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Contributors

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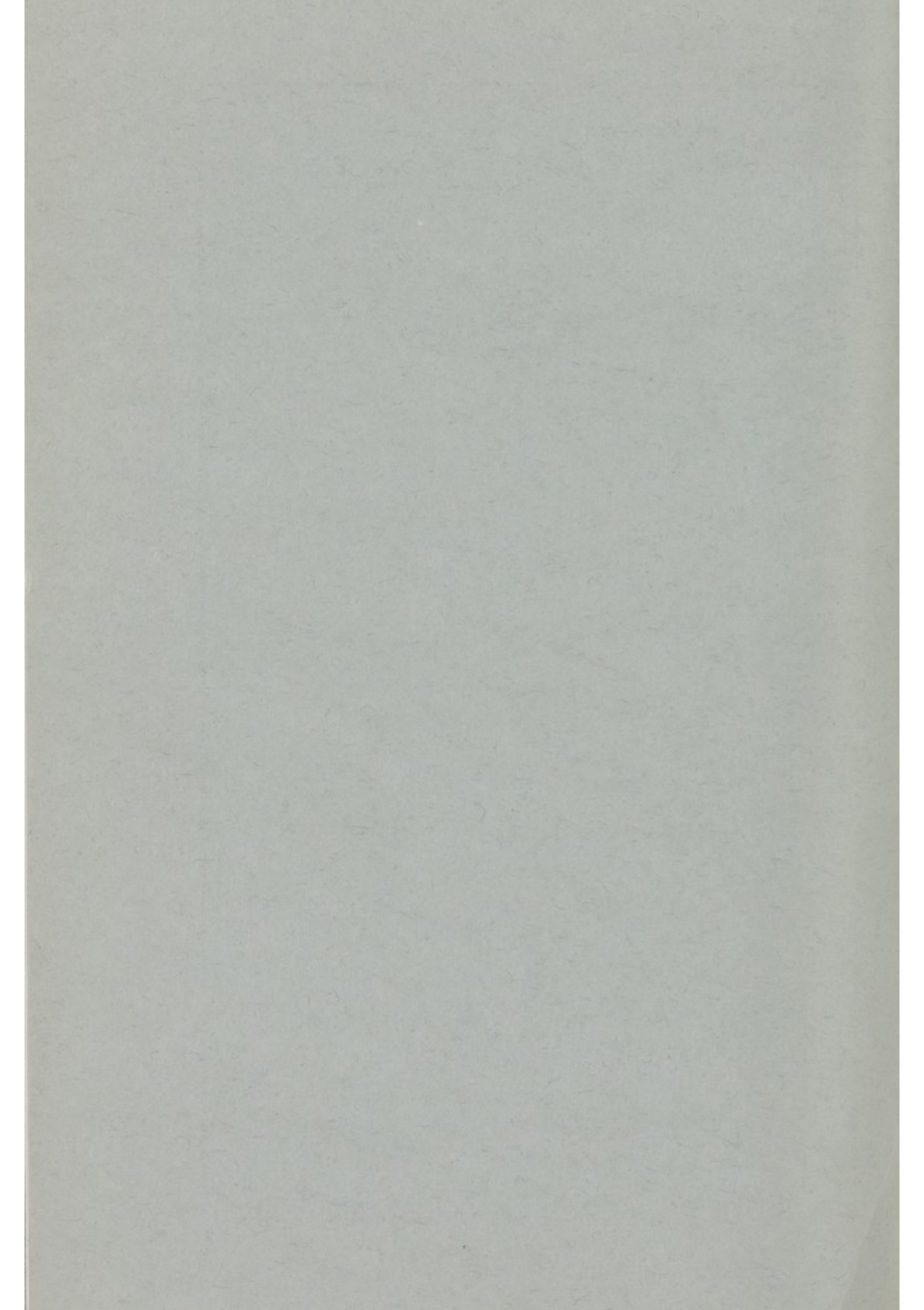
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Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green



ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1952



Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green



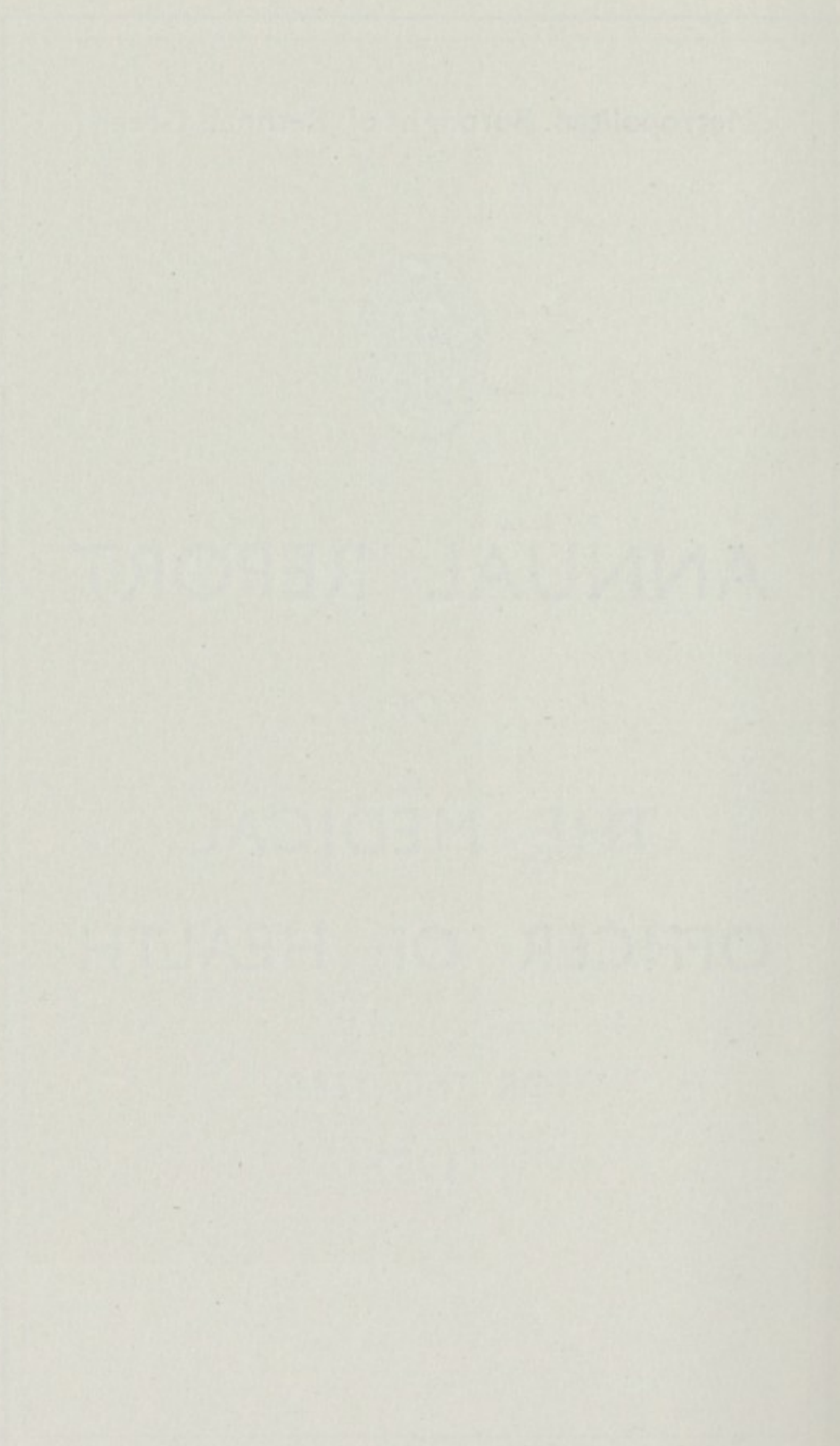
ANNUAL REPORT

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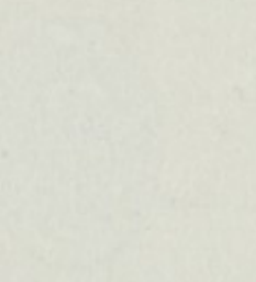
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1952



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



ANNUAL REPORT

1941

OFFICE OF HEALTH

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF

BETHNAL GREEN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor W.R. Johnson

Vice-Chairman: Councillor R.H.Hare

Alderman A.E. McAuliffe	Councillor F.E. Morgan
Councillor J.T. Denman	" F.E. Sanders, J.P.
" Miss E.K. Dewsnap	" C. Sleigh
" G.A. Hadley	" H.J. Stubbs, J.P.
" J.S. Mead	" E. Winslow

Ex-Officio Members:

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs.B.L.Tate, J.P.,L.C.C.)
Alderman H.P. Wilson, J.P.
Councillor A.G. Clark
" C.F.F. Fleet
" A. Gilbert
" A. Stocks
" H.E. Tate, J.P.

Council's Representatives on the London County Council
(Division 5) Health Committee:
Councillors W.R. Johnson and R.H. Hare.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

R. DUNCAN DEWAR, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:

Senior Sanitary Inspector :	F.C. Sharpe	♂ m
Housing Inspector :	G.S. Freeman	♂
Food Inspectors :	G.E. Gould	♂ m
:	S.R. Slater	♂ m
Factory Inspector :	E.F. Swash	♂
District Inspectors :	H.G. Avril	♂
:	W. Johnson	♂
:	L. Foxley	♂ m
:	J.C. McManus	♂
:	S.J. Cassidy	♂ m
:	J.A. Harris	♂ (Resigned 5.7.52)

Administrative and Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk :	J.E. Pestell
Senior Clerk :	S.A. Wright
Assistant Clerks :	R.F. Marshall
	C.W. Foxton
	J.J. Parker (H.M. Forces)
	F.S. Frid
	Mrs. B.L. Burge
Junior Clerk :	Miss L. Driver

Other Employees:

Attendants.....	2
Disinfectors.....	4
Female Cleansing Attendant.....	1
Rodent Operatives.....	2
Drainage Staff.....	3

♂ Certified Sanitary Inspector
m Certified Meat, etc., Inspector

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BETHNAL GREEN, E.2.

June, 1953.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1952.

Bethnal Green is one of the smaller Metropolitan Boroughs with an area of 760 acres. Victoria Park, one of the largest and most beautiful of the London Parks, is mainly within the Borough and there are other smaller open spaces but the remainder of the borough is congested. With a few notable exceptions, the streets are narrow and the houses are in crowded terraces with a minimum of space at the rear and usually none in front. There is a considerable amount of light industry and, with a total of 1,463 factories, the number of factories in proportion to area is probably higher than in any other Metropolitan Borough. At one time Bethnal Green was noted for silk weaving and a number of weavers' houses still exist but the predominant trade at the present time is the manufacture of furniture. There are many very satisfactory factories with modern equipment and with good standards of hygiene but there are also many instances where houses, with or without additions, have been converted to factory use and where conditions leave much to be desired.

Very many of the dwelling houses in Bethnal Green were built 80 to 120 years ago and whilst they still provide reasonable accommodation at a modest rent where maintenance has not been neglected, the general fabric of the buildings is now wearing out and the amenities provided are far below the standard which is required at the present day.

The problems of public health in Bethnal Green are consequently mainly associated with the crowding and bad arrangement of houses, the lack of adequate lighting and ventilation, lack of modern amenities and the nuisances and disadvantages associated with the intermixture of residential and factory premises.

The Council has already done a great deal towards redeveloping areas for modern housing and with the help and co-operation of the London County Council a high proportion of the slum clearance programme for London has been allocated to Bethnal Green. In addition, the London County Council has a large housing programme for the borough, but in order to attain a good standard it would be necessary to demolish and re-build approximately three quarters of all the houses in the borough and the process of redevelopment will have to be spread over many years. The number of factories, workshops and commercial premises which are necessarily displaced by redevelopment add considerably to the difficulties and cost.

In spite of the basically bad environment in Bethnal Green as compared with most other urban areas, the health of the population as measured by death rates and the incidence of notifiable disease is satisfactory, but if it were possible to obtain a measure of the degree of good health or even an accurate measure of the amount of non-fatal illness it is likely that the picture would be less comforting.

The infant mortality rate is somewhat higher than that for the previous year, but with a small population the rate varies considerably and is unreliable as an indication of the degree of child care.

Out of approximately 11,000 children between the ages of one and fifteen years there were only 8 deaths but of these, three deaths were due to accidents and the prevention of accidents both on the road and in the home is a matter which deserves as much attention as the other preventive services.

At the other end of the scale the welfare of old people has attracted increasing attention. Whilst many children still do their utmost to provide for the happiness and well-being of their aged parents the provision of increasing community services appears, in a minority of cases, to have encouraged people to shed their responsibilities. Many old people in Bethnal Green are living in unsatisfactory circumstances and some were found to be unable to care properly for themselves and were not receiving adequate care from others. In a number of cases it was possible to persuade the old person to enter an institution or hospital and it was not necessary to resort to legal proceedings for this purpose. The London County Council, through the Home Help Service, has done an immense amount of good in providing the necessary care and attention for many of the old people and the voluntary services have done a great deal to provide for those needs which cannot adequately be met by legislation. Difficulties did occur during the year on account of the shortage of accommodation both in

hospitals and in London County Council institutions, but the officers in charge of both types of accommodation were at all times most co-operative and helpful in arranging whatever assistance was required.

The personal health services are under the control of the London County Council and will consequently be reported upon by the County Council and I have therefore included in this Report merely a summary of the clinics provided in the area together with some figures of attendances, etc., which have been kindly provided by the Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. G.O. Mitchell.

I have endeavoured in my Report to summarise the work of the Public Health Department during the year and whilst conditions expressed as figures appear to be satisfactory the actual conditions throughout the Borough are far from ideal and give little grounds for complacency.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement. My thanks are also due to the officers of the Council for their ready assistance and advice at all times and particularly to my own staff for their loyal support.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

R. DUNCAN DEWAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	760 acres
Population, estimated mid-year	57,040
Number of inhabited houses (at 31st December, 1952) ..	15,939
Rateable Value	£445,556
General Rate	22s. 8d.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,805

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births: Legitimate	490	452	942
Illegitimate	29	22	51
Rate per 1,000 estimated population			17.4
Stillbirths: Legitimate	9	7	16
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			15.8

Deaths

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.9

Deaths of infants under one year of age -

Legitimate	13	16	29
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age -

All infants per 1,000 live births	29.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000	
legitimate live births	30.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000	
illegitimate live births	N11

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 960 less than that for the previous year and, at the same time, the number of inhabited houses has increased by 112. Throughout the Borough there is an average of 358 persons for every 100 houses. This is a very satisfactory figure and shows that there is comparatively little real overcrowding in houses. The overcrowding which is not disclosed by these figures is the crowding together of the houses themselves rather than the crowding inside the houses.

The birth rate, being the number of births registered during the year per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year population, shows an increase of 0.6 over the previous year giving a figure of 17.4. Taking into account the age and sex distribution within the Borough the comparative figure is 16.5 as against 17.6 for London and 15.3 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 11.9 is 1.6 below the figure for 1951 and gives a comparative figure of 12.8 as against 12.6 for London and 11.3 for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate, being the deaths of children under the age of 1 year for every 1,000 live births registered, is 29.2 as compared with 23.8 for London and 27.6 for England and Wales. The rate for Bethnal Green is 6.7 above the figure for the previous year but, as a single death can cause a large alteration in the rate, care should be used in drawing any conclusions.

The causes of death are shown in Table 1, which follows. There continues to be a rather disquieting rise in the number of deaths from malignant growths of the lung in men, the figure being 44 as compared with 29 for the previous year. The mounting frequency of this cause of death throughout the country and particularly in London during the past few years is still being actively investigated and whilst there can be no doubt that tobacco smoking is one factor causing this increase other factors such as atmospheric pollution are receiving careful consideration.

Notification of Births

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

During the year 1,008 live births (524 male and 484 female) were notified and in addition there were 18 stillbirths (10 male and 8 female).

These figures represent corrected totals after the addition of inward transfers and the deletion of outward transfers and the difference between these figures and those set out previously is due to the fact that births must be registered only within 6 weeks and it is not uncommon for a child to be born and notified in one calendar year but not actually registered until after the New Year.

T A B L E 1

CAUSES OF DEATH

(See next page)

TABLE 1
CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	Under 1		1 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 to 75		75 and upwards		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All causes	13	16	3	1	4	1	3	2	12	12	110	65	133	84	98	126	376	306
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	1	3	-	1	2	13	6
2 Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
3 Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-	-	3	5
4 Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Meningococcal infections	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	3	2	-	4	6	12
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	1	17	2	6	1	44	4
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	6	-	10
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	4
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	7	12	16	8	5	8	30	31
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
16 Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	2	-	5	3	9
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	7	7	7	16	18	32
18 Coronary disease, angina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	14	5	16	8	13	13	44	26
19 Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	1	4	3
20 Other heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	8	13	15	12	23	34	49
21 Other circulatory disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	9	9	16	16	25
22 Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
23 Pneumonia	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	9	5	7	8	20	19
24 Bronchitis	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	5	16	12	14	11	48	28
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	2	3	2	2	-	10	4
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	4	1	1	1	10	3
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	-
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	7	-	12	-
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Congenital malformations	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	9	4	4	6	8	7	33	26
33 Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2
34 All other accidents	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	6	2
35 Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	6	-
36 Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-

S E C T I O N B

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 by the Metropolitan Water Board at frequent intervals. The water is not known to have any plumbo-solvent action. No complaint of contamination was received during the year.

Notice was sent to the Metropolitan Water Board of observed waste in 117 cases.

There are 5 wells in the Borough, as follows:-

Attached to Council's Public Baths	..	1
Attached to a local hospital	.. ..	1
Supplementary supply for industrial purposes	.. .. .	3

During the year 256 new premises were certified as having a proper and sufficient water supply.

(2) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Table 2, which follows, gives a summary of the work of the sanitary inspectors. The major portion of the work was concerned with insanitary conditions. It was not found possible nor practicable to re-institute a system of house-to-house inspection and housing inspections were carried out only on complaint followed, of course, by re-inspections where necessary.

Following the 3,142 complaints of insanitary conditions sanitary defects were found requiring the service of Intimation Notices in 2,421 cases. Of these statutory notices were required in 1,134 instances and legal proceedings were instituted in 106 cases. The main types of defects found are shown in Table 3.

In connection with the supervision of drainage works, a total of 2,010 inspections were made during the year. Only four notices were served under Section 40 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and in two instances the necessary work was carried out by the Borough Council, the expenses being recovered from the owners of the property.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings for any case of infringement of the Drainage By-laws.

The work of the inspectorial staff is necessarily reflected in the work done by the clerical staff and, in addition to the recording and preparation of the notices mentioned above, 2,531 letters were sent out by the department concerning insanitary conditions and a further 933 letters concerned housing and other public health matters.

One of the main difficulties encountered is in dealing reasonably with those properties which are old and worn out and which are scheduled, either under a Borough Council or a County Council plan, for acquisition and demolition during the next few years. It is both unreasonable and uneconomic to insist on major repairs and then shortly afterwards to pull the property down and in fact a great deal of public money has been wasted in paying for War Damage repairs to property which has since been demolished.

Whilst repairs were being paid for out of public money by the War Damage Commission, owners were willing and even anxious to comply with nuisance notices but now that a high proportion of damage attributable to enemy action has been repaired and the full cost has to be met by the owner, if an extensive notice is served the owner frequently applies to the Court for a closing order on the grounds that the cost of repairs is unreasonable. The order is usually granted because it can be shown that the expenditure is quite uneconomic. This practice is likely to persist whilst the absurd position continues to be that a new Council flat is worth say £2,000 whereas an old house, giving the same or greater accommodation but without some of the amenities, even if put into excellent repair is worth little more than the ground it is built upon.

The Public Health Department, however, is not concerned with economics but with maintaining reasonable conditions in which people can live and, in practice, an endeavour is made to keep the repairs required by a sanitary notice within such limits that the owner is not provoked into applying for a closing order, and in spite of what has been said above many owners have carried out extensive repairs when it was obviously uneconomic to do so.

(3) Supply of Dustbins

It has been the practice for many years in Bethnal Green for the owner of the house to supply the dustbin and it is only during recent times when the price of bins has increased and the ownership of property has become increasingly uneconomic that there have been objections to the continuance of this practice.

In the great majority of cases an informal notice to the owner has been sufficient to obtain the supply of a new dustbin and this has probably been assisted by the fact that the Borough Council has been able to supply a standard bin for 17/6d (now increased to £1) which is somewhat less than the price charged by private traders.

In only nine cases during the year was it necessary for the Council to consider the service of a notice under Section 105 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and in consideration of all the circumstances notice was served on the owner in six cases and on the occupier in the remaining three. In no case was an appeal lodged.

(4) Legal Proceedings

It was found necessary on 106 occasions during the year to take legal proceedings to enforce compliance with the requirements of Notices served.

In 21 of these cases Abatement Orders were made by the Magistrate with the infliction of costs amounting to £68.5s.0d. and in addition, in three instances, for non-compliance with Abatement Orders the Magistrate imposed fine and costs totalling £15. 5s. 0d. Brief details are set out below.

Abatement Orders

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Result of Proceedings</u>
26, Lanfranc Road	Non-compliance with Nuisance Notice	Abatement Order made (28 days) £3.3.0 costs
265, Brick Lane	do.	do. £6.6.0 costs
30, Burnside Street	do.	do. £3.3.0 costs
28, Morpeth Street	do.	do. do.
14, Swanfield Street	do.	do. do.
85, Warner Place	do.	do. do.
1, Squirries Street	do.	do. do.
4, Squirries Street	do.	do. do.
27, St. Peter's Avenue	do.	do. do.
12, Brierly Street	do.	do. do.
35, Wennington Road	do.	do. do.
3, Felix Street	do.	do. £2.2.0 costs

Abatement Orders (continued)

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Result of Proceedings</u>
24, Morpeth Street	Non-compliance with Nuisance Notice	Abatement Order made (28 days) £3.3.0 costs
25, Morpeth Street	do.	do. do.
16, Gosset Street	do.	do. do.
22, Code Street	do.	do. do.
90, St. Peter's Avenue	do.	do. do.
2, Kenilworth Road	do.	do. do.
51, Hemming Street	do.	do. do.
90, Collingwood Street	do.	do. do.
79, Cyprus Street	do.	Abatement Order made (56 days) £3.3.0 costs
Atlas Works, Viaduct Place.	Non-compliance with Abatement Order	£10 fine £3.3.0 costs
39, St. Jude's Road	do.	Withdrawn. Works done. No costs.
265, Brick Lane	do.	Withdrawn. Works done. £2.2.0 costs paid

Closing Orders were made by the Magistrate in 11 cases and Costs amounting to £25.4s.0d. were awarded to the Council. In addition, one Closing Order, made in 1951, was revoked by the Magistrate and £3.3s.0d. costs were paid to the Council. Brief details are set out below.

Closing Orders

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Result of Proceedings</u>
4, Victoria Place, The Oval.	Non-compliance with Nuisance Notice	Closing Order granted £3.3.0 costs
47, Mowlem Street	do.	do. do.
25, Vyner Street	do.	do. do.
10, Hollybush Place	do.	do. No costs
12, Hollybush Place	do.	do. do.
4, Wellington Row	do.	do. £3.3.0 costs
8, Crossland Square	do.	do. do.
352, Hackney Road	do.	do. do.
8, Chance Street	do.	do. No costs
30, Wennington Road	do.	do. £3.3.0 costs
31, Clarkson Street	do.	do. do.
17, St. Peter's Avenue	Proceedings for revocation of Closing Order made 13.7.51	Closing Order revoked £3.3.0 costs paid

In 70 cases summonses were withdrawn owing to the nuisances being abated prior to the date of hearing, the defendants paying expenses amounting to £113. 8s. 0d.

(5) Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts

During the year the number of certificates of disrepair issued to tenants was 35, and certificates of fitness were granted on application of property owners in 17 cases.

(6) Swimming Baths

23 samples of water were taken during the year from the Council's Public Swimming Baths and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. The reports showed that the water consistently maintained a high degree of purity.

(7) Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Factories and Workplaces in this Borough carrying on a variety of trades number 1,463 and a total of 982 inspections and re-inspections were made during the year. This small number of inspections was due to shortage of inspectorial staff, the Factory Inspector being engaged on district work.

In addition to the above, a number of visits were made 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 Acts, 1937 and 1948, during the year:-

T A B L E 4

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	622	349	49	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	838	633	119	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	1,463	982	168	-

TABLE 5

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	57	51	-	4	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	2	1	1	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	3	2	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	2	4	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	279	162	3	59	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	5	4	-	5	-
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to outwork)	127	91	6	4	-
TOTAL	475	315	10	73	-

O U T W O R K

SECTION 110

No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)

Wearing apparel (Making, etc. Cleaning and washing)	..	76
Curtains and Furniture hangings	.. .. .	84
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts		
thereof made wholly or partially of paper	.. ..	41
Brush making	... .. .	14
Chocolates and sweetmeats	.. .. .	121
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.		<u>28</u>
Total		<u>364</u>

Section 110. There was no case of default in sending list to the Council.

Section 111. There was no instance of work being carried on in unwholesome premises.

(8) Shops Acts

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors paid 139 visits to shops in relation to general sanitation, ventilation and temperature requirements. 31 notices were served in respect of unsatisfactory conditions found to exist.

(9) Disinfection and Disinfestation

The following is a summary of the routine work carried out by the disinfecting staff during the year:-

No. of rooms disinfested	.. .. .	742
Articles of clothing, bedding, etc., submitted to		
steam disinfection	.. .. .	20,075
Articles disinfected by formalin	.. .. .	300,494
Hospital mattresses, pillows, etc., disinfected	..	7,826
Number of articles destroyed by request	.. .. .	431

In addition, all bombed sites, static water tanks and stables in the borough were sprayed with insecticide as preventive measures against flies and mosquitoes during the summer months.

The furniture of 95 families removing to Borough Council flats was disinfested by means of hydrocyanic acid by arrangement with

contractors in course of transit from the previous homes, the bedding being treated by steam at the Disinfecting Station at the same time.

(10) Personal Cleansing Station

During the year, 24 adults and 6 children had baths for verminous conditions at the Personal Cleansing Station, simultaneous disinfection of clothing being carried out. The majority of adults concerned were men from a Common Lodging House. In addition, 6 adults and two children received treatment for Scabies at the Station.

During the year, the Public Health Committee approved the removal of one bath, the space to be utilized for other purposes.

Sanitary Inspectors visit and advise in all cases of Scabies and in those cases where verminous conditions persistently recur.

(11) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act gives power to the Council to require action to be taken to eradicate infestations of rats and mice, and to prevent infestations. All complaints concerning infestations are investigated and, where necessary, action taken to set traps or lay bait. No charges for this service are made in respect of dwellinghouses but the cost is charged in full in respect of business premises.

During the year, 165 complaints of infestations were received and in most cases smoke tests of the drainage of the premises affected were carried out by the Drainage Staff under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Systematic baiting and poisoning was carried out by the Rodent Operatives on 398 premises with satisfactory results.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, all sewers under the control of the Council were baited twice during the year, involving a total of 1,328 manholes. Positive results were obtained in 554 instances.

(12) National Assistance Act, 1948

Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, provision is made whereby a court of summary jurisdiction may make an order for the removal of ill, infirm or incapacitated persons who are not receiving proper care and attention.

Whilst this provision is very necessary in order to deal with unusual and very difficult cases it is one which should be resorted to only when all else has failed. Some persons feel very keenly that they should not be treated in, what appears to them, a manner which is used for criminals, merely because they are old or helpless and do not exhibit a passion for cleanliness.

A number of cases came to the notice of the Public Health Department where it was suggested that conditions would justify action under this section. Mostly they were old people living alone but there were some cases of elderly married couples. On investigation it was found that some of these people were unaware of the facilities provided by the London County Council under the Home Help Service and the provision of a Home Help solved most of the difficulties. Some of those that were aware of the service required considerable persuasion to overcome their pride and sense of independence to allow a stranger to enter their homes. In some cases it appeared that medical treatment was what was mainly required, in others, an old peoples home or institution appeared to be the only reasonable solution and apart from the difficulty of obtaining a chronic sick bed or a place in an institution it was frequently necessary to overcome the objection to entering what is still regarded by many old people as the "workhouse" or the "infirmary". In a few instances it was possible to arrange for adequate care to be provided by friends or relatives. In all cases it was possible to arrange matters by persuasion and it ~~was~~ unnecessary to resort to legal proceedings.

(13) Burial of the Dead

In accordance with Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council is responsible for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who had died or been found dead within the Borough, and where no private arrangements are being made for the disposal of the body. Authority is given to recover from the estate of the deceased person, or from any person who, under the Act, was liable to maintain the deceased immediately prior to his/her death, the expenses incurred in carrying out the duty, in so far as these expenses are not covered by any grant under the National Insurance Act, 1946.

During the year, 11 burials were arranged by the Department at a cost of £82. 14s. 6d., £55. 0s. 6d. being recovered up to the end of the year.

(14) Mortuary

The Council's Mortuary at St. Matthew's Row continued to serve both Shoreditch and Bethnal Green Boroughs. During the year 275 bodies were received there and 262 post-mortem examinations were made.

The arrangement for the use of the Mortuary by Shoreditch came into force when the Shoreditch mortuary was destroyed by enemy action. The arrangement provides that the Mortuary Attendant shall be employed and paid by the Shoreditch Borough Council and that the Bethnal Green Borough Council shall maintain the Mortuary premises and equipment.

The Mortuary is not satisfactory in all respects. It is an old building which does not lend itself to easy modernisation and there is no provision for refrigeration. Proposals for alternative arrangements are under consideration.

(15) Offensive Trades

There are five premises in the Borough registered for the purpose of carrying on offensive trades. One being the business of a fur skin dresser and four poultry slaughterhouses. During the year, 88 visits of inspection were made to these premises.

One premises previously licensed for the slaughter of cattle or horses has not been in use since 1939.

(16) Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933

The provisions of the Act and the Poisons Rules relating to the sale of poisons specified in Part II of the Poisons List were administered during the year.

During the year, the names of 56 persons (46 retentions and 10 new applications) were entered on the Council's list of Persons entitled to sell Part II Poisons.

All applications are investigated to ensure compliance with the Act and Poisons Rules.

(17) Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act provides for the licensing by the local authority of all premises used for the manufacture and/or storage of filling materials to which the Act applies, and for the registration of certain premises where such materials are used in upholstering, stuffing or lining of bedding, toys, baby carriages, etc.

There are no premises in the Borough where rag, flock or other filling materials are manufactured but 40 premises are registered for the use of such materials in the trades conducted therein.

During the year, one sample of rag flock and one sample of coir fibre were submitted for examination, both of which were reported by the prescribed analyst as satisfactory.

(18) Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st April, 1952, provides for the regulation of the sale of animals. As from the operative date, no person may keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by the Borough Council and the Act lays down the conditions under which a licence is granted, which include accommodation for the animals, the feeding thereof, their age at sale, steps to be taken in regard to infectious disease and in case of fire or other emergency. The Act prohibits the sale of animals as pets in any part of a street or public place except at a stall or barrow in a market and it prohibits the sale of pets to children under 12 years of age.

The Act presented particular difficulties in this Borough because of the unique dog market in "Club Row" where trading in dogs on Sunday mornings had been carried on for a considerable number of years, particularly by persons parading in the market with one or more pet animals for sale. Notwithstanding all the difficulties, it was possible by means of posters, visits by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the excellent co-operation of the Police and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to bring to the attention of all persons trading in the market the provisions of the Act and, in the main, to prevent illegal trading and to improve conditions under which pet animals are sold.

During the year, 20 licences were granted in respect of pet shops and 56 licences in respect of stalls.

It was necessary on three occasions to take legal proceedings against offenders under the Act, the Magistrate inflicting fine and costs totalling £3.1s.0d. in one case, in another the defendant was discharged and in the third case it was not possible to effect service of the summons on the defendant. In addition, 40 warnings (33 written and 7 verbal) were given in connection with various infringements of the Act.

SECTION C

HOUSING

Clearance Areas (Section 25 Housing Act, 1936)

During the year, as a result of official representations, or other information, the Council declared the following areas to be clearance areas:-

<u>Type of Order made</u>		<u>No. of Premises included in Area</u>	
		<u>Unfit</u>	<u>Surrounded by or adjoining area and necessary for satisfactory development</u>
Arline Street Area	Compulsory Purchase Order	98	52
Ernest Place Area	Clearance Order	8	-
Kirkwall Place Area	Compulsory Purchase Orders	28	17
Columbia Road Area	Clearance Orders	10	-

The Orders were in each instance confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and in the case of Arline Street Area confirmation followed the holding of a local inquiry.

Other Areas

Two further areas were surveyed during the year, namely, the Whitby Street Area and the Shacklewell Street Area, and reports were submitted to the Council. In the former, action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was decided upon and, in the latter, the Council's views were forwarded to the London County Council as the premises were in a larger area being dealt with by that Authority.

Demolition of Insanitary Houses (Section 11 Housing Act, 1936)

As a result of official representations 3 Demolition Orders were made by the Council during the year, and one undertaking was accepted that premises would not be used for human habitation. Five premises were demolished as a result of Demolition Orders made previous to the year under review.

Closing of Unfit parts of Buildings (Section 12 Housing Act, 1936)

Following official representations, 3 Closing Orders were made by the Council during the year prohibiting the use for human habitation of seven rooms - four of the rooms being underground rooms.

Repair of Unfit Houses (Section 9 Housing Act, 1936)

In the period prior to that covered by this Report, 197 notices were served requiring the person having control of a block of flats to execute specified works in order to render such premises fit for human habitation. The owner failed to comply with the notices and the Council itself decided to attend to the works. Difficulties arising from the owner's war damage claims delayed matters but a contract was entered into with a local builder in December, 1952, in respect of 73 of the premises and works were commenced on the 8th December, 1952.

Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, is used extensively by some Councils and rarely, if ever, by others. Experience in this instance has been disappointing. It was unfortunate that war damage claims and repairs added very considerably to the unavoidable delays with the result that the work required by the Council only commenced some two years after the inspection of the premises and this fact led to further difficulties since, with the lapse of time, conditions in the premises had deteriorated.

This method of obtaining repairs and maintenance of property throws a considerably greater amount of work on the Public Health Department and other departments of the Council than the more usual procedure under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and it would appear that whilst Section 9 procedure may have been very suitable in 1936 and may still be the method of choice in individual cases it is not generally satisfactory for dealing with present day conditions.

Improvement of Houses (Housing Act, 1949)

The conversion of 25 out-dated flats into 15 flats with modern amenities was completed during the year for the Peabody Donation Fund with financial assistance under Section 31 of the Act.

Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936)

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

		<u>No. of cases</u>	
On register at end of 1951	...	672	
New cases reported during 1952	...	68	
Total		<u>740</u>	
Overcrowding abated during 1952	...	72	
On register at end of 1952	...	<u>668</u>	
		<u>Families</u>	<u>Equiv. adults</u>
Rehoused by London County Council	...	44	212
Rehoused by Bethnal Green Borough Council		17	82
Rehoused privately	...	1	3
Removed from register:-			
No longer overcrowded by reason of altered circumstances			
	...	2	15
Removed, mostly without trace	...	8	32
Total		<u>72</u>	<u>344</u>

New Housing

During the year new housing accommodation was provided as shown below:-

<u>Name of Premises</u>	<u>Provided by:-</u>	<u>No. of flats</u>
Goodrich House	London County Council	17
Cleland House	"	17
Rosebery House	"	27
Priam House) Conversion	"	1
Achilles House) of	"	1
Ajax House) play-	"	1
Hector House) rooms	"	1
Paris House)	"	1
Sankey House	"	20
Pomeroy House	"	12
Sidney House	"	66
Chater House	Borough Council	36
Margaret Bondfield House	"	9
Ayrton Gould House	"	45
219/221 Bethnal Green Road	Private Owner	2
Total		<u>256</u>

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	..	15,939
1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-		
(1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	.. ..	4,270
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		14,211
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.. ..	76
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		1,595
(3) (Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		4
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	3,148
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-		
Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	828
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-		
(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. ..	2,434
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-		
(1) By Owners	.. ..	2,845
(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners		3
(b) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		-
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
(1) By Owners	.. ..	-
(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners		-

- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. 4
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
- (1) Number of rooms in separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 7
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit -
- (e) Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses included in Clearance Areas 52
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure .. -

Re-Housing Programme

The following statement shows the number of families and persons accommodated by the Housing Committee to the 31st December, 1952:-

	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Council flats ..	108	108	316
Requisitioned properties	45	45	153
	<hr/>		
Total	153	153	469
	<hr/>		

At the end of the year there were approximately 2,690 applications for re-housing outstanding.

S E C T I O N D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

(1) Inspection of Premises

A total of 520 visits were made in 1952 to dairies and other premises in the Borough used in connection with the distribution of milk and in 31 instances appropriate action was taken to deal with unsatisfactory conditions which were found to exist. It was necessary on one occasion to take legal proceedings against the occupier of a milk premises for allowing refuse and filth to accumulate in the shop, the Magistrate inflicting fine and costs amounting to £15.5s.0d.

(2) Registration and Licensing

Details of premises on the register at the end of 1952 and the number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, are set out below:-

Number of Premises on
Register at end of year

Dairies	..	..	17
Distributors:-			
(a) Inside the Borough	..		112
(b) Outside the Borough	..		23

Number of Licences issued under Milk (Special
Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designa-
tion) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

	<u>Sterilised</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Tuberculin</u>	<u>Accredited</u>
			<u>Tested</u>	
Dealers' Licences	121	79	33	11
Dealers' Supple- mentary Licences	21	18	17	1
Totals	142	97	50	12

One Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence was issued during the year and is included in above figures.

(3) Milk Sampling

During 1952 a total of 18 formal and 77 informal samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, all of which were reported as genuine. In addition, 100 samples of heat treated milk were submitted to tests, the result of which are set out in Table 6.

T A B L E 6

Class of Milk	No. tested	Phosphatase test		Meth.Blue test		Turbidity test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	72	72	-	72	-	-	-
Sterilised	28	-	-	-	-	28	-
Total	100	72	-	72	-	28	-

21 samples of milk were submitted to test for presence of chlorates as an indication of the efficiency of bottle washing. All were found to be free from same.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Arising out of the 2,136 visits paid to shops, stalls and other premises where food is sold, prepared for sale or stored, a total of 83 notices were served in relation to unsatisfactory conditions found to exist in such premises within the Borough. It was necessary on one occasion to take legal proceedings against the occupier of a food premises for allowing refuse and filth to accumulate in the shop, the Magistrate inflicting fine and costs amounting to £10.5s.0d.

In addition, legal proceedings were taken against a licensee of a public house for wilfully obstructing the Sampling Officer by refusing to serve him with whisky, for the purpose of analysis, from a bottle of whisky which was exposed for sale, the Magistrate inflicting fine and costs amounting to £9. 6s. 0d.

Further details are given in the following table:-

T A B L E 7

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

Type and Number of Premises	Inspections	Notices Served
Milkshops (129)	520	31
Poultry Slaughterers (4)	86	2
Butchers (50)	262	1
Fried Fish Shops (19)	53	1
Fish Curers (10)	22	-
Public Houses (Licensed Premises) (135)	85	2
Restaurants (108)	301	11
Factory Canteens (19)	5	-
Bakehouses (28)	96	10
Ice-Cream Premises (151)	369	16
Grocers (62)	106	4
Greengrocers (48)	46	3
Other Food Premises (63)	185	2
Total	2,136	83

In addition to the above, there are 168 street stalls from which food is sold.

(c) Unsound Food

During the year under review Food Inspectors examined and took appropriate action in relation to unsound food on 219 occasions. Details of the food together with quantities are set out below:-

<u>Description of Article</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Continental Sausages		17	34
Meat - Tinned		16	83
" - Carcase		7	60
Vegetables		13	47
Dried Fruit		8	6
Confectionery		4	91½
Fish		2	70
Sugar		1	5
Chickens			83
Bacon			54½
Cheese			54
Various			53½
	3	13	81½

Other Foodstuffs

Baby Foods	..	..	2931 tins
Fish	..	..	2151 tins, 20 jars
Fruit	..	..	1384 tins, 29 jars
Vegetables	..	..	349 tins
Milk	..	..	280 tins
Various	..	..	( 80 tins, 113 jars, (14 packets, 11 bottles

Condemned Food is collected by Council and destroyed or, where suitable, used for animal food.

(d) Food and Drugs Act

Mr. A.E. Parkes, F.R.I.C., F.C.S., of 161, Bow Road, E.3., is Public Analyst for the Borough. During the year, the Council approved the appointment of Mr. H.A. Parkes, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., as Deputy Public Analyst.

Out of a total of 360 samples (54 formal and 306 informal) examined by the Public Analyst during 1952, 4 of the formal samples and 6 of the informal samples were found to be adulterated.

TABLE 8
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	
Confectionery	-	-	-	21	21	-	21
Culinary Powders	-	-	-	26	26	-	26
Drugs	-	-	-	36	35	1	36
Flour	-	-	-	11	11	-	11
Ice Cream	2	2	-	60	58	2	62
Milk	18	18	-	77	77	-	95
Vinegar	16	13	3	4	3	1	20
Whisky	12	11	1	-	-	-	12
Various	6	6	-	71	69	2	77
TOTAL	54	50	4	306	300	6	360

T A B L E 9

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

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action	Result
3	Bronchial Cough Lozenges	75 per cent mineral matter	None. No more in stock	-
55	Meat Soup	8 per cent deficient in meat	None. No legal standard	-
82	Meat Soup	20 per cent deficient in meat	None. No legal standard	-
163	Acetic Acid	47 per cent deficient in acid	Formal Sample No. 174	-
174	Acetic Acid	47 per cent deficient in acid	Legal proceedings	Acquitted. £7.7.0 Costs against Manufacturer
198	Non-Brewed Condiment	7.5 per cent deficient in acetic acid	Letter of caution	-
213	Ice Cream	44 per cent deficient in fat	Formal Sample Genuine	-
218	Ice Cream	17.5 per cent deficient in fat	Formal Sample Genuine	-
234	Non-Brewed Condiment	15 per cent deficient in acid	Formal Sample Genuine	-
357	Whisky	37.9 degrees under proof	Legal Proceedings	Absolute discharge. Costs £6.6.0

(e) Preservatives in Food

The routine practice under which all samples of milk, butter, margarine and cheese submitted to the Public Analyst, are examined for the presence of a preservative was continued throughout the year and in no instance was a preservative found to be present.

(f) Ice-Cream

During the year, 27 applications for registration for the sale of ice-cream were approved. Three applications were refused on the grounds that other articles were being sold or handled in the shop which would increase the danger of contamination of the ice-cream and it was not possible or not practicable to place partitions in the shop or to use other means of avoiding this danger. The type of trade which commonly causes this difficulty is that of greengrocer where the handling of root vegetables unavoidably causes dirt and dust, and this is particularly so where a single shop assistant necessarily handles both commodities.

At the end of the year there were 151 premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice-cream and 369 inspections of these premises were made during the year. In 16 instances notices were served concerning insanitary conditions.

66 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Methylene Blue test and graded as follows:-

Grade 1	..	20
Grade 2	..	21
Grade 3	..	7
Grade 4	..	18

(g) Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. 6 (corrected) notifications were received, the illness alleged to be due in one case to the consumption of a meat pie, a portion of which was submitted for bacteriological examination and reported satisfactory. In one case *Salmonella typhi-murium* was identified and in five cases the cause was unknown. There were no deaths.

(h) Clean Food Campaign

The efforts of the Department for an improved standard of hygiene in all matters relating to the manufacture, handling, storage and distribution of food have continued throughout the year. Practically all the food premises in the Borough were visited and although it was necessary on 20 occasions to send notices under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, it was possible through the co-operative relationship between the occupiers and the Department to secure many desirable improvements without recourse to official action.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Minister of Health, suitable notices requesting customers not to bring dogs into food shops, restaurants, etc., were distributed to most of such premises in the Borough and the occupiers requested to display the notices in their shops,

(i) By-laws for the Protection of Food

These By-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drug Act, 1938, by the London County Council for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption, came into operation on the 3rd November, 1952.

The occupants of all food premises, including stalls, in the Borough (numbering some 1,000 persons) were provided with a brief summary of the main provisions of the By-laws. This was followed by personal visits by the Food Inspectors to advise and discuss any special difficulties arising out of compliance with the By-laws.

(j) Milk in Schools

The arrangements for sampling milk at L.C.C. Schools continued without variation. A total of 36 samples were submitted for examination, all of which satisfied the prescribed tests.

(k) Milk at Nurseries

Three samples of milk submitted for examination passed the necessary tests.

S E C T I O N E

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during 1952 was 1,080 as compared with 2,063 in 1951. This reduction was due to the smaller number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough although even during 1952 these two diseases accounted for more than 60% of the total notifications.

Methods of control of Measles are at present unsatisfactory in that the material is scarce and expensive and it is impracticable to prevent or modify cases as a routine procedure. An attack gives protection against further attacks in the great majority of cases and the incidence of the disease in urban areas is modified mainly by the proportion of susceptible children in the population. It is consequently possible to give a forecast of the number of cases likely to occur but this can hardly be described as a method of control. Fortunately the majority of the serious consequences of Measles are due to secondary infections which can now be controlled by the sulphonamide group of drugs or antibiotics such as penicillin.

Whooping Cough is almost equally difficult to control. Immunisation is advocated by many and whilst the results are by no means as sure or as effective as in the case of diphtheria immunisation there is considerable evidence that, if the disease is contracted, the attack is likely to be less serious. Whooping Cough, unlike most of the other common fevers, frequently attacks very young infants and the deaths from this disease occur very largely during the first year of life. In order to save life, immunisation must consequently be carried out at a very early age. This form of protection against Whooping Cough is not widely practised in Bethnal Green but it is anticipated that when a more effective immunising agent is produced the procedure will become more popular.

Two cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year and in both cases the patients recovered. This may be regarded as satisfactory when compared with the large numbers of cases and deaths before the War but it is by no means satisfactory when it is remembered that these two cases could have been prevented. The outstanding success of the diphtheria immunisation campaign during the past ten years with the diminishing number of cases and deaths has provoked such self-congratulatory statements that the general public have lost the sense of urgency which was apparent some years ago. The attitude adopted by

many people is that whilst it is still a very good thing for their neighbours to have their children immunised, it does not matter so much as it did about their own children, especially if this may cause trouble or inconvenience. It cannot be stressed too strongly that whilst there is a large number of children unprotected against diphtheria there is a real danger, not merely of individual cases, but of a serious outbreak of the disease.

In this connection, credit should be given to the officers of the London County Council who are mainly responsible for immunisation and who have increased the numbers of children immunised by approximately 10% over the numbers in the previous year.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was larger than for the previous year, the majority of cases occurring in children of school age. The disease is now a very mild complaint and its character has entirely changed from the dangerous and often fatal type which was prevalent at the beginning of this century. Moreover, treatment with modern drugs is very effective and there was no indication that any case was of a serious nature during 1952.

There were only two cases of Poliomyelitis during the year and in neither case was there any paralysis.

The number of cases of other diseases notified is shown in Table 10, which follows, and requires no special comment.

The arrangement whereby any variation in the original diagnosis is notified by the Hospital Authorities continued in operation during the year, and Table 10 which gives details of cases notified has again been prepared with a column showing the corrected figures for each disease after taking into consideration the latest information supplied by Hospitals.

T A B L E 10

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	N O T I F I C A T I O N S								Total Notified	Cor- rected figures	Removed to Hospital
	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 and upwards			
Diphtheria ..	-	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	7	2	7
Scarlet Fever ..	1	9	55	116	5	2	-	-	188	185	75
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	8	8	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18	-
Erysipelas ..	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	4	18	18	11
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	2
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	3	2	1	6	11	7	32	32	10
Dysentery ..	3	12	19	12	3	5	4	-	58	55	10
Measles ..	19	65	217	250	2	5	-	-	558	551	32
Whooping Cough	15	26	37	20	-	-	-	-	98	95	20
Scabies ..	-	1	-	3	2	4	-	-	10	10	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	4	21	32	10	4	71	71	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	3	3	1	-	8	8	-
TOTAL	57	115	333	412	46	65	37	15	1080	1056	171

Tuberculosis

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, came into operation on the 1st May, 1952 and revoked the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, and made similar provision for the notification of tuberculosis modified to accord with the structure and administration of the services being provided under the National Health Service Acts. They provide for the notification to the Medical Officer of Health of all cases of tuberculosis arising in the Borough but no longer require him to keep a register of tuberculosis notifications although the Minister of Health urged that the Medical Officer of Health should continue to do so.

The following information concerning the Tuberculosis Dispensary at the London Chest Hospital, E.2., has been furnished by the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. M. Caplin:-

Times of Clinics

Monday	10.00	-	12.00		
Wednesday	10.00	-	12.00	5.00	- 6.30
"	2.00	-	3.30	(Refills)	
Thursday	10.00	-	12.00		
"	2.00	-	3.30	(Refills)	
Friday	10.00	-	12.00		
"	1.30	-	2.30	(B.C.G.)	
Saturday	10.00	-	12.00		

Patients requiring institutional treatment can be admitted to any of the sanatoria, or hospitals dealing with tuberculosis, under the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. In addition, patients with certain types of the disease can be admitted to the London Chest Hospital or to the Country Branch at Arlesey near Letchworth.

Although the waiting period for admission has improved considerably, home treatment is still carried out in a large number of cases during the period of waiting. This has helped considerably in initiating healing and preventing the spread of the disease, and so reduces the actual time spent in sanatorium. Whenever admission becomes a matter of emergency or urgency no real difficulty is encountered in arranging hospital admission.

During the year formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 71 cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 8 non-respiratory cases as compared with 82 and 9 cases respectively for the previous year.

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

T A B L E 11

Primary Notifications														
Age periods	0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
Respiratory males	-	-	-	2	-	7	4	9	3	4	4	4	-	37
Respiratory females	-	-	-	1	1	3	7	15	5	-	2	-	-	34
Non-respiratory, males	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Non-respiratory, females	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4

In addition to the above, information was received of 35 other cases from the following sources:-

Local Death Returns	4
Registrar General's Death Returns (transferable deaths)	4
Posthumous notifications	-
Transfers from other areas	27

There were 21 deaths during the year certified as being due to Tuberculosis.

T A B L E 12

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1951, variations which have taken place during the year, and the number of cases remaining on the Register on the 31st December, 1952.

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
No. of cases on register 31. 12. 51 ..	381	298	77	71	827
No. of cases notified during 1952 ..	37	34	4	4	79
Other cases added to regis- ter during 1952 ..	14	10	1	2	27
Cases transferred from Non- pulmonary to Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-
	432	342	82	77	933
No. of cases removed from register during 1952	44	53	10	9	116
Cases transferred to Pul- monary from Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-
Remaining on register 31. 12. 52 ..	388	289	72	68	817

Mass Radiography

In connection with the national drive to combat Tuberculosis, Mobile X-Ray Units visit every possible area from time to time. During the year a Mobile Unit was based in the Borough and the following details of the resulting Survey have been furnished by the Medical Director of the Mass Radiography Unit 6B.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Attendances	2,285	1,722	4,007
Number passed as normal	2,150	1,649	3,799
Number with Inactive Tuberculosis	55	30	85
Number with Active Tuberculosis	6	2	8
Number with other abnormalities	74	41	115

There were thus 8 cases of active Pulmonary Tuberculosis disclosed by the Survey giving an incidence rate of approximately 2 per 1,000 examinations made. This compares very favourably with the National figures for Mass Radiography which is nearer 4 per 1,000. The incidence was greater in the male than in the female examinees; the respective ratios being 2.62 and 1.10 per 1,000.

All necessary action was taken at the time in respect of all cases, both tuberculous and non-tuberculous, requiring further medical attention.

S E C T I O N F

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OTHER THAN THOSE
PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. (a) Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological work of the Borough 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.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

The London County Council which undertook responsibility for the provision of ambulance transport within the administrative County of London on the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, continued to provide this service during 1952.

2. Hospitals

The following Hospitals in the Borough continued to be administered by the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

	Total bed complement ø
Bethnal Green Hospital	313
Mildmay Mission Hospital	56
Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children (with branches at Shadwell and Banstead)	317

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

The London Chest Hospital designated a Teaching Hospital and under the control of a Board of Governors, is also situated within the Borough and the Tuberculosis Dispensary established at this Hospital, which serves Bethnal Green and part of the Borough of Hackney, 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 40 beds.

3. Personal Health Services

The following information regarding the operation of the personal health services in the Borough during 1952 has been furnished by Dr. G.O. Mitchell, Divisional Medical Officer (Division 5) London County Council.

(a) Services Available

Day Nurseries:-

Columbia Market,	Columbia Road, E.2.
Pritchards Road,	E.2.
University House,	Sugar Loaf Walk, E.2.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre:-

Cornwall Avenue,	E.2.
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School Treatment Centre:-

Bethnal Green Treatment	
Centre	Lyte Street, E.2.

Bathing Centre:-

Stewart Headlam	Somerford Street, E.2.
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Chest Clinic:-

London Chest Hospital	E.2.
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(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	.. .. .	757
1-5 years of age	.. .. .	133

Total No. of children who attended and who at the end of the year were:-

Under 1 year of age	.. .. .	621
1-5 years of age	.. .. .	781

Total attendances by children:-

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	8,037
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	1,580

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

Ante-natal consultations:-

No. of women who attended for the first time					396
No. of women who attended	..	..	..		532
Total attendances	2,481

Post-natal consultations:-

No. of women who attended		97
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(3) Health Visitors

No. of infants under one year of age visited for the first time	943
Total visits to infants under 1 year of age					6,666
Total visits to children 1 to 5 years of age					7,489
No. of expectant mothers visited	..	..			348
Total visits to expectant mothers	..	..			626

(4) Infant Life Protection

No. on register, 1st. Jan., 1952					
Foster mothers	..	..	..	..	3
Foster children	..	..	..	..	2
No. on register, 31st Dec., 1952					
Foster mothers	..	..	..	..	2
Foster children	..	..	..	..	1

(5) Child Minders (Daily Guardians)

No. of Daily Guardians - Statutory	..	..		-
Voluntary	..	..		11
No. of children minded - Statutory	..	..		-
Voluntary	..	..		8

(6) Care of Premature Infants

No. of premature births during the year	..			72
No. of deaths under 1 month	..	..	..	14

(7) Diphtheria Immunisation

No. of children who completed a full
course of primary immunisation:-

Under 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	645
5 to 14 years of age	198

No. of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection	823
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(8) Vaccination

No. of children successfully vaccinated or re-vaccinated	213
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(9) Domestic Help Service

Domestic help was provided as follows:-

	<u>Maternity</u> <u>cases</u>	<u>T.B.</u> <u>cases</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>cases</u>
Northern District Office - covering Bethnal Green and parts of Stepney and City of London	16	21	653