

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

Contributors

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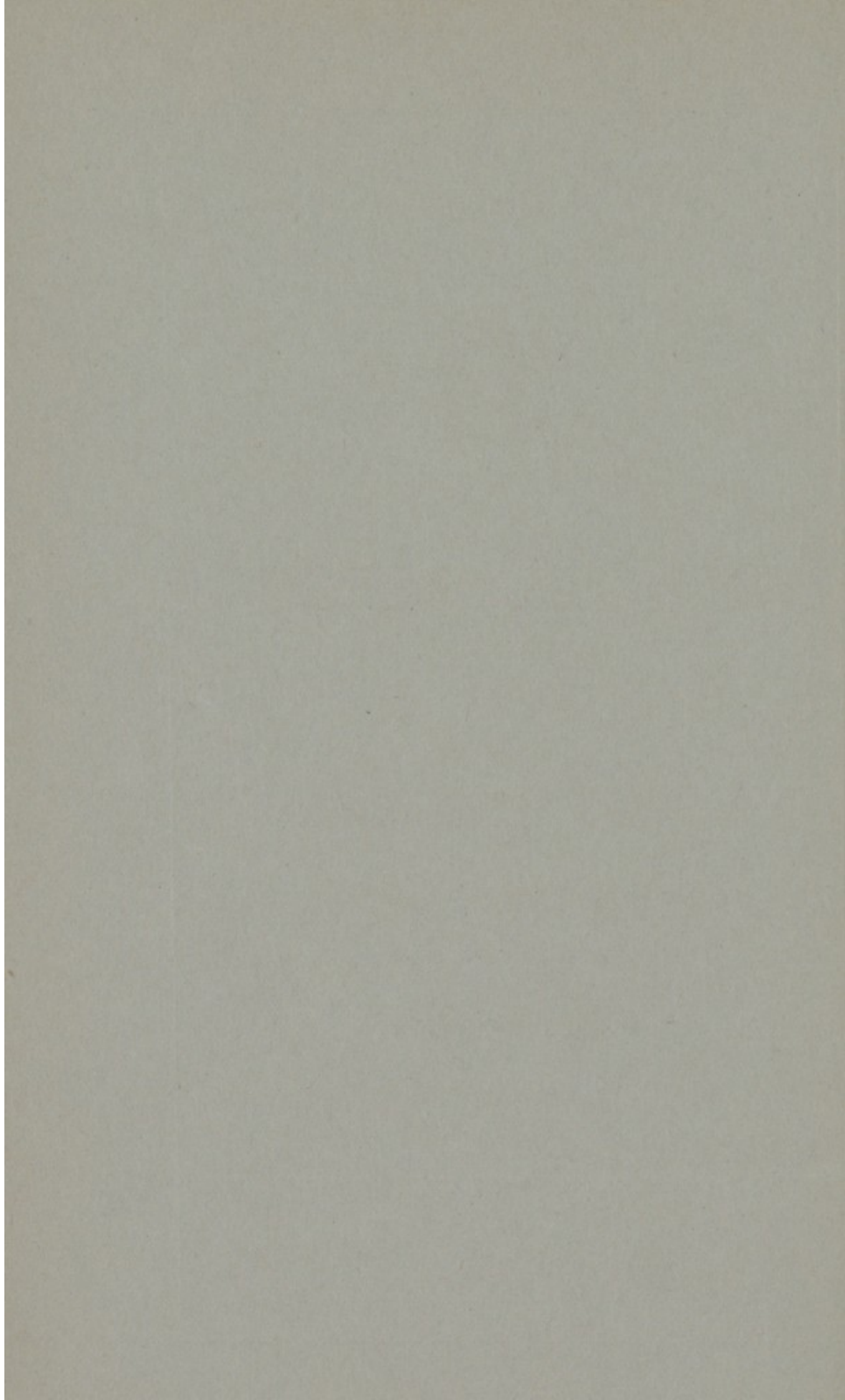
Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green



ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1949

LONDON :

Printed by VAIL & Co., LTD. (T.U.), 170 Farringdon Road, E.C.1



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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BETHNAL GREEN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. B. L. TATE, L.C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor W. R. JOHNSON

Alderman A. E. MCAULIFFE	Councillor F. E. MORGAN
Councillor Miss E. K. DEWSNAP	„ D. O'BRIEN
„ R. W. DYSON	„ F. E. SANDERS
„ T. R. ISAACS	„ A. STOCKS
„ Rev. J. McDERMOTT	„ H. J. STUBBS, J.P.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS :

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor H. E. TATE, J.P.)

Alderman J. C. CONNETT

„ H. HOOKE

„ H. P. WILSON

Councillor A. G. CLARK

„ G. A. HADLEY

COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

(DIVISION 5) HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Councillors Mrs. B. L. TATE, L.C.C. and W. R. JOHNSON

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: W. T. DONOVAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1.6.49)

C. PORTER, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P.Ed.
(Acting until 31.5.49)

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR : F. C. SHARPE**m*

DISTRICT INSPECTORS :

E. F. SWASH*
H. G. AVRIL*
W. JOHNSON*
J. B. H. JONES**m*
B. S. HARRAWAY*
J. I. MILES*

FOOD INSPECTORS :

W. H. HERON**m*
G. E. GOULD**m*

HOUSING INSPECTOR :

G. S. FREEMAN*

FACTORIES INSPECTOR :

S. R. B. SLATER**m*

CLERICAL STAFF :

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

J. E. PESTELL
S. A. WRIGHT
R. F. MARSHALL
C. W. FOXTON
J. J. PARKER

OTHER EMPLOYEES :

Disinfectors	..	..	..	..	..	4
Rodent Operatives	..	..	..	..	..	2
Others	..	..	..	..	..	6

* Certified Sanitary Inspector

m Certified Meat, etc., Inspector

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1949. Dr. C. Porter continued to hold the appointment of Acting Medical Officer of Health until I commenced duty in June, 1949.

General Standard of Health.

The general standard of health in the Borough during the year may be regarded as satisfactory. The total number of notifications of compulsorily notifiable disease received during 1949 was 974 as compared with 1,475 in 1948.

The number of cases of Acute Poliomyelitis (8) did, however, show an increase as compared with the number (1) for the previous year. No deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate for the Borough was 17.5 per 1,000 population as compared with 18.9 for the year 1948.

The recorded death rate per 1,000 population was 12.6, the standardised rate 13.7 and that for the country as a whole 11.7.

The recorded rate for the Borough is slightly higher than for 1948 (10.9), the increase being attributed mainly to the increased number of deaths from cancer and respiratory diseases.

Housing.

During the year a slum clearance survey of the whole Borough was carried out by the Public Health Department, details of which have been forwarded to the London County Council with a view to co-ordinated action being taken in relation to the areas revealed in the survey.

Food Hygiene.

Every effort has been made by officers of the Public Health Department to raise the general standard of cleanliness and personal hygiene in relation to the handling and distribution of food in the Borough. A letter was addressed to the food traders asking for co-operation in this matter which was followed by visits of the inspectorial staff when advice on any particular problem was given to the trader concerned.

I should like to express my appreciation to members of the Public Health Committee for the consideration given in all matters affecting the public health of the Borough, to my brother officials for their co-operation and to the entire staff of the Public Health Department for their assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. DONOVAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1950.

SECTION A

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	760 acres
Population, estimated mid-year	59,170
Number of inhabited houses (at 31st December, 1949) ..	15,229
Rateable Value	£434,997
General Rate	17s. 4d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,753

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births : Legitimate	496	476	972
Illegitimate	35	25	60
Rate per 1,000 estimated population			17.5
Stillbirths : Legitimate	13	5	18
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			19.9

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population—

Recorded rate	12.6
Standardised rate	13.7

Deaths of infants under one year of age—

Legitimate	14	15	29
Illegitimate	3	1	4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	31.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	66.6

TABLE I
CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE OF DEATH	Male	Female
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2. Cerebrospinal fever	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	11	6
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	6	3
9. Influenza	4	3
10. Measles	—	1
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polioencephalitis ..	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M), Uterus (F)	5	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	13	11
15. Cancer of breast	—	14
16. Cancer of all other sites	63	40
17. Diabetes	—	4
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	21	41
19. Heart disease	100	81
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	23	34
21. Bronchitis	47	26
22. Pneumonia	16	19
23. Other respiratory diseases	4	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	14	7
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	1
26. Appendicitis	1	2
27. Other digestive diseases	8	10
28. Nephritis	7	4
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1
31. Premature birth	7	3
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile disease	10	9
33. Suicide	2	1
34. Road traffic accidents	2	1
35. Other violent causes	3	6
36. All other causes	26	15
	396	352
	748	

TABLE 2

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 G.B.'s and great towns inc. London	148 smaller towns Resident Population 25,000— 50,000 1931	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Births :—				
Live births	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still births	0.39	0.47	0.40	0.37
Deaths :—				
All causes	11.7	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioen- cephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Notifications (Corrected) :—				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
Rates per 1,000 live bir ths.				
Deaths :—				
All causes under one year of age ..	32	37	30	29
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				
Notifications (Corrected) :—				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ..	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

		Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still)Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
Abortion with sepsis	.. ..	0.11	8
Abortion without sepsis	.. ..	0.05	4
Puerperal infections	.. ..	0.11	
Other maternal causes	.. ..	0.71	

TABLE 3

AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1949

		Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total
Males	..	17	3	3	24	109	240	396
Females	..	16	3	3	20	71	239	352

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (a) STAFF.

The personnel of the staff of the Department is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

For the first three quarters of the year the Laboratory facilities remained unchanged, but for the last quarter the Borough's bacteriological work was carried out as part of the National scheme by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at 134, Denmark Hill, S.E.5.

(c) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The provision of Ambulance transport in the administrative County of London has been the responsibility of the London County Council since the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which became operative on the 5th July, 1948.

2. HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals are situated in the Borough but the administration is now in the hands of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board :—

	<i>Total bed complement*</i>
Bethnal Green Hospital	650
Mildmay Mission Hospital	54
Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children (with branches at Shadwell and Banstead)	302

* These figures do not necessarily represent beds staffed and in use.

The London Chest Hospital being designated a Teaching Hospital is under the control of a Board of Governors. The Tuberculosis Dispensary established at this Hospital many years ago, which serves Bethnal Green and part of the Borough of Hackney, has continued to function during the year.

The Little Folks Home at Bexhill, which is associated with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, has a complement of 44 beds.

3. PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The Personal Health Services, formerly operated by the Borough Council, are now under the control of the Local Health Authority (the London County Council), and the following information and statistics in regard to these services for the year 1949, have been furnished by the Divisional Medical Officer (Division 5) London County Council.

(a) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Cornwall Avenue Infant Welfare Centre.

(1) Ante-natal Clinic	.. ..	Tues., Wed. and Thurs. a.m. Mon. p.m.
(2) Artificial Sunlight Clinic	.. ..	Fri. a.m. Tues. p.m.
(3) Infant Welfare Clinic	.. ..	Tues., Wed. and Fri. p.m.
(4) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic	.. ..	Wed. and Fri. p.m.
(5) Vaccination Clinic	.. ..	Wed. p.m.
(6) Whooping Cough Immunisation Clinic	.. ..	Wed. and Fri. p.m.
(7) Dental Clinic	.. ..	Thur. a.m. and p.m.

School Treatment Centres (For minor ailments).

Mowlem Street School	}	Open before and after morning and afternoon school.
Rochelle Street School		

(b) STATISTICS.

(1) Infant Welfare Centres.

Total No. of children who first attended during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were—

Under 1 year of age	.. ..	820
1—5 years of age	.. ..	52

Total number of children who attended and who at the end of the year were—

Under 1 year of age	.. ..	675
1—5 years of age	.. ..	908

Total attendances by children—

Under 1 year of age	.. ..	8,249
1—5 years of age	.. ..	2,175

(2) Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics.

Ante-natal consultations—

No. of women who attended for the first time	.. ..	402
No. of women who attended	.. ..	534
Total attendances..	.. ..	2,512

Post-natal consultations—	
No. of women who attended	34
(3) Dental Clinic.	
No. of Expectant and Nursing Mothers treated ..	288
No. of cases in which general anaesthetic for extractions was administered	29
No. of teeth extracted	219
No. of teeth filled	28
No. of pre-school children treated	84
No. of cases in which general anaesthetic for extraction was administered	24
No. of temporary teeth extracted	84
No. of temporary teeth filled	6
(4) Health Visitors.	
No. of infants under one year of age visited for the first time	1,101
Total visits to infants under 1 year of age	7,917
Total visits to children 1 to 5 years of age	9 388
No. of expectant mothers visited	525
Total visits to expectant mothers	810
(5) Child Minders (Daily Guardians).	
Statutory registrations	Nil
Voluntary registrations (at 31st December, 1949) ..	2
(6) Home and Domestic Helps.	
Total No. of cases assisted during the year—	
Maternity	43
Others	201
(7) Care of Premature Infants.	
No. of premature births during the year	74
No. of deaths under 1 month	2
(8) Immunisation.	
No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation :—	
At Cornwall Avenue Welfare Centre—	
Under 5 years of age	1,013
5—14 years of age	31
No of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection	33
(Information regarding children immunised at General Welfare Sessions, Schools and by General Practitioners is not readily available on a Borough basis.)	
(9) Vaccination.	
No. of children successfully vaccinated	100
No. found to be insusceptible to vaccination	Nil
(These figures exclude cases vaccinated by General Practitioners as the figures are compiled on a Divisional basis).	

(c) SUPPLY OF NUTRIENTS AND APPLIANCES.

Dried Milk and other nutrients have been issued from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre during the year and also small appliances such as bandages, belts, teats, etc., for which a charge has been made.

The Ministry of Food was also responsible during the year for the issue of National Dried Milk, National Milk Cocoa and Concentrated Orange Juice in accordance with their recognised scale of charges.

4. NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Arrangements have been in operation during the year whereby the London County Council has furnished to the Borough Council a weekly return of births (including stillbirths) which have been notified to them as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

During the year 1,037 live births (533 male and 504 female) were notified and in addition there were 19 stillbirths (14 male and 5 female).

These figures represent corrected totals after the addition of inward transfers and the deletion of outward transfers.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the Borough is provided by the Metropolitan Water Board and has been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses are carried out at frequent intervals by the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is not known to have any plumbo-solvent action. No complaint of contamination was received during the year.

In 161 cases notice was sent to the Metropolitan Water Board of observed wastage of water.

There are 7 wells in the Borough, two of which have not been in use for some years. The position as regards the remaining five wells is as follows :—

Attached to Council's Public Baths	..	..	..	2
Attached to a local hospital	..	..	..	1
Supplementary supply for industrial purposes	..	..	..	2

Under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, certificates of satisfactory water supply were issued in respect of 292 new dwellings.

(2) DRAINS AND SEWERS.

During the year a total of 3,727 inspections were carried out in connection with drainage works.

No legal proceedings were found necessary or were taken in respect of infringements of Drainage By-laws.

(3) SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

During 1949, a total of 32,615 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors, a summary of which will be found in Table 4.

Details of sanitary defects discovered as a result of these visits will be found in the accompanying Table 5.

TABLE 4
RECORD OF VISITS

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	450
Non-notifiable diseases	82
Complaints as to insanitary conditions	4,220
Food Poisoning	13
Aged and Infirm persons	85
Factories	1,390
Milkshops	548
Other Food premises	1,255
Outworkers' houses	225
Tenement houses	106
Common Lodging Houses	4
Drainage work	3,727
Smoke observations	1
Enquiries with regard to housing	1,090
Other inspections and special work	4,504
Slum Clearance Survey	875
Re-inspections	14,040
TOTAL	32,615

TABLE 5
SANITARY DEFECTS IN CONNECTION WITH WHICH
NOTICES WERE SERVED

Dirty rooms	7,593
Defective drains and choked W.Cs.	623
Defective and dirty W.Cs.	1,271
Defective water supply	214
Defective paving	157
Defective gutters and rain water pipes	713
Defective roofs	1,806
Dampness	1,612
Defective dustbins	172
Other defects	5,833
TOTAL	19,994

(4) LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

On 51 occasions during the year it was necessary to take legal proceedings to enforce compliance with the requirements of Notices served.

In 11 of these cases Nuisance Orders were made by the Magistrate with the infliction of fines and costs amounting to £43 14s. 0d.

Closing Orders were made by the Magistrate in 6 cases and Costs amounting to £16 16s. 0d. were awarded to the Council.

In 33 cases the summonses were withdrawn owing to the nuisances being abated prior to the date of hearing, the defendants paying costs varying from £1 11s. 6d. to £2 5s. 0d.

The proceedings in one case were adjourned sine die.

(5) RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACT.

During the year 44 certificates of disrepair were issued to tenants and 7 certificates of fitness were subsequently issued to property owners.

(6) SWIMMING BATHS.

During the year one sample of water was collected from the Council's Swimming Bath and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The sample was reported to be satisfactory and the water safe for bathing purposes.

(7) FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

During the year a total of 2,391 inspections were made to factories and workplaces in the Borough, the number of which exceeds 1,500.

Efforts have been made to improve conditions in a number of factories which as a result of the war had fallen below the standards required under the Factories Acts. The Inspector has paid special attention to the Defence Regulations with a view to preventing the conversion of dwellinghouses and flats for factory purposes.

A number of complaints with regard to noise and smoke attributable to the increasing introduction of power machinery have been made. The solution of this problem would appear to be the separation of factories and houses, a difficult matter in a densely congested Borough.

In a number of factories in the Borough canteens have been introduced and these have been periodically inspected and advice given where necessary with regard to matters of hygiene,

In addition to the ordinary routine inspections, the Inspector has made a considerable number of visits in regard to drainage and applications under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

The following Tables give details of work carried out under the Factories Act, 1937 :—

TABLE 6

INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	750	962	119	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	804	1,428	198	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	1,555	2,391	317	—

TABLE 7

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	NO. OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	186	166	—	8	—
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	2	2	—	2	—
Inadequate ventilation	7	6	—	4	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—					
(a) Insufficient	13	15	—	5	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	470	479	2	47	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	11	—	6	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	439	409	7	8	1
TOTAL	1,132	1,091	9	80	1

TABLE 8

	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing { Making, etc. .. apparel { Cleaning and wash- ing.	407	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings	123	—	—	—	—	—
Fur pulling	1	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers	3	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	58	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	12	—	—	—	—	—
Feather sorting	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ..	15	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys	10	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ..	11	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	641	—	—	—	—	—

(8) SHOPS ACTS.

The Sanitary Inspectors paid 319 visits during the year to shops in relation to sanitation, ventilation and temperature requirements. 41 notices were served in regard to unsatisfactory conditions found to exist.

(9) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

In 7 cases the furniture belonging to persons in the course of transfer to Borough Council flats was disinfested by means of hydrocyanic acid gas, by arrangement with contractors, the bedding of such persons being treated by steam disinfection at the Council's Disinfecting Station.

In addition, the following routine work was carried out by the Council's Disinfecting staff :—

No. of rooms disinfested	998
Articles of clothing, bedding, etc., submitted to steam disinfection	2,425
Articles disinfected by formalin	122
Hospital mattresses, pillows, etc., disinfected	7,375
No. of articles destroyed by request	253

All bombed sites, static water tanks and stables in the Borough were sprayed with insecticide.

(10) PERSONAL CLEANSING STATION.

During the year 52 adults and 6 children had baths, simultaneous disinfection of clothing being carried out. In addition 23 adults and 5 children received treatment for Scabies at the Station.

(11) RATS AND MICE.

193 complaints were received during the year, all of which were investigated. Systematic baiting and poisoning was carried out by the Council's Rodent Operatives in respect of 353 premises with satisfactory results. In addition a considerable number of smoke tests of the drainage of the premises was carried out.

On two occasions during 1949 all the sewers in the Borough were baited involving a total of 1,352 manholes. Positive results were obtained in 669 instances, it being estimated that at least 2,000 rats were poisoned.

(12) MORTUARY.

The Council's Mortuary at St. Matthew's Row continued to serve both the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green Boroughs. During the year 270 bodies were received there and 249 post mortem examinations were made.

(13) BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

During 1949 the Department continued to carry out its obligations under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50, and arranged for the burial of those cases in which liability rested with the Council. It was necessary to carry out this duty on 14 occasions during the year.

SECTION D

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The Public Health Department was confronted in the immediate post-war period with the following urgent matters—the accumulated disrepair of properties, the outstanding war damage repairs and the investigation of a considerable number of applications for housing accommodation.

The difficulties associated with these matters were accentuated by shortage of staff, of materials and labour and the necessity of obtaining licences for building work. Nevertheless sufficient progress had been made in these matters to enable the Department's officers to give attention to a housing survey in relation to slum clearance. During the year consultations were held between officers of the London County Council and of this Authority as a result of which a survey was carried out by the Borough Housing Inspector. The details of the survey have been forwarded to the London County Council with a view to securing concerted action in relation to slum clearance sites in the Borough.

The survey revealed the following information :—

<i>No. of areas suitable to be dealt with as Clearance Areas</i>	<i>Properties involved</i>	<i>Persons likely to be displaced</i>
15	1,984	6,983

In addition to the above there are two large redevelopment areas which are being dealt with by the London County Council.

CLOSING ORDERS (Public Health (London) Act, 1936).

During the year, as a result of Police Court proceedings instituted by the Department, 6 Closing Orders on the undermentioned premises were made by the Magistrate :—

- 17, Old Bethnal Green Road
- 67, Punderson Gardens
- 44, Sale Street
- 100, Gibraltar Walk
- 61, Warner Place
- 20, Florida Street.

DEMOLITION ORDERS (Housing Act, 1936).

As a result of official representations, 6 Demolition Orders were made by the Council during the year, as follows :—

10, 12, 14 and 16, Venice Street
3 and 5, Peace Street.

OVERCROWDING (Housing Act, 1936).

Details of overcrowding in the Borough, and of cases where overcrowding was abated, are given below :—

				<i>No. of cases</i>
On register at end of 1948	..	..	..	997
New cases reported during 1949	..	..	..	224
				<hr/>
TOTAL	..	..	..	1,221
				<hr/>
Overcrowding abated during 1949	..	..	..	246
On register at end of 1949	..	..	..	975
				<hr/>
			<i>Families</i>	<i>Equiv. adults</i>
Rehoused by London County Council..			169	809
Rehoused by Bethnal Green Borough Council ..	..	..	13	70
Removed from register :—				
No longer overcrowded by reason of altered circumstances	..	..	34	208
Removed, mostly without trace	..	..	30	163
			<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	..	..	246	1,250
			<hr/>	<hr/>

NEW HOUSING.

During the year new housing accommodation was provided as shewn below :—

- Estate			<i>By whom provided</i>	<i>No. of tenements</i>
Dickinson House, Avebury Estate	..	..	L.C.C.	16
Torrance House, do.	..	..	do.	8
Cobb House, do.	..	..	do.	8
Cheylesmore House, do.	..	..	do.	8
Swinton House, do.	..	..	do.	16
Barnard House, Teesdale Estate	..	..	do.	17
Thornaby House, do.	..	..	do.	48
Gainsford House, do.	..	..	do.	17
Stapleford House, do.	..	..	do.	17
Grindall House, Collingwood Estate	..	..	do.	82
Redmill House, do.	..	..	do.	25
			<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	..	..	..	262
				<hr/>

In addition to the above the Bethnal Green Borough Council has been responsible for the erection of flats on the Rogers Estate. 70 flats have been completed during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling houses are submitted in the following tabular form :—

Total number of houses in the Borough 15,229

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 4,765 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 18,805 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.. .. . | 16 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 44 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 16 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 4,242 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	784
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 3,457 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :— | |
| (a) By Owners | 2,871 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | 6 |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Areas	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure	Nil

RE-HOUSING PROGRAMME.

The following statement shows the number of families and persons accommodated by the Housing Committee to the 31st December, 1949.

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Council flats	8	8	31
Prefabricated houses—hutments ..	8	8	28
Requisitioned properties	46	55	170
TOTAL	62	71	229

At the end of the year there were approximately 2,600 applications for re-housing outstanding.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

(1) *Inspection of premises.*

During the year a total of 537 visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors to dairies and other premises in the Borough used in connection with the distribution of milk. In 27 instances unsatisfactory conditions were found to exist and appropriate action was taken.

(2) *Registration and Licensing.*

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and Regulations under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as amended by the 1944 Act became operative on 1st October, 1949, and these enactments brought about a variation in the law relating to the registration of dairies and dairymen and to the issue of Licences authorising the use of special designations in connection with the sale of certain milks.

Details of registrations and licences issued during the year are given in the following tables.

TABLE 9

	Number of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (Subsequent to 1.10.49)
Dairies	18
Distributors :—	
(a) Inside the Borough	104
(b) Outside the Borough	28

TABLE 10

	NUMBER OF LICENCES ISSUED UNDER						
	Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946 (Prior to 1.10.49)			Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 (Subsequent to 1.10.49)			
	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited
Dealers' Licences ..	21	19	3	106	42	12	6
Dealers' Supplementary Licences	5	5	—	8	4	1	—
TOTAL ..	26	24	3	114	46	13	6

(3) *Milk Sampling.*

Eighty-two formal samples and 43 informal samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination, all of which were reported to be genuine.

In addition 15 samples of heat-treated milk were dealt with, details of which are given below.

TABLE 11

Class of Milk	No. tested	Phosphatase test		Meth : Blue test		Turbidity test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	6	6	—	6	—	—	—
Heat treated (Prior to 1.10.49)	9	9	—	9	—	—	—
Sterilised (Subsequent to 1.10.49)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	15	15	—	15	—	—	—

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 2,019 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other premises where food is sold, prepared for sale or stored. In this connection 115 notices were served in relation to unsatisfactory conditions found to exist.

Further details are given in the following table.

TABLE 12
INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

Premises	Inspections	Notices served
Milkshops	537	27
Poultry Slaughterhouses ..	125	1
Butchers	316	21
Fried Fish Shops	67	6
Fish Curers	58	3
Restaurants	301	19
Bakehouses	130	22
Ice-Cream premises	361	13
Other food premises	124	3
TOTAL	2,019	115

(c) UNSOUND FOOD.

On 267 occasions during the year unsound food was examined by the Food Inspectors and appropriate action taken. Details are given in the following Table.

TABLE 13
UN SOUND FOOD

Description of Article	Tons	Quantity	
		Cwts.	lbs.
Continental sausages	1	12	—
Meat		17	3
Fish		11	77 and 1 box
Potatoes		6	28
Whelks		2	—
Offal		1	111
Flour machine sweepings		1	70
Rabbits		1	25
Butter		1	19
Barley		1	—
Cheese			89½
Sweets			62½
Raisins			50
Sultanas			30
Ice-Cream powder			28
Macaroni			22
Bacon			18
Vermicelli			14
Cherries			6
Chocolate			1
Suet			1
	3	18	95

Other foodstuffs.

Eggs	30
Bottled apples	228 jars
Paste	10 "
Jam	3 "
Meat paste	2 "
Honey spread	1 "
Salad cream	24 bottles and 14 jars
Fruit	1 bottle
Coffee	1 "
Sauce	1 "
Mayonnaise	1 "
Beetroots	20 sacks
Winkles	2 "
Gherkins	18 tins
Syrup	8 "
Dried eggs	2 "
Mincemeat	1 "
Biscuit wafers	1 "
Milk	1,041 "
Meat	1,844 "
Vegetables	283 "
Fruit	159 "
Fish	127 "
Soup	105 "
Jam	37 "
Puddings	12 "
Apple puree	12 cases and 2 jars
Cereal flakes	9 packets
Kippers	1 box
Mussels	1 bag

In addition 5 cwt. of foodstuff was found to be unfit for human consumption following a fire at the premises.

(d) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

A total of 335 samples (160 formal and 175 informal) were taken during the year and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. Two of the formal samples and one informal sample were found to be adulterated,

TABLE 14
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	81	81	—	42	42	—	123
Sterilised milk	1	1	—	1	1	—	2
Butter	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Cheese	1	1	—	1	1	—	2
Vinegar	40	39	1	12	12	—	52
Acetic Acid	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Dripping	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Pepper	—	—	—	3	3	—	3
Sauce	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Salad Oil	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Salad Cream	1	1	—	13	13	—	14
Culinary powders	—	—	—	4	4	—	4
Mixed herbs	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Sage and onion stuffing ..	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Tea seed oil	2	2	—	—	—	—	2
Spices	—	—	—	5	5	—	5
Dessert powders	—	—	—	5	5	—	5
Pudding mixture	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Pastry mix	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Semolina	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Soya flour	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Coffee	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Table jellies	—	—	—	3	3	—	3
Sweets	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Orange substitute	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Ice-cream	—	—	—	6	6	—	6
Cordials	4	3	1	5	5	—	9
Cyda	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Soft drink squares	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Fruit juice	1	1	—	1	1	—	2
Black currant syrup	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cocktail tonic	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Lemonade tablets	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Lemonade crystals	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Fizzade	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Vita crunch	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Chocolate spread	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Sandwich spread	1	1	—	3	3	—	4
Canned grapes	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Sausages	10	10	—	5	5	—	15
Sausage meat	3	3	—	—	—	—	3
Sausage rolls	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Rabbit sausage	1	1	—	1	—	1	2
Meat pie	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Meat paste	—	—	—	3	3	—	3
Fish paste	—	—	—	3	3	—	3
Jellied beef	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Gelatine	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Frying oil	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Gin	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whiskey	11	11	—	—	—	—	11
Drugs	—	—	—	24	24	—	24
TOTAL	160	158	2	175	174	1	335

TABLE 15

Action taken in regard to samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine.

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action	Result
92	Vinegar ..	20 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Legal Proceedings	Fined 10s. Costs 10s.
232	Cordial .. (Orange Squash)	135 parts per million of sulphur dioxide in excess of legal limit.	Letter of caution	—

In addition to the above legal proceedings were taken in the following cases which were outstanding from the previous year.

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Result of Proceedings
356	Vinegar ..	10 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Fined £2 Costs £3 3s. 0d.
335	Whiskey ..	Contained 11.4 per cent. of added water.	Dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act. Costs £7 7s. awarded to Council.

(e) PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD.

All samples of food submitted to the Public Analyst are examined as a routine measure for the presence of a preservative and in the 335 cases so examined in no case was a preservative found to be present.

(f) ICE-CREAM.

The following table gives particulars with regard to registration.

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	32
Storage and/or distribution	2
Sale of ice-cream (other than pre-packed)	24
Sale of ice-cream (pre-packed)	63
TOTAL	<u>121</u>

A total of 361 visits to these premises were made during the year and 13 notices were served in relation to unsatisfactory conditions found to exist.

Out of a total of 15 samples, 14 were submitted to the Methylene Blue test and graded as follows :—

Grade 1 ..	..	..	2
„ 2 ..	..	..	8
„ 3 ..	..	..	4
„ 4 ..	..	..	Nil

In one case the test could not be carried out owing to the presence of colouring matter.

(g) FOOD POISONING.

There were no major outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. 14 notifications were received, the illness alleged to be due to the consumption of the following foods :—

Ice-Cream ..	..	..	4
Fish ..	..	..	7
Tinned peas ..	..	..	2
Salt beef ..	..	..	1

(h) CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Having regard to Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 12/49 and in accordance with recommendations contained therein, a letter was addressed to the occupiers of food premises in the Borough in which the importance of maintaining a high standard of cleanliness and personal hygiene was emphasised, particularly in relation to persons engaged in the sale, distribution and storage of food generally. An appeal was made for the co-operation of all such persons in the Borough. In addition the letter embodied a number of practical hints and advice with regard to food hygiene. The letter was followed up by visits and interviews at which advice was given.

Model bye-laws framed by the Ministry of Food in relation to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air are awaiting adoption by the London County Council.

(i) MILK DELIVERED TO SCHOOLS.

The arrangements for sampling milk delivered to London County Council Schools continued and during the year a total of 18 samples were taken. All were submitted for chemical examination and were returned genuine,

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of notifications received during 1949 was 974 as compared with 1,475 in 1948. Measles, Whooping Cough, Dysentery and Tuberculosis each showed a decrease, the position in regard to these diseases being as follows :—

	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Tuberculosis</i>
1948	857	195	30	117
1949	504	106	10	94

During the year 9 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified, 8 of which were confirmed. No case proved fatal. In the previous year one case only was notified and confirmed, which proved fatal.

Arrangements are in operation whereby any variation in the original diagnosis is notified by the Hospital Authorities. Table 16 which gives particulars of notifications received, is presented in its customary form but with an additional column showing the corrected figure for each disease after elimination of those cases in which the original diagnosis was not confirmed.

TABLE 16
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	NOTIFICATIONS								Total notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Corrected figures
	0-1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65+ years				
Diphtheria	1	4	8	17	2	6	—	—	38	37	1	20
Scarlet Fever	1	3	20	74	7	2	—	—	107	52	—	98
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	9	—	—	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	21
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	4	12	1	—	12
Cerebrospinal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	3	2	2	1	1	—	—	9	9	—	8
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Acute Pneumonia	—	3	6	3	3	5	11	12	43	10	2	42
Dysentery	1	1	3	1	—	2	2	—	10	8	—	4
Measles	44	79	257	120	3	1	—	—	504	54	1	399
Whooping Cough	21	15	44	26	—	—	—	—	106	11	—	103
Scabies	—	—	—	4	5	6	2	1	18	—	—	18
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	2	10	25	29	14	4	87	—	17	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	—	7	—	2	—
TOTAL	93	109	344	260	53	59	35	21	974	185	23	736

DIPHTHERIA.

Thirty-eight cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. In 18 cases (or 46.8 per cent.) the diagnosis was not confirmed, leaving a total of 20 confirmed cases. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 36 cases notified and 18 confirmed. Of the confirmed cases in 1949, 4 were reported to have been immunised. One case proved fatal in which no history of previous immunisation had been reported.

CANCER.

The number of deaths certified as being due to cancer was 150 (81 male and 69 female), as compared with a total of 116 cases (62 male and 54 female) in 1948.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 87 cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 7 non-respiratory cases.

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of these cases.

TABLE 17

	PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS													
Age periods	0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
Respiratory, males ..	1	1	2	1	2	6	4	8	11	5	8	2	1	52
Respiratory, females ..	1	-	-	3	4	4	11	7	3	1	-	1	-	35
Non-respiratory, males ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Non-respiratory, females	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	5

In addition to the above 47 other cases were added to the register, information being received from the following sources :—

Local Death Returns	4
Registrar General's Death Returns (transferable deaths)	2
Transfers from other areas	41

There were 19 deaths during the year certified as being due to Tuberculosis.

TABLE 18

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1948, variations which have taken place during the year, and the number of cases remaining on the Register on the 31st December, 1949.

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
No. of cases on register 31.12.48	319	265	84	87	755
No. of cases notified during 1949	52	35	2	5	94
Other cases added to register during 1949	29	16	3	1	49
Cases transferred from Non-pulmonary to Pulmonary	2	—	—	—	2
No. of cases removed from register during 1949	402	316	89	93	900
Cases transferred to Pulmonary from Non-pulmonary	56	39	3	10	108
	—	—	2	—	2
Remaining on register 31.12.49	346	277	84	83	790