

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

### **Contributors**

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Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green

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ABRIDGED REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF

THE BOROUGH OF  
BETHNAL GREEN

DURING THE YEAR

1948

BY

CHARLES PORTER, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P.Ed.

*Barrister-at-law.*

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Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Which also acted as Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.)

# ABRIDGED REPORT

Councillor F. E. SANDERS, Chairman.

ON THE

Councillor Mrs. M. E. DYSON, Vice-Chairman.

# HEALTH

OF

## THE BOROUGH OF BETHNAL GREEN

DURING THE YEAR

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COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT (TUBERCULOSIS)

DISPENSARY COMMITTEE AND CARE COMMITTEE :

(Until transfer of this service to the L.C.C.)

Councillors Mrs. M. E. DYSON and Mrs. A. M. SIVILL and the

Medical Officer of Health.



# Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(Which also acted as Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.)

Councillor F. E. SANDERS, **Chairman.**

Councillor Mrs. M. E. DYSON, **Vice-Chairman.**

Alderman M. FINLAY.

Councillor W. E. HART.

„ C. SLEIGH.

„ Mrs. M. E. PEASTON.

Councillor Mrs. N. R. BLACKMAN.

„ Mrs. A. M. SIVILL.

„ R. W. CHARLTON.

„ Mrs. L. A. STUBBS.

„ A. G. CLARK.

„ I. SULKIN.

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS :

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor G. R. H. HEMSLEY, J.P.)

#### COMMITTEE :

#### CHAIRMAN :

Baths ... ..

Councillor A. E. McAULIFFE.

Electricity ... ..

„ H. P. WILSON, J.P.

Finance and Valuation ... ..

„ H. J. STUBBS, J.P.

Housing ... ..

„ H. HOOKE.

Law and General Purposes ... ..

„ H. E. TATE, J.P.

Libraries and Street Trading ... ..

„ Mrs. B. L. TATE.

Staff and Establishment ... ..

„ G. R. H. HEMSLEY, J.P.

Works and Stores ... ..

„ A. E. TURPIN.

### COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT (TUBERCULOSIS)

#### DISPENSARY COMMITTEE AND CARE COMMITTEE :

(Until transfer of this service to the L.C.C.)

Councillors Mrs. M. E. DYSON and Mrs. A. M. SIVILL and the  
Medical Officer of Health.



## STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*Medical Officer of Health and Admin. Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis :*  
MURDOCH MACGREGOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

*Temporary Medical Officer of Health :*  
CHARLES PORTER, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P.Ed., Barrister-at-Law.

### Chief Administrative Assistant :

\*J. HENRY LLOYD, F.S.S. (Retired 31.7.48).

### Chief Clerk : \*R. W. SLYFIELD, A.R.San.I.

(Appointed 19.7.48.)

### Clerical Staff :

*Senior Clerk :* J. E. Pestell.

*Assistant Clerk :* S. A. Wright.

*Senior Correspondence Clerk :* R. F. Marshall.

*Correspondence and General Clerk :* C. W. Foxton.

*Temporary Clerk :* I. Laud.

### Senior Sanitary Inspector : \*m.F. C. SHARPE.

### Sanitary Inspectorial Staff :

*Food Inspectors :* \*m.W. H. Heron.

\*m. G. E. Gould.

*Factories Inspector :* \*m.S. R. B. Slater.

*District Inspectors :* \*G. S. Freeman.

\*E. F. Swash.

\*H. G. Avril.

\*W. Johnson.

\*B. S. Harraway.

\*W. Baxendale.

\* Certified Sanitary Inspector.      m. Certified Meat, etc., Inspector.

### Associated Part-time Officers :

*Public Analyst :* A. E. PARKES, F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

*Vaccination Officers :* R. BERRIFF, MISS M. E. PETERS. (Offices redundant since 4th July, 1948.)

### Other Employees :

<i>General</i>	...	...	...	2 Attendants.
<i>Mortuary</i>	...	...	...	1 Attendant. (Temporarily held by a Shoreditch Borough Council employee.)
<i>Drainage</i>	...	...	...	1 Leading Labourer. 4 Labourers.
<i>Disinfection</i>	...	...	...	1 Leading Disinfector. 2 Disinfectors. 1 Motor Driver.
<i>Personal Cleansing Station</i>				1 Woman Attendant (part-time).

# STAFF TRANSFERRED TO THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (5th July, 1948).

<i>Public Health Department</i>	Clerical Staff	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
<i>Maternity and Child Welfare</i>	Supt. Health Visitor		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Health Visitors		...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Clerk Dispenser		...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Storekeeper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Home Helps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	<i>Day Nursery Staff</i> ...	Matrons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deputy Matrons			...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wardens		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nursery Nurses			...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nursery Assistants			...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Nursery Assistants (part-time)			...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Nursery Students			...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cooks		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Laundresses		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cleaners		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Tuberculosis</i>	...	...	Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	2



THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH OF BETHNAL GREEN.

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Though I was privileged to act as Medical Officer of Health of Bethnal Green only during the last third of 1948 the honour of submitting the report on the state of the Public Health of the Borough during that year fell to me. Fortunately the task was greatly simplified since the records are very full and have been most carefully kept and I had the valuable assistance of Mr. Slyfield, Chief Clerk, and Mr. Sharpe, Senior Sanitary Inspector, and other members of the staff of the Department.

In addition I had help from Dr. MacGregor whose place I took in the service of the Borough Council when the heavy duties and responsibilities he was called upon to undertake on his appointment as Senior Medical Officer to the London County Council made it impossible for him to continue to act as Medical Officer of Health of Bethnal Green as well.

The report for 1948, like several of its predecessors, is in the nature of a summary and contains only brief comment upon the more important facts and figures set out. In a general way it is not out of place in this introductory note to say that as shown by Vital Statistics at any rate the health of the people of the Borough was satisfactory. In the matter of Infant mortality there was a notable improvement, the rate which had been 45 per 1,000 births in 1947 being brought down to 23.6. This figure, which may be taken as evidence of the excellence of the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme operated by the Borough Council, compares most favourably with the rate both of the country (34.0) and of London as a whole (31.0). The general death rate at 10.9 was lower than that for 1947 when it reached 13.8 per 1,000. In the case of Infectious Disease an increase is shown, from 1,003 to 1,475. The condition responsible for this was Measles, notifications of which went up from 235 to 857. The epidemic of Poliomyelitis which had caused great anxiety during 1947 happily died down before the end of that year and showed no real tendency to recur in 1948. Other infections call for no special reference, though perhaps it might be men-



tioned that most of them were more or less distinctly less prevalent than in the previous year.

Because it saw the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, the year 1948 was a very notable one. So far as the Borough is concerned its effect was to deprive the Council of participation in a number of health activities in which their efforts in the past had been attended with conspicuous success. Prominent amongst the services in which the Council and its Public Health Department ceased to take active part at 5th July, the Appointed Day in 1948, were Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis. The former with all the staff of health visitors, the Clinics and the Day Nurseries went to the London County Council, which became the Local Health Authority under the Act. The main clinical duties of the Borough Council in relation to Tuberculosis went to the Regional Hospital Board.

During the period prior to the handing over on 5th July the Department continued to carry on as previously. This may be gathered from the information given under the appropriate headings in the body of the report. Though I was not here on the appointed day it has been made clear to me that the transference took place not without regret on the part of the Council and its Public Health Committee and the staff of the department, those who left as well as those who remained. The smoothness shown in connection with the operation of handing over of the more personal health services was revealed also in regard to the concentration on the no less important duties associated with the giving of attention to and seeking to improve conditions in the environment of the people, though it may be noted that in this matter shortage of staff interfered with their efforts to some extent.

Apart from the National Health Service Act, the year saw come into operation on the 5th July the National Assistance Act, 1948, section 50 of which placed upon the Council the responsibility for providing for the burial or cremation of the dead in certain circumstances. Between the appointed day and the end of the year the Public Health Department was called upon to deal with seven cases, most of the persons having died in hospital and being either without relatives or without any possessing the means to carry out the burial.

In concluding this rather long introductory note I should like to express my appreciation of the kindness and readiness to co-operate and help in every way possible shown by members of the staff of the Public Health Department. To chief officers and staff of other departments of the Council I owe a debt also and gladly express gratitude and appreciation for all the helpfulness and kindness shown. To the members of the Council generally and in particular to the Chairman (Mr. Councillor Sanders) and members of the Public Health Committee as to the Chairmen and members of other Committees with which the work of the Public Health Department is concerned I most sincerely offer thanks and express gratitude for co-operation given and for encouragement and courtesy shown throughout the period I have been privileged to hold office in the Borough.

I have the honour to be, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES PORTER.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

The Vital Statistics for the year, calculated on the basis of the Registrar-General's estimate of the civilian population as 60,580, are as follow :

	Bethnal Green	London	England and Wales	Bethnal Green 1947
Birth Rate ...	18.9	20.1	17.9	23.0
Death Rate ...	10.9	11.6	10.8	13.8
Infant Death Rate	23.6	31.0	34.0	45.0
Maternal Death Rate	1.7	—	—	0.7

As was anticipated in the report for last year the high Birth Rate was not maintained. In addition to the 1,145 live births which compares with 1,378 for 1947 there were 24 stillbirths which formed 2% of the total births (live and dead).

The Death Rate shows a definite decrease from the figure for last year. Two diseases in which a welcome fall was shown were Pulmonary Tuberculosis and conditions affecting the heart. The Infant Death Rate is also down and is below that both for London and the country. As will be seen the Maternal Mortality Rate is up and is nearer that for the year 1946.

The following table shows the causes of death and the age and sex composition of the people who died in the year :

# CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		0-1 year.	1-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-45 years.	45-65 years.	65 years.	TOTAL.
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—	—	8	17	4	29
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	10	1	2	12
8.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
9.	Influenza	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
10.	Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
13.	Cancer of mouth and oesophagus	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
14.	Cancer of uterus	—	—	—	2	2	1	5
15.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
16.	Cancer of breast	—	—	—	1	2	2	5
17.	Cancer of all other sites	—	—	—	2	8	4	14
18.	Diabetes	—	—	—	5	19	29	54
19.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	—	—	—	3	6	21	30
20.	Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Other diseases of circulatory system	—	—	—	5	16	75	96
22.	Bronchitis	—	—	—	6	19	72	97
23.	Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	4	11	15
24.	Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—	—	3	14	17
25.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—	—	8	14	22
26.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	3	13	16
27.	Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	3	10	13
28.	Other digestive diseases	—	—	—	—	2	7	9
29.	Nephritis	—	—	—	2	5	3	10
30.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
31.	Other maternal causes	—	—	—	2	—	6	8
32.	Premature birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Congenital malformation, etc.	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
34.	Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Road traffic accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36.	Other violent causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
37.	All other causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		27	12	4	63	165	387	658

M.—354  
F.—304



As in previous years, the figures for Cancer claim attention. The fact that there were fewer deaths from Heart Disease is interesting and noteworthy. In the following table the incidence of Cancer in 1948 is compared with that in 1947 and the pre-war years 1936-38 :

				Death rate per 1,000 population				
							Average	
					1948		1947	1936-38
Cancer of :								
Mouth and oesophagus	...		M	.07	...	.15	...	.10
Uterus	...	...	F	.08	...	.07	...	.08
Stomach and duodenum	...		M	.07	...	.18	...	.26
			F	.08	...	.30	...	.12
Breast	...	...	M	—	...	—	...	—
			F	.23	...	.23	...	.16
Other sites	...	...	M	.89	...	.88	...	.61
			F	.49	...	.78	...	.42
Total								
			M	1.02	...	1.22	...	.97
			F	.89	...	1.38	...	.78

In considering these rates, the effect of the post-war higher age composition of the population should be borne in mind.

Statistics with regard to Tuberculosis mortality will be found in the section of this report devoted to Infectious Disease.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

That the Council's activities in relation to Maternity and Child Welfare ceased at the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act 1946, on the Appointed Day, 5th July, 1948, has already been noted. In the following table originally introduced to illustrate the extent to which the Council's welfare facilities had been used in recent years the figures for 1948 relate only to the period preceding transference of the work to the London County Council.

Year	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
Population	15,415	15,102	14,751	14,415	14,074	13,733	13,392	13,051	12,710	12,369	12,028	11,687	11,346	11,005	10,664	10,323	9,982	9,641	9,300	8,959	8,618	8,277	7,936	7,595	7,254	6,913	6,572	6,231	5,890	5,549	5,208	4,867	4,526	4,185	3,844	3,503	3,162	2,821	2,480	2,139	1,798	1,457	1,116	775	434	93	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Legitimate Births	1,045	1,015	985	955	925	895	865	835	805	775	745	715	685	655	625	595	565	535	505	475	445	415	385	355	325	295	265	235	205	175	145	115	85	55	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

### ATTENDANCES AT WELFARE CENTRE.

Average *	Babies (0-1)		† Children (1-5)		Ante-Natal		Mothers	
	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	First	Subsequent	First	Subsequent
1936-38 .....	992	9339	178	6794	345	991	219	125
1942 .....	682	4860	83	702	319	853	7	1
1943 .....	639	5733	53	705	413	1321	12	4
1944 .....	562	3556	34	565	338	1120	9	—
1945 .....	694	5426	54	810	401	1428	11	—
1946 .....	926	7780	84	1057	855	3159	14	—
1947 .....	1131	10,441	79	1283	737	3151	21	—
1948 (1st half of year)	514	4909	58	1261	296	1557	4	—

\* During this period and part of 1939 three sessions a week were held at a Branch Centre, in addition to those at the Main Centre.

† With regard to the children in this age group, it should be pointed out that since 1942 some 200 have been under daily close health supervision in the nurseries.

### HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS.

Average	Babies under 1 year.	Children 1-5 years.	Mothers		Stillbirths, Infant deaths, Maternal deaths.	Puerperal fever and pyrexia, Ophthalmia neonatorum	Other infectious diseases.
			Ante-Natal.	Post-Natal.			
1936-38 .....	12577	13880	1340	367	101	94	2339
1942 .....	4764	4826	317	49	49	38	1074
1943 .....	7646	6730	830	98	63	12	1351
1944 .....	6912	6428	802	36	45	25	833
1945 .....	7389	7142	581	34	59	16	1275
1946 .....	8245	7117	754	55	60	38	1457
1947 .....	8843	5027	499	47	53	32	1386
1948 (1st half of year)	4476	3660	243	17	17	28	1255



**NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.**—By Sec. 22 (3) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, the Local Health Authority (i.e. for this area the London County Council) became the designated authority to whom all births are now required to be notified. As from the appointed day the Medical Officer of Health ceased to receive the actual notifications from the father or other person responsible but has received from the County Council a weekly return which has enabled statistics of live and still births to be given for the complete calendar year. The following table shows that 1,146 live births and 26 stillbirths were notified during the year and allocated to Bethnal Green, these being corrected figures after adding the inward transferable births and deducting those which, although born in this Borough, belonged to parents ordinarily resident in other Boroughs.

	Male	Female	Total
1st half of year—Live births ...	326 ...	317 ...	643
Stillbirths ...	5 ...	5 ...	10
2nd half of year—Live births ...	258 ...	245 ...	503
Stillbirths ...	8 ...	8 ...	16
	<hr/> 597 ...	<hr/> 575 ...	<hr/> 1172

In 61 cases the low birth weight brought the children within the definition of "Premature infants".

**ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS.**—77 of the live births, and 2 of the stillbirths which occurred during the year were illegitimate, the percentage being 6.7 which although higher than the pre-war rate, shows a reduction on 1946. The Council has hitherto made a grant through the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee to certain voluntary associations who provide the services of experienced social workers for the welfare of the illegitimate child and unmarried mother. On the



5th July the responsibility for making such grants passed to the London County Council.

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.**—Responsibility for the administration of Part XIII of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, in regard to Child Life Protection, which was hitherto that of the Borough Council, was taken over by the London County Council on the transfer to them of the health services.

**PHYSIO-THERAPY.**—The Physio-therapy Clinic established at the Infant Welfare Centre continued to operate under the control of the Council during the first half of the year. During this period there were 80 attendances by new patients and 1,127 subsequent attendances for light treatment, while 9 children attended for massage for the first time. These and other children made 151 subsequent attendances for such treatment.

**NURSING ASSISTANCE.** — The Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association continued to provide, at the Council's expense, nursing assistance in a variety of circumstances, mostly to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5. During the first half of the year 54 new cases were dealt with and a total of 465 visits were paid.

### NURSERIES.

The three Day Nurseries continued to be administered during the first half of the year under review notwithstanding staff difficulties. The following table shows the average attendance of children in the four quarters prior to the transfer of the Nurseries to the London County Council.

	1947		1948	
	Sept. qr.	Dec. qr.	Mar. qr.	June qr.
Columbia Market	53·4	56·0	58·6	49·9
Pritchards Road	38·6	45·1	49·7	45·1
University House	38·0	45·9	40·9	42·5

## PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASE.

The accompanying table shows the number of cases of various diseases notified during the year, also the number removed to hospital. There was a general reduction in cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis and Whooping Cough. Measles, however, increased greatly in prevalence, the number of notifications being nearly quadrupled. By the end of the previous year the epidemic of Poliomyelitis had spent itself and during 1948 only 1 case, which proved fatal, was notified.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued to be carried out during the year at the Clinic which was established by the Borough Council at the Infant Welfare Centre, Cornwall Avenue, in March 1946, and also at the three Day Nurseries in the Borough. Similarly there was a continuance by the School Organisation of their activities in this direction. The possibility for this phase of our public health work passed to the London County Council on the transfer to them of the health services, notwithstanding the close association of this work with other activities in connection with the prevention and control of infectious disease which still remain with the Borough Council. During the early part of the year it was found possible to introduce at the Welfare Centre the use of a combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunising agent giving immunity against both diseases by a single course of injection. It is understood that this method of immunisation has been adopted by the London County Council. The children eligible to



# INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DISEASE.	0-1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65- years.	TOTAL	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	3	—
Diphtheria (inc. Memb. Croup)	2	4	10	15	3	1	—	1	36	36	—
Scarlet Fever	1	6	34	68	5	5	—	—	116	53	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	} 1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	5	3	
Ophthal. Neonatorum	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	1	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	7	5	—	13	4	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	5	4	2
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephal- itis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	4	3	6	5	7	9	6	41	3	27
Dysentery	1	5	9	6	3	1	3	2	30	13	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever, Cholera, Plague, Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax, Hydropho- bia, Glanders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	63	136	371	282	4	1	—	—	857	91	—
Whooping Cough	38	38	84	34	—	1	—	—	195	30	2
Scabies	2	—	4	3	9	7	4	3	32	—	—
Pulmonary Tubercul- osis	1	2	3	8	25	37	25	5	106	—	41
Other forms of Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	5	4	1	1	11	—	4
TOTAL	131	195	520	424	61	78	48	18	1,475	244	78



MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, &C.—In addition to the formal notifications from doctors included in the foregoing table, there were reported from other sources, 117 cases of Measles, 42 of Whooping Cough, 96 of Chicken pox, 180 of Mumps, 20 of German measles, 59 of Scabies, and 66 of Gastro-enteritis.

DIPHTHERIA.—There was a considerable reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria notified—from 50 to 36. There were no deaths.

### IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued to be carried out during the year at the Clinic which was established by the Borough Council at the Infant Welfare Centre, Cornwall Avenue, in March 1946, and also at the three Day Nurseries in the Borough. Similarly there was a continuance by the School organisation of their activities in this direction. Responsibility for this phase of our public health work passed to the London County Council on the transfer to them of the health services, notwithstanding the close association of this work with other activities in connection with the prevention and control of infectious disease which still remain with the Borough Council. During the early part of the year it was found possible to introduce at the Welfare Centre the use of a combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunising agent giving immunity against both diseases by a single course of injections. It is understood that this combined form of prophylactic treatment has been continued by the London County Council. The following table gives details of the number of children immunised during the year but it is not possible to



distinguish between those who received the combined form of treatment and others.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation.			Total number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.
Under 5	5—14 years	Total	
1st half of year 571	249	820	85
*2nd half of year 523	50	573	61

\*Figures supplied by London County Council Divisional Medical Officer.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 117 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 106 of these associated with the respiratory tract, 11 being in the non-respiratory group. The names of 755 patients were recorded as remaining on the register at the 31st December.

The Tuberculosis Visitors paid 2,404 visits to patients during the period ending on the 4th July, 1948, when their services were transferred to the London County Council.

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of the new cases :

PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS.														
Age Periods	0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total
Respiratory, Males ...	—	—	2	3	2	6	5	14	9	12	9	4	—	66
Respiratory, Females ...	1	2	1	1	2	6	8	10	4	1	3	1	—	40
Non-Respiratory, Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	4
Non-Respiratory, Females	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	7

Grants of extra nourishment in the form of milk, ovaltine or invalid meals continued to be made during



the first half of the year when 141 grants were made to 47 necessitous patients.

## TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the London Chest Hospital which has been progressively operating since 1917 has ceased to be the responsibility of the Borough Council and has been handed over for dual control by the Regional Hospital Board and the London County Council. During the first half of the year there had been a steady increase in the volume of the work as is shown in the following table :

New patients examined	...	...	...	449
Number found to be suffering from tuberculosis				68
Attendances of old patients	...	...	...	1537
Contacts examined	...	...	...	165
Home visits by Clinical Tuberculosis Officer	...			32
Cases referred to Hospital Departments :				
Out-patients	...	...	...	20
X-ray	...	...	...	988
Throat	...	...	...	2
Surgeons	...	...	...	9
Artificial Pneumothorax Clinic (attendances)	...			518
Sputum examinations :				
Positive	...	...	...	54
Negative	...	...	...	303

DISINFECTION.—Although reduced in volume compared with pre-war experience, a substantial amount of disinfection was carried out : 890 rooms and 10,828 articles being dealt with, while 173 articles were destroyed by request.

**SCABIES AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.**—The Personal Cleansing Station provided facilities for the treatment of Scabies for 23 men, 29 women and 18 children, who made 178 attendances. In addition 24 men, 37 women and 8 children received treatment for vermin making 76 attendances. The persons' clothing was disinfected in every case.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.**—The arrangements with the Clinical Research Association for bacteriological examinations in connection with suspected infectious disease were continued. The following table shows work done.

			Disease Suspected	Examined	Found Positive
Throat and nasal swabs			Diphtheria	359	9
Sputum ... ..			Tuberculosis	22	1
Faeces ... ..			Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	17	8



# SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

The following table shows the number and nature of the samples of food taken and analysed during the year :  
 SUMMARY OF ANALYST'S REPORTS.

ARTICLE.	Samples taken formally			Samples taken informally			Total number of samples taken.
	No. taken	Genuine	Adulterated	No. taken	Genuine	Adulterated	
Milk ... ..	103	103	—	21	21	—	124
Sterilized Milk ... ..	3	3	—	1	1	—	4
Butter ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cheese ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Vinegar ... ..	55	49	6	30	29	1	85
Acetic Acid ... ..	1	1	—	2	2	—	3
Pepper ... ..	—	—	—	6	6	—	6
Salad Oil ... ..	3	1	2	—	—	—	3
Salad Cream ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Sauce ... ..	—	—	—	4	4	—	4
Curry Powder ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Herbs ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Sage and Onion Stuffing	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Gravy Powder ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Barley Flour ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Batter Flour ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Baking Powder ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Custard Powder ... ..	—	—	—	4	4	—	4
Custard Sauce ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Dessert Powder ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Sponge Mixture ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Lemon Flavouring ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Lemonade Powder ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Lemonade Tablets ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Tapioca ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Tea ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Teatime Tablets ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Jam ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Sweets ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Fruit Juice ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Ice Cream Powder ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Cordials ... ..	14	14	—	8	8	—	22
Ginger Wine Essence ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Drinking Chocolate ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Chocolate Spread ... ..	—	—	—	4	4	—	4
Ginger Spread ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Veron Spread ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Yeastril ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Sausages ... ..	9	9	—	2	2	—	11
Sausage Meat ... ..	2	2	—	1	1	—	3
Sausage Rolls ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Savouries ... ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	2
Whale Sausages ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meat Pies ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Meat Paste ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Cooking Fat, unrationed	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Frying Oil ... ..	4	4	—	—	—	—	4
Teaseed Oil ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Gelatine ... ..	—	—	—	3	3	—	3
Gin ... ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	2
Rum ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whiskey ... ..	7	6	1	—	—	—	7
Drugs ... ..	3	2	1	22	22	—	25
TOTALS ... ..	211	201	10	146	144	2	357

The Public Analyst reports on the work done during the year as follows.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR 1948.

During the year 1948, 357 samples were examined under the Food and Drugs Act, 211 formal and 146 informal.

All samples were submitted by the Inspector.

No samples were submitted by the public under the Act.

Twelve samples were found to be adulterated, 10 formal and 2 informal.

The adulteration was at the rate of 3.4%.

The rate of adulteration in the Borough for the past ten years was as follows :

Year.	Number of Samples Examined.				% of Adulteration.	
1948	...	...	357	...	...	3.4
1947	...	...	316	...	...	5.4
1946	...	...	571	...	...	4.5
1945	...	...	572	...	...	3.3
1944	...	...	500	...	...	6.4
1943	...	...	520	...	...	3.1
1942	...	...	569	...	...	3.9
1941	...	...	557	...	...	6.5
1940	...	...	557	...	...	3.2
1939	...	...	717	...	...	3.9
Average			524			4.4



One hundred and twenty-four samples of fresh milk were examined, 103 formal and 21 informal.

There was no adulteration.

The milk adulteration in the Borough for the past ten years was as follows :

Year.	Number of Samples Examined.				% of Adulteration.	
1948	...	...	124	...	...	—
1947	...	...	107	...	...	1.0
1946	...	...	171	...	...	2.3
1945	...	...	171	...	...	1.2
1944	...	...	164	...	...	2.4
1943	...	...	147	...	...	—
1942	...	...	149	...	...	0.7
1941	...	...	213	...	...	3.3
1940	...	...	210	...	...	3.8
1939	...	...	257	...	...	2.7
Average			171			1.7

### STERILIZED MILKS.

Four samples of sterilized milk were examined, 3 formal and 1 informal.

There was no adulteration.

### DRUGS.

Twenty-five samples of drugs were examined, 3 formal and 22 informal.

One formal sample was adulterated.

### PRESERVATIVES.

There was no contravention of the Preservatives Regulations.

Other samples examined for the Public Health Department were :

Twenty samples of Heat Treated Milk, 11 sterilized and 9 Pasteurised.

These were all satisfactory.

### SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD, &c.

During the year, 8 bacteriological or special chemical examinations were made as follows :

Ice Cream...	...	...	...	...	6
Dinner	...	...	...	...	1
Water from deep well	...	...	...	...	1

### UNSOUND FOOD.

The number of occasions on which unsound food was condemned by the Food Inspectors was 276.

### INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The following premises in which food is prepared or deposited for sale were supervised and inspected by the staff of the department.

	Inspections	Notices served
Milkshops ...	298	31
Poultry slaughterhouses ...	132	2
Butchers ...	296	19
Fish shops ...	95	7
Restaurants ...	315	26
Bakehouses ...	148	17
Ice Cream Vendors ...	261	13
Total ...	1,545	115



## FOOD POISONING.

During the year 10 cases of food poisoning were notified. Three cases were alleged to be due to pie or stew which had been eaten by the children at a school dinner, but were exonerated as it was found that many other children had partaken of the same food without ill effect. The actual source of the infection remained unidentified. The children soon recovered. In 2 cases fried fish was found to be responsible, in 1 case sausage, 1 case chopped liver, 1 case corned beef, and 2 cases were later found to be associated with a case of paratyphoid.

The following report which was prepared and submitted to the Public Health Committee towards the end of the year and which has been amplified by the addition of statistics for 1948, gives a general idea of the incidence of food poisoning in the Borough during recent years.

1948	10	...	1948	10	...	1948	10
1947	28	...	1947	28	...	1947	28
1946	20	...	1946	20	...	1946	20
1945	7	...	1945	7	...	1945	7
1944	25	...	1944	25	...	1944	25
1943	22	...	1943	22	...	1943	22
1942	24	...	1942	24	...	1942	24
1941	41	...	1941	41	...	1941	41
1940	50	...	1940	50	...	1940	50

This very satisfactory position in my opinion is due to the fact that the majority of cases which occurred during the year 1948 were due to the consumption of a variety of articles. In some cases the food was prepared by the notifying practitioner.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.  
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

### FOOD POISONING.

In view of the references which have recently appeared in the Press regarding an increase in the incidence of food poisoning outbreaks in this country, I have thought it proper to report to the Committee on the position in this Borough. Notwithstanding one or two very mild outbreaks, particulars of which I give later in this report, I am happy to say that so far Bethnal Green has been exceptionally free from any very serious outbreak.

Food poisoning, it will be remembered, first became notifiable under the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1932, and later the provisions in this Act were re-enacted in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, when food poisoning and suspected cases of food poisoning became notifiable throughout the country.

Since notification became compulsory 17 years ago only 261 cases have been reported. The yearly incidence is shown in the following table :

1932	—	41	...	1941	—	4
1933	—	34	...	1942	—	4
1934	—	25	...	1943	—	4
1935	—	27	...	1944	—	5
1936	—	16	...	1945	—	7
1937	—	29	...	1946	—	3
1938	—	28	...	1947	—	Nil.
1939	—	13	...	1948	—	10
1940	—	11	...			

The figures for 1932 include 14 cases which occurred following a wedding party where the guests had all partaken of a dish containing chopped liver. The remaining cases occurred singly and were due to the consumption of a variety of articles. In some



cases the food poisoning was merely suspected by the notifying practitioner.

In 1946, in addition to the 3 notified cases, a report was received from a local restaurant that several of the diners there had been suffering from what was suspected to be a mild form of food poisoning. An investigation was carried out, as a result of which sliced cooked pork was suspected to be the cause. A sample of the pork was submitted to the Council's bacteriologist but no organisms of the Food Poisoning groups were found. The presence of B.Coli, however, seemed to indicate that contamination had taken place after the meat had been cooked.

A further mild outbreak occurred in 1947 at a school in the Borough. Eleven of the teaching staff and some 20 to 30 children were affected six hours after the meal. Two of the teachers complained of double vision, but in most of the cases abdominal pain and diarrhoea were the chief symptoms. These symptoms passed off rapidly and the patients soon recovered.

The meal consisted of mutton and vegetables including tinned beetroot.

A sample meal was submitted for bacteriological examination. The mutton was found to have an unpleasant odour and putrefaction had commenced when the sample was received at the Laboratory. The organisms discovered were of the intestinal type and suggested contamination by excreta. It was not possible to indicate which item of the food was responsible for the outbreak as they had been in contact with each other and cross contamination had evidently occurred.

No formal notifications were received and it was therefore assumed that the patients recovered without having to seek medical advice.

This very satisfactory position, in my opinion, is due to the cumulative effect of the activities of the Public Health Department in such matters as the destruction of rats and the war on flies, together with the continuous supervision exercised over food premises.

In addition, for some years past it has been the practice to accept the surrender of food from individual tradesmen who, realising the danger of exposing for sale a doubtful commodity, prefer this course to the taking of risks to themselves and probably also their customers. This spirit of co-operation, together with the greater trust and friendly relationship which now exist between tradesmen and the Food Inspectors, may be to some extent the reason why the people of this Borough have for so many years enjoyed freedom from any serious outbreak of food poisoning.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES PORTER.

29th October, 1948.

Medical Officer of Health.



## SANITARY CONDITIONS.

The main items in the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, apart from food, which is separately reported, during the year were :

Visits to houses arising from :

Notifiable infectious diseases ...	679
Non-notifiable diseases ...	36
Complaints as to sanitary conditions ...	4,267
Food poisoning ...	7

Inspections of :

Factories ...	1,802
Milkshops ...	233
Other food premises ...	985
Outworkers' houses ...	201
Tenement houses... ..	45
Common Lodging houses ...	3
Drainage work ...	3,316
Smoke observations ...	1
Enquiries with regard to Housing... ..	1,432
Other inspections and special work	4,096
Re-inspections ...	12,944
Total ...	30,047

Nuisances were abated at 2,856 premises, as compared with 1,906 in 1947. The clerical staff prepared 3,755 Preliminary notices and 1,553 Nuisance notices.

In addition 2,466 letters were sent out by the Department in connection with insanitary conditions and 1,008 in connection with housing applications.

The sanitary defects which gave rise to the foregoing action covered the following matters :

Dirty rooms	...	...	...	7,820
Defective drains and choked w.c's...				701
Defective and dirty w.c's	...	...	...	1,732
Defective water supply	...	...	...	368
Defective paving	...	...	...	232
Defective gutters and rain water pipes	...	...	...	905
Defective roofs	...	...	...	1,779
Dampness	...	...	...	1,534
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	211
Other defects	...	...	...	6,166
Total				<hr/> 21,448 <hr/>

As will be seen from the appended list of legal proceedings, it was necessary to take such measures to enforce compliance with some notices.

**DRAINAGE.**—Plans submitted and approved : 29.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—As the great bulk of the water used in the borough comes from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board and is frequently tested it does not call for special comment. It is, however, interesting to report that there are 7 wells in the borough. Two of them have not been used for some years, 2 are used as a supplementary supply for industrial purposes, 2 are attached to the Council's Public Baths, and the other 1 is attached to a local hospital and is used for all purposes.

Seventeen certificates were issued in respect of the satisfactory supply of water to 370 new premises.



Notice was sent to the Metropolitan Water Board of observed waste of water in 321 cases.

**RENT RESTRICTION ACTS.**—As a result of applications by tenants and following inspection of their houses, 32 certificates of disrepair were issued under the above Acts. In 8 cases the owner subsequently made application for a certificate to the effect that the repairs had been satisfactorily carried out and these were granted.

**RATS AND MICE.**—Investigations were made into 190 complaints of rat infestation received during the year and in most cases tests of the drainage of the premises affected were carried out by the drainage staff under the supervision of the sanitary inspectors.

The two rodent operatives were fully employed during the year and baiting and poisoning were carried out on 372 premises with highly satisfactory results.

Baiting of the sewers was undertaken during April and again in December. In all 1,291 sewer manholes were baited with positive results in 618 cases and it is estimated that at least 2,000 rats were killed.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936— ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING

At the end of 1947, 2,113 cases of overcrowding were recorded in the Department. During the year, 361 new cases were discovered making a total of 2,474. By the end of 1948 (mostly by reason of a general review of old outstanding cases) this total had decreased to 997, 1,477 cases having been removed from the records for the following reasons :

	Families.	Equiv. Adults.
Rehoused by L.C.C. ... ..	359	1,757
Rehoused by Borough Council ...	26	137
Removed—mostly without trace ...	1,036	4,496
No longer overcrowded by reason of altered circumstances ... ..	56	312
	1,477	6,702

The 997 overcrowded cases remaining at the end of 1948 comprised 5,310 equivalent adults.

Applicants for London County Council accommodation who live in overcrowded conditions or have sufficiently serious medical reasons continue to be recommended for preferential consideration. During the year 361 cases of overcrowding and 46 cases on medical grounds were so recommended.

The system of notifying the owner or other responsible person of the provisions of the Act relating to overcrowding has been continued in all known cases where overcrowding of premises had been abated. Approximately 270 letters have been written in this connection.



FACTORIES.—Inspections and re-inspections of factory premises numbered 2,701 and led to 458 notices being served for sanitary defects.

MORTUARY.—The Council's Mortuary is now occupied and staffed by the Shoreditch Borough Council and serves both boroughs. During the year 290 bodies were received there and 263 post mortem examinations were made.

AGED AND INFIRM PERSONS.—A number of enquiries were made by the sanitary inspectors into the conditions under which aged and infirm persons were living, but in no case was it necessary to take legal action to enforce removal to hospital. It was, however, possible to arrange for removal voluntarily in several cases.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year, it was found necessary to take out 33 summonses to enforce compliance with nuisance notices, with the following results :

Withdrawn, upon payment of costs :

£1 10s. 6d.	...	...	...	...	1
£1 11s. 6d.	...	...	...	...	17
£2 2s. 0d.	...	...	...	...	7

Nuisance orders made (with fines and costs amounting to £11 4s. 0d.)	...	6
--	-----	---

Non-compliance with Nuisance order :

Fine of £2	...	...	...	...	1
Withdrawn	...	...	...	...	1

In other cases the results were as follows :

	Fines			Costs		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
4 Offences in connection with the sale of vinegar...	3	0	0	26	5	0
4 Offences in connection with the sale of bread ...	5	0	0	12	5	0
2 Offences in connection with the slaughtering of goats ... ..	10	0	0	3	3	0
4 Summonses in connection with the sale of Olive Oil	Dismissed					

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year, it was found necessary to take out 33 summonses to enforce compliance with nuisance notices, with the following results:

1948 comprised 5,310 equivalent adults.

Withdrawn, upon payment of costs:

Applicants for London County Council accommodation who live in overcrowded conditions and have sufficiently serious medical reasons continue to be recommended for preferential consideration. During the year 361 cases of overcrowding, to cases 165, on medical grounds were recommended.

Nuisance orders made (with fines and costs amounting to £14,125.00).

The system of requiring the owner or other responsible person of the provisions of the Act relating to overcrowding to be maintained in compliance with the Act where overcrowding of premises had been abated.

Approximately 770 letters have been written in this connection.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1948 for the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green in the County of London.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

#### PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	763	1,189	183	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	744	1,512	275	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (exclu- ding out-workers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
<b>TOTAL ...</b>		<b>1,507</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>—</b>	

† i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	(6)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	228	176	1	38	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5	2	2	1	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	2	1	—	2	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	7	6	5	1	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	3	1	—	1	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient ... ..	9	20	17	2	10	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	824	678	1	254	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	11	16	15	—	7	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	447	391	2	44	—	12
TOTAL ... ..		1,548	1,286	8	356	—	



# OUTWORK.

PART VIII OF THE ACT. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing { Making, etc. ...	13	321	—	—	4	3	—	13
apparel { Cleaning & washing	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Household linen ...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Curtains & furniture hangings	17	76	—	—	—	—	—	17
Furniture and upholstery ...	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Electro-plate ...	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
File making ...	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Brass and brass articles ...	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Fur pulling ...	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Iron & steel cables & chains	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Iron & steel anchors & grapnels	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Cart gear ...	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Locks, latches, and keys ...	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Umbrellas, etc. ...	27	1	—	—	—	—	—	27
Artificial flowers ...	28	1	—	—	—	—	—	28
Nets, other than wire nets ...	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Tents ...	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Sacks ...	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Racquet and tennis balls ...	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Paper bags ...	33	2	—	—	—	—	—	33
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ...	34	64	—	—	4	5	—	34
Brush making ...	35	38	—	—	—	—	—	35
Pea picking ...	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	36
Feather sorting ...	37	1	—	—	—	—	—	37
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	38	5	—	—	—	—	—	38
Stuffed toys ...	39	20	—	—	1	1	—	39
Basket making ...	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	41
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...	42	3	—	—	1	1	—	42
Textile weaving ...	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	43
Lampshades ...	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
TOTAL ...		532	—	—	10	10	—	

