advice required by many of the applicants, necessitated the full-time services of one of the office staff, and, at one period, evening work was necessary. The work has been carried out in collaboration with the Town Clerk's Department, to whom all legal queries were directed.

### Houses Let in Lodgings.

Since the repeal of By-laws relating to houses let in lodgings such houses were dealt with by Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and these Sections have in turn been superseded by Section 36 of the Housing Act, 1957. Power is given to the local authority to restrict the number of persons occupying the house, and to require adequate facilities for those persons in occupation.

It was not necessary to serve any notices in this connection during the year.



### 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. These cases include applications for transfer from Council tenants and licensees of requisitioned premises. He also refers certain cases in which some special feature is involved (*e.g.*, fitness of basement rooms).

During 1957 a total of 317 cases were dealt with on the grounds of ill-health or unsuitable accommodation. The maximum number of points on medical grounds other than pulmonary tuberculosis were allocated to 6 applications and 4 cases were referred to the Housing Committee for special consideration on these grounds. In 5 cases the maximum points were given for pulmonary tuberculosis, 4 of these being referred to the Housing Committee for special consideration as the accommodation was inadequate. In 11 cases of transfer applications, rehousing was recommended as essential on medical grounds.

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

# Factories, Outworkers and Shops

(other than food shops).

## 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 ...	120	611	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	356	1,591	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	14	33	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>490</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>

## 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.) ...	4	4	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	9	9	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	2	1	1	1	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>

The following table 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.	At 31 Dec.	At 1 Jan.	At 31 Dec.
Building and Allied ...	26	25	22	22
Clothing and Allied ...	41	40	16	15
Engineering and Heavy Industry ...	46	49	2	1
Electrical and Allied ...	13	14	1	1
Florist ...	—	—	2	2
Food and Allied ...	43	40	4	4
Furniture and Allied ...	15	17	5	5
Metal Worker ...	9	10	—	—
Printer and Allied ...	28	28	2	2
Road Vehicle Repairer	43	43	19	20
Steam Laundry ...	10	10	—	—
Transport (Road & Rail)	19	19	—	—
Others ...	56	61	48	48
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>349</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>120</b>

### **Barbers and Hairdressers.**

The London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954, Section 18, gave the Council authority as from the appointed day to register barbers or hairdressers and their premises, and no person should carry on such a business unless both he and the premises are registered.

Model By-laws were adopted and the appointed day fixed as the 1st January, 1956.

A register was compiled of all such establishments in the Borough, and inspections carried out. Any person registered under this Section must keep displayed in the premises in respect of which he is registered a copy of his certificate of registration and of any by-laws made by the Council.

At the end of the year there were 78 registered premises in the Borough, and 101 inspections were carried out.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

The object of the Act is to regulate the sale of pet animals, with particular reference to their welfare while kept for sale in pet shops. A pet shop may not be kept except under the authority of a licence granted in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Licences were issued in respect of 15 shops and 22 visits were made during the year.

A request was received from the Secretary to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with regard to the issue by owners of pet shops of leaflets concerning the care of animals sold to the general public, and suggesting that proprietors of pet shops should be compelled by a suitable regulation endorsed on their licence to issue these leaflets in the case of each animal sold. The Council were advised that legally this condition could not be imposed, and the Health Committee agreed that a letter should be enclosed with every licence granted, calling attention to the desirability of the leaflets being supplied when pets were sold.

### **Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.**

The principal provisions of the Act relate to registration of premises in which rag flock or other materials are used in upholstery, etc., and the licensing of premises used for the manufacture and storage of rag flock. An authorised officer of the Council has the right of entry, inspection and sampling of any filling materials. The Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors are deemed to be authorised officers. Subsequent Regulations made by the Minister prescribed the standard of cleanliness for each kind of filling material, the methods of testing samples and the nature of the tests to be applied.

There are 6 premises in the Borough at which filling materials other than rag flock are used, and these are registered.

There are no premises at present dealing with rag flock.

Seventeen visits were made to registered premises during the year, but no contravention of the Act was discovered.

### Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

Regulations under the above Act prescribe that heating appliances suitable for use in a dwelling house or other residential premises shall be fitted with a robustly made guard securely attached to the appliance, and shall satisfy certain other tests set out in a Schedule to the Regulations.

It has been found, since the passing of the Act, that almost without exception appliances on sale are sold to a British Standard specification, which gives the double assurance of their being subject to inspection at the place of manufacture.

Occasional cases of second-hand appliances of an old type being offered for sale may occur, however, and a constant watch is kept for such appliances. One such case which occurred was dealt with by a cautionary letter, the vendor having pleaded ignorance and removed the article from sale.

### Bakehouses.

There were 25 bakehouses on the register at the end of the year, three having been closed during the year, and one opened. All of these are classed as factories, and 22 of them use mechanical power. 109 inspections were made but it was not necessary to serve any notices.

Four of the bakehouses were "basement bakehouses" within the meaning of Section 54 of the Factories Act, 1937.

### Outworkers.

During the year lists of outworkers were received from Battersea employers and from other authorities as required by the Factories Act, 1937. Some of these lists included outworkers not residing in Battersea, and these were forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

The total number of registered outworkers' premises in the Borough at the end of the year was 272 (including 5 contractors), 55 premises having been added, and 148 removed, during the year. The total number of inspections made was 470, most of them by the female Inspector. The premises were found to be generally satisfactory, and it was not necessary to serve any notices or take any other action.

No cases of infectious diseases occurred at outworkers' premises.

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

Trade	Number on Register		
	Premises	Workrooms	Persons employed
Wearing Apparel ... ..	198	202	221
Linen ... ..	1	1	1
Artificial Flowers ... ..	2	2	2
Paper Bags ... ..	7	7	7
Boxes, etc. ... ..	4	4	4
Stuffed Toys ... ..	1	1	1
Lampshades ... ..	36	36	36
Christmas Stockings, etc. ...	1	1	1
Toys, etc. ... ..	15	15	16
Brasswork ... ..	1	1	1
Curtains ... ..	2	2	3
Buttons ... ..	1	1	1
Other trades ... ..	3	3	3
	<u>272</u>	<u>276</u>	<u>297</u>

## FACTORIES, OUTWORKERS AND SHOPS.

(Other than food shops).

### Summary of Operations.

Inspections—		Inspections—cont'd.	
Shops ... ..	33	Workplaces ... ..	128
Shops (Pharmacy Act)	8	Smoke observations ...	208
Rag flock premises ...	17	Complaints dealt with ...	143
Pet shops ... ..	22	Intimation notices served	10
Hairdressers ... ..	101	Statutory notices served	1
Outworkers ... ..	472	Summonses issued ...	Nil.
Factories ... ..	2,232		

The work and problems as outlined in previous Reports remain and during the year there have been no outstanding developments. One of our Public Health Inspectors devotes a considerable part of his time to the care of old people and at the end of the year had 23 old people on his Register whom she visited and kept in touch with. Close liaison is maintained with other organisations and agencies concerned with the care of old people, particularly the London County Council, local Health Department, Old People's Welfare Organisation and the Battersea Old People's Welfare Committee.

Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, the Council are empowered to apply to the County Court for an Order for the removal to a hospital or other suitable place of any person who is aged or infirm or suffering from some grave chronic disease and is living under insanitary conditions. The power is exercised on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health. The Council are given certain powers to the person concerned, or to some person in charge of his care. Such powers operate for a period of three months, but the Court may, on application by the Council, extend it for such further periods not exceeding three months each, as are considered necessary.

The procedure under Section 47 is outlined above, but amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, which came into operation on the 1st January 1951 for the purpose of enabling the Council to be dealt with more expeditiously. The new Act provides that the Court, or a single Justice of the Peace, may, on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health and medical registered medical practitioner, make an Order without formal notice of the application having been given to the person concerned or to the local authority, subject in the case of the latter to evidence being produced of their willingness to admit the person. The length of time a person may be detained

## Miscellaneous Matters.

### Conferences.

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

Conference.	Delegates.
Royal Society of Health, Folkestone — 30th April to 3rd May.	Cllr. Miss E. A. Coles, J.P., and the Medical Officer of Health.
Association of Public Health Inspectors, Eastbourne — 17th to 20th September.	Cllr. Mrs. C. M. Davies and Mr. J. A. H. Brownlow, Public Health Inspector.
National Society for Clean Air, Hastings—2nd to 4th October.	Cllr. Mrs. E. A. Cooper, J.P., and Mr. L. Burrows, Public Health Inspector.

### Care of the Aged.

The work and problems as outlined in previous Reports remain, and during the year there have been no outstanding developments. One of our Public Health Inspectors devotes a considerable part of her time to the care of old people, and at the end of the year had 227 old people on her Register whom she visited and kept in touch with. Close liaison is maintained with other organisations and agencies concerned with the care of old people, particularly the London County Council local Health Department, the Home Help Organisation and the Battersea Old People's Welfare Committee.

Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council are empowered to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal to a hospital or other suitable place of any person who is aged or infirm or suffering from some grave chronic disease, and is living under insanitary conditions. This power is exercisable on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health.

Seven clear days' notice of the intention of making an application to the Court must be given to the person concerned, or to some person in charge of him. The Order remains operative for a period of three months, but the Court may, on application by the Council, extend it for such further periods, not exceeding three months each, as are considered necessary.

The procedure under Section 47, as outlined above, was amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, which came into operation on the 1st September, 1951, for the purpose of enabling very urgent cases to be dealt with more expeditiously. The new Act provides that the Court, or a single Justice of the Peace, may, on the certificates of the Medical Officer of Health and another registered medical practitioner, make an Order without formal notice of the application having been given to the person concerned or to the hospital authority, subject, in the case of the latter, to evidence being produced of their willingness to admit the person. The length of time a person may be detained

under such Order is limited to three weeks, instead of three months, and any application for an extension of this period must be made in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 47. An application under the 1951 Act may be made by the Medical Officer of Health without special authority from the Health Committee in each individual case, provided a general authority to act is given. Such general authority has been given by the Council to the Medical Officer of Health and his Deputy.

It was not necessary to take such action under either Act during the year.

#### Use of Slipper Baths by Old Age Pensioners.

The Council make available to old age pensioners free use of the slipper baths at their Baths Establishments (with use of a towel) on production of their pension books. This facility has also been extended to blind persons.

During the year 1957 this arrangement was taken advantage of at the respective Bath Establishments as follows —

	Males	Females
Latchmere ... ..	3,467	3,581
Nine Elms ... ..	1,170	497
Plough Road ... ..	564	759
Total	5,201	4,837

#### Burial of Deceased Persons.

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council are responsible for the burial or cremation of the body of any person dying, or being found dead, in the Borough, and have power to recover from the estate of the deceased person, 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 the National Insurance Act, 1946.

During the year, 3 cases were dealt with.

The burials arranged by the Council are carried out by a local undertaker under contract, and not more than one coach is provided for followers. The Health Department make the arrangements and collect all available information regarding any estate left by the deceased, particulars of his National Insurance, and the existence of any "liable" relatives. This information is passed to the Borough Treasurer so that he may take steps to recover the cost.

The total cost incurred in dealing with the 3 cases was £50 approximately, and of this amount approximately £34 was recovered by the end of the year.



### Personal Cleansing Station.

There are facilities for treatment of scabies and verminous conditions at the Personal Cleansing Station, Sheepcote Lane. During the year 302 treatments were given to persons suffering from or contacts of scabies—159 to adults, 110 to school children, and 33 to children under school age.

In addition to the above, 130 adults and 1,392 children found to be verminous were cleansed. Of the 1,392 children, 1,331 attended from local schools by arrangement with the London County Council, who have entered into a contract with the Council for the use of the 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 disinfection of clothing and, if necessary, of the homes is carried out by the Borough Council's staff.

The following table shows the number of treatments at the Personal Cleansing Station and the expenditure incurred since 1950:—

Year	Adults	Children	*Expenditure	*Amount Contributed
	Verminous and Scabies	Verminous and Scabies	£	£
1950 ... ..	226	2,238	1,750	410
1951 ... ..	200	1,858	1,992	406
1952 ... ..	176	1,994	1,956	535
1953 ... ..	144	1,943	1,932	508
1954 ... ..	214	2,499	1,966	512
1955 ... ..	246	2,318	2,371	526
1956 ... ..	262	1,517	2,681	547
1957 ... ..	289	1,535	3,202	553

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

The contract with the London County Council, referred to above, provides for the payment by them of 3s. 6d. for each treatment given, whether for vermin or for scabies, with a minimum payment of £500 per annum.

Arrangements have been made with the Wandsworth Borough Council, and the Lambeth Borough Council, for certain of the residents in those Boroughs, who require treatment or cleansing, to attend at the Battersea Personal Cleansing Station, the cost of this service being borne by the respective Boroughs in which the patients are resident.

During the year 104 treatments were given to Wandsworth residents and 67 treatments to Lambeth residents.

## Methods of Treatment :—

**Scabies :** Persons attending for treatment are given a hot bath for twenty to thirty minutes, thoroughly dried, and Benzyl Benzoate applied to the whole of the body. This is repeated on alternate days, there being three treatments in all.

**Verminous heads :** The hair is treated with a preparation containing cotton-seed oil, tar oil, paraffin oil and oil of lemon grass, and then washed with a shampoo of soft soap and borax. It is then dried thoroughly, combed with a Sacker's comb to remove nits, washed, dried and combed again. The operation takes approximately half an hour for each child, and a final check is made by the Sister in attendance.

The Council have two flats attached to the Personal Cleansing Station for the temporary use in emergency of people or a family displaced, usually following fumigating procedure. The Council have agreed that these shelters may be used for Wandsworth residents at an annual fee of £25 for the right to use the shelters and a weekly charge of £1 10s. 0d. per shelter for every case sent there.

## Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The disinfection plant at the Council's Disinfecting Station, Sheepcote Lane, comprises two large steam disinfectors, and disinfection is carried out at 12 lbs. pressure and a temperature of 239° F. An instrument charts the pressure and temperature during the process and these records are kept.

**Methods of Disinfection :** Following the notification of a case of infectious disease requiring disinfection, an inspection is made and the following methods used. The patient's room is sprayed with a formaldehyde solution. The doors and windows are closed and the room can be used again after five or six hours.

Bedding and clothing are collected and steam treated at the Station. Sheets, pillow cases and hand towels are exposed to formalin vapour in a special chamber prior to being washed in the adjoining laundry.

Books and other articles which cannot be steam disinfected are also treated by exposure to a formalin vapour.

**Disinfestation of Verminous Rooms :** Articles in the room requiring treatment are removed for steam disinfestation. The room is sprayed with an insecticide containing Pybuthrin and Lindane/D.D.T., which gives a prolonged residual effect. In the case of a heavy infestation, architraves and mouldings are required to be eased for deeper penetration of the insecticide.

**Control of Insect Pests :** The construction by the Council of large blocks of flats containing covered ducts taking hot water, plumbing and drainage pipes has raised a problem of insect infestation. These ducts form an ideal harbourage for insects which would be difficult to deal with by normal hand spraying. A Microsol Mist Generator has been purchased by the Council, and this fitting, having a small motor unit, is capable of spraying a fine mist or fog of insecticide to a distance of 50 feet, the mist settling out on to the surfaces of the duct and the piping contained therein. This fitting is in use and is proving very successful.

### 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 1957, are set out in the following table:—

#### Battersea Mortuary, 1957

Details of Bodies Received	Usual Place of Residence				Total
	Battersea	Wandsworth	Elsewhere	Residence unknown	
Post-mortem only ... ..	150	322	170	40	682
Post-mortem and inquest ... ..	25	70	31	6	132
<i>Total post-mortems</i> ... ..	175	392	201	46	814
Inquest only ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total inquests</i> ... ..	25	70	31	6	132
Sanitary and other reasons ... ..	1	1	1	—	3
<i>Total bodies received</i> ... ..	176	393	202	46	817
VERDICTS AT INQUESTS HELD—					
Natural causes ... ..	—	1	2	2	5
Accident and misadventure ... ..	14	31	19	4	68
Open verdict ... ..	—	3	3	—	6
Suicide ... ..	9	27	7	—	43
Homicide ... ..	1	4	—	—	5
Alcoholism ... ..	—	2	—	—	2
Industrial disease ... ..	1	1	—	—	2
Inattention at birth ... ..	—	1	—	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	25	70	31	6	132

In addition to the above, fifty-three inquests were held at the Coroner's Court. No bodies were received into the Mortuary for these inquests.

The Wandsworth Borough Council made a grant of £475 towards the cost of maintaining the Mortuary.

The London County Council pay a rent of £450 for the use of the Coroner's Court.

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