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Contributors

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Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF FINSBURY for the Year 1957

BY
C. O. S. BLYTH BROOKE, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

FINSBURY HEALTH CENTRE,
PINE STREET,
LONDON, E.C.1.



The
Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
PUBLIC HEALTH OF FINSBURY
for the Year 1957

BY
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Medical Officer of Health

FINSBURY HEALTH CENTRE,
PINE STREET,
LONDON, E.C.1.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor J. TROTTER

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J. CROSSLEY

Councillor C. A. ALLEN, J.P.

" F. J. T. CARLISLE

" Mrs. S. CLIFFE

" W. J. DAVIES

" Mrs. C. GRIFFITHS

" R. R. HULL

" J. E. SELLERS

" Mrs. L. C. TROTTER

Medical Officer of Health:

C. O. S. BLYTH BROOKE, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

M. SCOTT STEVENSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 13.10.57).

Public Analyst:

C. HARCOURT WORDSWORTH, B.Sc.

Public Health Inspectors:

A. J. TRUSLOVE, M.A.P.H.I. (Deputy Chief Public
Health Inspector)

J. LEWIS, M.R.S.H.

E. DITCHBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

S. G. FISHER, F.A.P.H.I.

A. TREVETHICK, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

S. J. CASSIDY.

K. PALMER, M.A.P.H.I.

J. M. SOUTHWICK, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector:

B. G. F. PAYNE, D.F.C.

Senior Meat Inspector:

R. S. BARBER, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Officer:

P. L. MOSELEY

Assistant Rodent Officer:

F. J. P. MOODY (From 11.3.57)

Administrative and Clerical Staff:

A. G. HOLMES (Assistant Administrative Officer)

J. T. LINDSAY (Senior Clerical Assistant)

Miss J. L. FAULKNER

Mrs. A. H. BRADFORD

F. W. HAYNES

I. PATIENCE

R. BLAKELEY

J. R. DALTON (Resigned 22.11.57)

D. NATTRESS (National Service 10.11.57)

Nurse Visitor for the Aged:

Mrs. D. I. M. LLOYD, S.R.N. (Retired 15.4.57)

Mrs. M. I. JONES, S.R.N. (From 8.4.57)

Infectious Disease Visitor:

Mrs. R. PEPPER, S.R.N.

Health Centre Caretaker:

E. W. JAMES

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the state of Public Health in Finsbury for the year 1957, and I am happy to be able to say that generally the health of our community has remained good. The birth rate which has steadily increased in the last few years and is now, after standardization, 18.2 per 1,000 as against 16.1 for the whole country, may be taken as a sign of mental and physical vitality in the population. Further satisfaction may be felt in the death rate which, after standardization, although it increased by one decimal point to 10.6 remains well below the National figure which has fallen to 11.5. The only particular condition to which I feel that I ought to draw attention is Cancer of the Lung. The deaths from this have been increasing very considerably during recent years throughout the country, and industrial built up areas including our own Borough have suffered most. The causation is at present unknown and much research is being directed to elucidate it, but air pollution and smoking are almost certainly factors which are, at least in part, concerned.

The year was one of consolidation rather than of development in the work of my department. The intensive campaign to improve the hygiene in cafes and restaurants started in the previous year, was continued.

Finsbury still remains in the forefront in the provision of services for the care of the elderly.

Rapid progress was made by the Council in its preparations for demolition and redevelopment of its first major slum clearance scheme since the war in the Galway Street Area, and we may therefore confidently look forward to much improved housing in that area.

I have included some extracts from the recently published decennial report of the Registrar General. These indicate that in the years 1950-1952 on which this report is based, the death rate for men was somewhat high compared with that for England & Wales and that for London even after allowing for age distribution but that infant mortality was the second lowest in the whole country.

I have continued to enjoy the generous support of you, Mr. Mayor, and that of the Chairman and Members of the Health and other Committees of the Council, and this I have sincerely appreciated. I have further had as before the loyal help and co-operation of my staff to whom I wish to convey my thanks.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

C. O. S. BLYTH BROOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General

Area of the Borough (acres)	587
Population, 1951 census	35,370
Population Density	60
Rateable Value (31.3.57)	£2,483,498
Product of a penny rate (1956/1957)	£9,937
General rate (1956/1957)	15s.

Finsbury, one of London's 28 Metropolitan boroughs, is situated in Central London.

The Borough as a whole is built up and congested and possesses very few open spaces, all of which are small in size.

A large part of the Borough, particularly in the South East, is essentially industrial and the day population of the Borough has been estimated as between 150,000 and 200,000.

The industries accommodated are very varied and include, besides the clock and watch trade which has been associated with Clerkenwell for many years, the scientific and optical instrument making, jewellery, printing and clothing trades.

The residential parts of the Borough are mainly working class in character.

During the late war Finsbury suffered the loss of many factories, warehouses, and offices, especially in the Eastern part of the Borough and there still exist many bombed sites. Residential property also suffered considerable damage.

The rateable value has steadily increased since 1951 when it was £956,228 consequent on rebuilding of war damaged properties and of devastated areas. A feature of post-war development has been the erection of large blocks of modern flats.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Mid year estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,830
Marriages registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	275
Live Births							
Legitimate	...	...	Males	358	Females	303	Total 661
Illegitimate	...	...	"	27	"	33	" 60
Total	...	...	"	385	"	336	" 721
Birth Rate (standardized)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.2
England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Stillbirths							
Legitimate	...	...	Males	10	Females	5	Total 15
Illegitimate	...	...	"	1	"	1	" 2
Total	...	...	"	11	"	6	" 17
Stillbirth Rate							
Per 1,000 live & stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.0
England & Wales (per 1,000 live & stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.4
Per 1,000 Population (standardized)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.43
Deaths	...	...	Males	205	Females	145	Total 350
Death Rate (standardized)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.6
England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.5
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.1
England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.0
Neonatal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Neonatal Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.25
Illegitimate Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Illegitimate Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.3
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.47
Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.20
England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10

Area comparability factors - Births 0.88 Deaths 1.06

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1953-1957

						1953	1954	1955	1951-1955	1956	1957
1. Population	...	...	...	...	...	35,640	35,490	35,100	35,500	34,870	34,830
2. Birth Rate	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Population	...	18.9	19.7	19.7	18.9 p.a.	20.0	20.7
3. Sex Ratio	...	...	...	Male/Female	...	-	-	-	1,084	-	-
4. Illegitimate Birth Rate	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Population	...	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2 p.a.	1.4	1.7
				Per 1,000 Live Births	...	68	66	72	66	70	83
5. Stillbirth Rate	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Population	...	0.42	0.20	0.46	0.36 p.a.	0.26	0.49
				Per 1,000 Total Births	...	22	10	23	19	13	22
6. Death Rate	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Population	...	9.9	8.6	10.2	11.3 p.a.	10.2	10.0
7. Infant Mortality	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Live Births	...	22.2	30.0	30.3	24	30.1	22.1
8. Infant Mortality Illegitimate	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	-	-	-	27	-	-
9. Neonatal Mortality	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Live Births	...	12	27	19	17	26	15
10. Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Total Births	...	-	-	-	0.6	-	-
11. Tuberculosis (all forms) Death Rate	...	...	...	Per 1,000 Population	...	0.31	0.34	0.42	0.45 p.a.	0.20	0.20

Crude Rates have been given in every case.

A dash indicates that numbers are too small for the calculation of a significant rate.

Population

It is estimated that there has been little change in the population or in its age structure in recent years.

Births

The birth rate shewed a further slight rise on the rates for the preceding years.

The illegitimate birth rate, whether expressed as a proportion of the total births, or of the population, shewed a distinct rise on previous years.

Stillbirths

The stillbirth rate not only did not preserve the low level of the previous year but was higher than that recorded in recent years. It is nevertheless only just very slightly above the national average.

Deaths

The standardized death rate was the same as that in 1956 and remains well below the rate for the country generally.

The only significant change in the ages at which the deaths took place is the occurrence of 5 deaths in children aged 1-4 as against only 1 in 1956.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Infant Mortality

There was a very marked fall in the infant mortality rate from the high figures which I had to report in the preceding three years. The rate now stands at 22 as against the national average of 23. In considering this satisfactory fall, however, the increased stillbirth rate must be kept in mind.

There were 2 deaths among illegitimate infants.

Causes of Death

These were substantially similar to those in 1956, and comment would appear needed only on the following points:

- (1) The total number of deaths from all forms of cancer was almost exactly the same as before, but there was a further very slight increase in the number of deaths from cancer of the lung from 23 to 25, significant however in that it continues the trend of the increase in recent years which is giving rise to grave concern.

- (2) An increase from 1 to 4 of the number of deaths from motor vehicle accidents.
- (3) An increase from 3 to 10 of the number of deaths from other accidental causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1957

	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-		75-		Total
							M	F	M	F	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory					1	3	1		1	1	7
2. Tuberculosis, other											-
3. Syphilitic disease						1				1	2
4. Diphtheria											-
5. Whooping Cough	1										1
6. Meningococcal infections											-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis											-
8. Measles											-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases								1			1
10. Malignant neoplasm - stomach						3	4		3		10
11. " " - lung bronchus					1	13	5	1	5		25
12. " " - breast						1		1			2
13. " " - uterus						3		1		1	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms					1	15	5	2	2	5	30
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia		1									1
16. Diabetes						1					1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...					1	4	3	3	3	11	25
18. Coronary disease, angina					1	23	23	6	6	4	63
19. Hypertension with heart disease							2	1	1	3	7
20. Other heart disease					2	6	4	2	7	15	36
21. Other circulatory disease				1	1	5	1	1	1	1	11
22. Influenza										1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1			1	3	4	3	4	5	22
24. Bronchitis						6	10	1	11	3	31
25. Other diseases of respiratory system						3	3				6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum					1	1			1	1	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...										1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis											-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate									1		1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...											-
31. Congenital malformations	3				1						4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	2	2		2	7	2	2		6	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents						2		1		1	4
34. All other accidents		1				1		2	2	4	10
35. Suicide					1	2		1			4
36. Homicide and operations of war					1						1
Totals	16	5	2	1	15	103	67	29	48	64	350

Inquests

Inquests were held on eighteen residents during the year. The causes of death found were:

Violence:

(Female 34) 1

Road Accidents:

(Male 57, Females 79 and 66) 3

Accidental Falls, excluding industrial:

(Males 88, 83 and 3, Females 75, 67 and 64) 6

Accidental:

(Male 62 - crushed by lorry on private site

Female 88 - asphyxiated by smoke from a fire
in her room

Female 76 - clothing caught fire at home) 3

Open Verdict:

(Female 68 - found drowned) 1

Suicide:

(Males 52 and 32, Females 68 and 56) 4

Total 18

INFANT MORTALITY, 1957 - CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death	0-1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Congenital malformation ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Birth injury and other diseases of early infancy ...	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Immaturity	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other defined causes	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	11	-	-	-	11	1	3	1	-	16

(In this table the international rules for classification have not been strictly followed).

Extracts from Decennial supplements of Registrar General based on
mortality experienced in the years 1950-1953

I. Standardised Mortality Ratio -
Deaths from all causes at all ages

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Finsbury	114	98
County of London	106	97
Greater London	97	93
England & Wales	100	100

II. Death rates at given ages. All causes

Male

	Finsbury	Rates per thousand County of London	Greater London	England & Wales
All ages	14.2	13.1	11.8	12.6
0-1	23.0	27.6	25.7	32.0
1-4	2.0	1.1	1.0	1.3
5-14	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6
15-44	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9
45-64	19.3	16.2	14.1	14.4
65+	90.0	87.4	81.2	82.3

Female

	Finsbury	Rates per thousand County of London	Greater London	England & Wales
All ages	10.8	10.9	10.0	11.0
0-1	16.6	21.2	20.1	24.8
1-4	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.1
5-14	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
15-44	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
45-64	8.8	8.3	7.6	8.4
65+	61.6	60.3	58.8	62.4

III. Standardized mortality Ratios for particular causes
of Death for all ages (England & Wales = 100)

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	Finsbury	Greater London	Finsbury	Greater London
Tuberculosis, respiratory	191	104	142	87
Malignant neoplasm - stomach ...	104	92	148	90
" " lung bronchus	206	132	186	132
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	133	113	100	113
Diabetes	33	92	171	87
Vascular lesions of nervous system	70	79	65	82
Coronary disease, angina	120	105	97	100
Pneumonia	156	116	166	117
Bronchitis	190	123	184	117
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	133	120	200	122
Motor vehicle accidents	138 }	79	133 }	103
All other accidents		80		92
Suicide	150	99	40	104

* The only higher ratios in England & Wales are

<u>Males</u>	Bethnal Green	222	<u>Females</u>	Holborn	300
	St. Pancras	202		Poplar	242
				Shoreditch	238

IV. Infant Mortality Rates - Both Sexes

Deaths per 1,000 live births

	Finsbury	County of London	Greater London	England & Wales
/Stillbirth	19	20	20	23
Neonatal Mortality - All causes	12*	17	16	18
Infant Mortality - All causes	20+	25	23	28
Congenital malformation	3	4	4	4
Gastro enteritis)	1	1	1	1
Diarrhoea				
Birth Injury	3	3	2	3
Asphyxia & Atelectasis	3	4	4	4
Pneumonia of newborn	0	1	1	1
Haemolytic newborn	0	1	1	1
Immaturity	3	4	4	6

/ Rate per 1,000 live and still births.

* The only equal or lower rates in England & Wales are - Eastbourne 10
Greenwich 12

+ The only equal or lower rates in England & Wales are - Eastbourne 17
Greenwich, Hammersmith & Cambridgeshire 20

Analysis further shews that if allowance were made for social class distribution and the average death rate for England & Wales had prevailed in Finsbury, the infant mortality rate would have been 32 in Finsbury and 30 in the County of London instead of the rate of 20 which it actually was.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Health Centre

The Council continued to maintain the Health Centre for the administration of the Public Health Services, and arrangements continued in force for the use by the Regional Hospital Board and by the London County Council of those portions of the building which were occupied by services transferred to those bodies under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The Council also continued to act as an agent for the Regional Hospital Board in respect of certain services controlled by them.

There is no doubt that the Centre continues to be of value to the public not only for the services available but as a place to which they may readily come for help and advice in regard to many health problems.

Numerous individual visitors and organised parties both from this country and overseas visited the Health Centre during 1957.

All reasonable requests to visit the Health Centre were granted as the exchange of views and information thus afforded is of mutual benefit.

Laboratory

The laboratory in the Health Centre has been maintained jointly with the Regional Hospital Board since 1948 and undertakes the routine work of the Public Health Department in the control of infectious disease and the bacteriological examination of milk and other food-stuffs and has operated in close association with the Central Public Health laboratory service at Colindale. In addition it continues to undertake simple routine pathology on behalf of the Chest Clinic, other clinics in the Health Centre and of medical practitioners in the district.

A particular feature has been the large use made of the facilities for the taking and examination of swabs for the early diagnosis of Whooping Cough. This has been of particular value.

Work of the Public Health Department

	Number examined
Throat & Nose Swabs	9
Sputa	195
Per-nasal Swabs (for Whooping Cough)	78
Faeces	588
Various Foods	98
Water	5
Milk (Methylene Blue & Phosphatase test):	
T.T. Pasteurised	16
Pasteurised	52
Sterilised	10
Ice Cream	40

Work of the Regional Hospital Board

Haematology

Blood counts, differential counts, etc.	216	
Erythrocyte sedimentation rates	271	
Other Tests (HG, Paul Bunnell, Clotting & Bleeding times, etc.)	377	
W.R. Kahm. P.P.R., G.C./C.F.T.	<u>72</u>	936

Bacteriology

Urine	57	
Swabs from various sites	37	
Bacteriological, various	46	
Antibiotic sensitivity tests	80	
Pregnancy tests	<u>7</u>	227

Biochemistry

Occult blood in faeces	3	
Total and differential faecal fat	1	
Serum amylase	1	
Total and differential protein	4	
Thymol turbidity	2	
Zinc sulphate turbidity	2	
Serum bilirubin	2	
Alkaline Phosphatase	2	
Serum Uric Acid	11	
Blood Urea	<u>3</u>	31

Domiciliary visits by technician ... 31

Blood Transfusion

The Council continued to co-operate with the North London Blood Supply Centre of the National Blood Transfusion Service, by arranging Blood Donation Sessions at the Health Centre. Four sessions were held during the year at which 296 donors attended; 268 were bled and 28 rejected for various reasons.

International Certificates of Vaccination and Inoculation

The international form of certificate of vaccination and inoculation approved since the war requires the signature of the medical practitioner issuing the certificate to be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health. The purpose of the authentication is to provide proof to health authorities abroad that the signature of the person issuing the certificate is that of a registered medical practitioner. In 1957, 237 certificates were authenticated; no case of an improper signature was discovered, and no application in consequence refused.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead

It is provided by Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, that the local authority shall arrange burial or cremation in the case of any person who has died or been found dead in the borough, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable funeral arrangements have been or are being made.

During the year six persons were buried or cremated under these provisions.

Health Education

Health Education in general was continued during the year by the exhibition of public posters and by the distribution of literature from suitable centres. Health Education in general was also carried out throughout the year by all the members of the staff who are in contact with the general public in their homes and businesses.

The former Empire Marketing Boards were kept posted during the year with special poster sets.

Exhibition Stands situated in the entrance hall of the Health Centre were used to display amongst other publicity matter the display sets issued by the Ministry of Health and rodent control publicity issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

Book marks incorporating information on various health education subjects have also been distributed with the co-operation of the Libraries Department.

Enamelled panels, showing details of hospitals with times for attendance where advice or treatment on Venereal Diseases can be obtained, were renewed as necessary in the Council's Public Conveniences.

The Council also continued to co-operate in the health publicity programme organised by the London County Council Health Division III.

It may also be said that the character of the Health Centre building which houses the Public Health Department was designed to inspire the conception of health among the many members of the public who use it for one purpose or another.

Aged Persons

The Council continued as in past years to take a very active interest in work on behalf of old people during 1957.

The services available to men over 65 years and women over 60 years included:

(i) Laundry Service:

This service was continued for the Chronic Sick who were unable by reason of ill-health, senility, etc. to keep their personal and domestic laundry in a state of cleanliness required to ensure a healthy environment. The articles are collected on a Monday, disinfected, checked and sent to a commercial laundry, returned again, checked and redelivered on Friday or Saturday of the same week. A varying number of about 30 to 45 persons have in this way been enabled to retain their clothes and bedlinen in a wholesome condition.

(ii) Holiday Scheme:

The Council continued this service designed to preserve the health of the elderly by allowing those sufficiently able to do so to benefit from a stay of two weeks in the country or at the seaside. Applications were invited by public announcement and through variously interested clubs and societies; such applications were made to the Health Department. Each applicant was required to contribute a small sum towards the cost, normally ten shillings per week but varied slightly in some cases. Arrangements were then made for the holiday at one or other of the holiday homes run by voluntary organisations.

A grant was made to each of the homes to cover the cost including the railway or coach fare and their necessary travelling expenses, less that amount which the individual was required to contribute.

Arrangements were continued with the co-operation of the Red Cross Society and Women's Voluntary Service for those aged persons who so desired to save, through the medium of Savings Stamps, the amount or part of the amount they would be required to contribute towards the cost of the holiday. Stamps were on sale at the Health Centre, Red Cross and Women's Voluntary Service Centres, and in all a considerable sum was saved by aged persons.

In this way a holiday was provided during 1957 for 290 persons comprising 32 married couples, 56 men and 170 women, at a total cost to the Council of £2,265. Holidays were arranged at Ramsgate, Brighton, Bognor, Leigh-on-Sea, Clacton, Margate, Worthing and Walton-on-the-Naze.

The Scheme proved an unqualified success as was evidenced by the large number of appreciation letters received and in other ways.

I am of the opinion that a holiday benefits considerably the permanent health of the individual, builds up the body for the winter months and is of considerable value socialologically. All this apart from the pleasure and enjoyment given to the aged persons at the time.

(iii) Meal Services

(a) Many of the aged, particularly those who live alone, are apt to take insufficient food, not only because of expense but also because of the difficulty and trouble involved in preparing a satisfactory meal for one. Dinner services, therefore, have been instituted through voluntary associations throughout the borough. A grant is given to the associations by the Council to cover their expenses and further grants are made by the London County Council and Finsbury Old People's Welfare Committee to enable the meals to be supplied at a cost of tenpence per head to the aged. During 1957 a total of 19,903 meals were served from such centres. The centres in operation which are open on 3-5 days a week are:

1. Women's Voluntary Service, 68, Exmouth Market, E.C.1.
2. British Red Cross Society, Old People's Centre, 9, Walmsley Street, E.C.1.
3. Field Lane Institution, 16, Vine Hill, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.1.
4. Claremont Central Mission, White Lion Street, N.1.
5. St. Clement's Hall, Lever Street, E.C.1.

(b) Invalid Meals for London:

Aged persons, who are unable by reason of sickness and infirmity to attend one of the Meal Centres run by the various voluntary organisations, were supplied with a meal delivered at their home. There is, however, a restricted service and there is often a waiting list of applicants.

The Council makes a substantial grant to the Invalid Meals for London in respect of this service and 12,072 meals were supplied during 1957.

(iv) Finsbury Employment Scheme for the Elderly:

This Scheme continued to develop and to expand during the year under review.

The Work Centre named "Brooke House" situated at 39/41 Gloucester Way, E.C.1. made possible as a result of a number of generous benefactors, and opened by the late Lord Horder in November 1954, has proved eminently satisfactory in every way.

Some 120 elderly persons have undertaken work which has been mostly outwork on behalf of many firms, who have generously co-operated, but some articles have been made for sale to the trade or direct to the public.

The elderly employed have been paid a small wage amounting to 10/-d. a week, which is slightly more than the actual value of the labour provided.

This Scheme has not only brought joy and happiness to many elderly people but has been of great value in preserving their health of mind and body. It has also attracted intense interest from many parts of the country and from overseas and many bodies are considering inaugurating or have inaugurated similar schemes.

(v) Nurse/Visitor:

A Nurse/Visitor is employed whose duties involve the regular visiting of aged persons, particularly those living alone, who are likely to be in need of care and attention - liaison with voluntary organisations - and ascertaining detailed information from applicants for one or more of the Council's services for the aged.

(vi) Bathing and Cleansing Service:

Baths are provided free of charge at the Health Centre to those aged persons who, on account of their condition, cannot use the existing Public Baths. A nurse is in attendance to render assistance, if this should be necessary.

Occasional cleansing services were provided for those aged persons where their accommodation has been allowed to become so dirty and unwholesome that it had become beyond their capabilities to get it clean again, although possibly able with or without the aid of a domestic help to keep it at least for a time sanitary once it had been cleansed.

The Council continued to encourage all voluntary organisations in the borough to extend the services available to the aged for meals and recreation. Grants which were made on the basis of reports made to the Council on the work of each organisation amounted in all to £1,890 in the financial year 1957/58.

There were no compulsory removals to suitable premises during 1957 of persons in need of care and attention under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Finsbury Old People's Welfare Committee:

The work of the voluntary organisations is co-ordinated as far as possible by the Finsbury Old People's Welfare Committee which consists of representatives of most of the bodies who are concerned with the elderly and of which I am privileged to be Hon. Secretary. It operates, therefore, in close association with the services provided by the Council and has received from the latter financial grants each year.

Apart from the co-ordination of other voluntary bodies it has under its aegis inaugurated the following services:

(i) Domiciliary Chiropody Service:

This service is provided free of charge for those aged persons are unable by reason of senility, chronic sickness, etc. to attend personally the Foot Clinic at the Health Centre, and has proved of great benefit to the elderly.

334 visits were paid during 1957. The ages of the persons visited ranged from 63 to 95 years.

This service has proved well justified, in so far as it has enabled the aged and infirm to get about at home in reasonable comfort and do things for themselves, and so retain the independence essential to their mental and physical well-being.

It is also of interest to record that, as in previous years, numerous voluntary donations of small amounts were received from aged persons receiving domiciliary chiropody service as an expression of their appreciation of the service provided and the benefits secured.

(ii) Mending Scheme for the Aged.

This Scheme provides in association with the Finsbury Employment Scheme for the Elderly a Mending Service for the aged. There is a definite need for this service which effects repairs to such items of clothing as socks, underclothes, etc., and is particularly useful in respect of the male aged living alone. Substantial use was made of the Scheme during the year. There is no charge to the aged.

(iii) The "Wireless for the Bedridden Society".

The Committee continued to act as Sponsor in respect of applications received from bedridden or housebound Finsbury aged persons desiring wireless facilities provided by the above Society.

(iv) Wireless Relay Services:

The Committee continued to finance the provision of a Wireless Relay Service for the use of the hundred and twenty aged persons participating in the Finsbury Employment Scheme for the Elderly at "Brooke House", 39/41 Gloucester Way, E.C.1, at the Women's Voluntary Service Meal Centre in Exmouth Market, E.C.1, and at the St. Clement's Meal Centre, Lever Street, E.C.1. These have been much appreciated by the elderly persons using the Centres.

During the year the Committee entered into an agreement with the two Relay Wireless Companies which cover the greater part of the borough whereby relay wireless facilities are provided for elderly persons at a reduced rental, the Committee to be responsible for ensuring that each aged person has a current Wireless Receiving Licence.

It was agreed that the service should initially be restricted to a maximum of twenty aged persons who, whilst not housebound or bedridden, were in the opinion of the officers, deserving of the provision of wireless facilities and that in such cases the rental should be paid by the Committee.

At the end of the year eighteen persons were enjoying such facilities (either relay or a wireless set where Relay Service does not operate).

(v) *S.O.S. Card Scheme:*

The S.O.S. Card Scheme operated by the Committee in the borough has functioned very successfully in the past. No use, however, was made of the Scheme during 1957.

The purpose of the Scheme is to enable old people living alone to contact someone outside their home in an emergency. The Scheme besides having a practical value also has a comfort value, as many of the aged express the sense of security which possession of the card affords them.

(vi) *Visiting of the Aged in Hospital:*

Arrangements have been made for members of the voluntary organisations represented on the Committee to visit Finsbury persons accommodated in hospital, who are not receiving regular visits from friends and relations.

(vii) *Nutritional Supplements:*

The arrangements continued with Messrs. Wander, Ltd., Messrs. Bovril, Ltd., and Messrs. Marmite Food Extract Co. Ltd., whereby 'Ovaltine', 'Hospital Extract', 'Bovril' and 'Marmite' are supplied to the various organisations represented on the Committee for resale to the aged persons attending their clubs at a price considerably less than the normal retail price.

(viii) *Ophthalmic Service:*

The Committee being of the opinion that there was a considerable need for a special Ophthalmic Service for elderly people, there being many who were in need of glasses or other treatment but who found it too much trouble to make an appointment at a hospital or other clinic, approached Moorfields Eye Hospital with a view to special arrangements being made. Thirty-seven elderly persons received ophthalmic treatment in this way in the period under review.

(ix) *Coal:*

The Committee is registered in the Licensed Merchants Register in relation to the district of Finsbury as a licensed merchant to furnish supplies of coal in quantities not exceeding 28 lbs.

This coal is stored at the Health Centre and the service was used on numerous occasions during the year to provide coal to the aged in an emergency.

(x) Barber Service:

The Committee during the year continued to provide a Barber Service (Haircutting and Shaving) for elderly men who are housebound or bedridden and for whom it is not possible to make alternative arrangements.

(xi) Social Worker:

The Committee were enabled by reason of financial assistance received from a local charity to employ a full time Social Worker whose duties in brief are to aid the aged and sick poor to obtain such benefits as may be available from any source, whether voluntary or statutory; in the course of such work to give personal help, comfort and friendship as may be possible. One of the main reasons for the appointment was the fact that the Committee knew of the existence in the borough of many aged persons whom it had not been possible to contact personally, but who were often, due to their independent outlook, in the greatest need. It is this type of case the Committee now hope to ferret out and ascertain their needs.

It should be noted that as well as the services outlined above operated by or in close relation to the Council, the following services provided by the London County Council are available:

1. Domestic Help Service.
2. A Chiropody Clinic in the Health Centre.

Further, a Physiotherapy Clinic provided by the Hospital Management Committee is available in the Health Centre.

I should once again like to express my thanks and appreciation of the medical services rendered to the aged persons of Finsbury by the general practitioners in the district and their close co-operation with me and officers of my department, and to Dr. Stern, the Medical Superintendent of St. Matthew's Hospital, and her staff.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water

Apart from 3 business premises which obtain certain supplies from deep wells, the whole of the borough is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board. Regular examinations of water are therefore considered to be unnecessary.

In many houses and block dwellings supplies of drinking water are obtained from storage tanks and inspections of these are made, usually following complaint, to ascertain their condition and, if necessary, enforce cleansing and adequate covering of the tanks in accordance with the Council's Bye Laws. If thought necessary, samples of water are taken.

Action was required to be taken by the department in 13 instances following the withdrawal of the water supply by the Metropolitan Water Board or as the result of defects caused to the supply pipes by frost. In each case the supply was restored.

Swimming Baths

Two establishments are maintained by the Council, one in Merlin Street and the other in Ironmonger Row. Both are of modern construction and in addition to an indoor swimming pool, slipper baths and facilities for washing clothes are provided. The Ironmonger Row establishment also possesses a Turkish Bath and a special Children's Pool.

An indoor Swimming Pool is also open to the public at the Northampton Polytechnic during the summer months.

The water at all these Swimming Baths is chlorinated and continues to be subject to chemical and bacteriological examination.

Sanitary Conditions

A large proportion of the time of the Public Health Inspectors is spent in investigating environmental conditions in the homes of the inhabitants of the borough.

All complaints made by tenants and others were investigated and the following table gives details of action taken by the Inspectors and nuisances abated under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936:-

Houses damp, dirty - remedied	303
Doors, windows, floors, walls, ceilings, sashcords repaired	717
Watercloset and urinal defects remedied	140
Soil and vent. pipe defects remedied	46
Rainwater pipes cleared, repaired or renewed	91
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed	106
Drains cleared	97
Roofs and gutters repaired	213
Water storage tank defects remedied	3
Yard or area defects remedied	31
Washhouse defects remedied	9
Water supply to houses re-instated	13
Water supply laid on to upper storeys of house ...	1
Firegrates renewed or repaired	73
Animal nuisances abated	5
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	80
Dust receptacles renewed or repaired	124
Accumulations of refuse removed	103
Verminous or filthy articles destroyed	57
Overcrowding cases reported	40
No. of Basement Rooms inspected	95
No. of House inspections	1,580
No. of House-to-House inspections	59
Total No. of First Visits for all purposes	8,208
Total No. of Re-visits for all purposes	9,542
No. of Complaints received	1,428
No. of Intimation Notices served	763
No. of Nuisance Notices served	99
No. of Notices served re Food Premises	119

Legal proceedings were instituted under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for non-compliance with Nuisance Notices in the under-mentioned cases: -

Date	Premises	Offence	Result
23. 1.57	2 Vineyard Walk.	Leaking roof; broken ceiling.	Notice complied with. Summons dismissed. £3.3.0. Costs.
23. 1.57	18 Benjamin Street.	Damp and broken walls; broken floor and windows.	Abatement Order (28 days) £3.3.0. Costs.
30. 1.57	9 Buxton Buildings.	Leaking roof; broken walls, window and sink waste pipe.	Abatement Order (28 days) £1.1.0. Costs.
24. 4.57	do.	Non-compliance with Abatement Order.	£5.0.0. Fine.
30. 1.57	5 Buxton Buildings.	Damp walls.	Abatement Order (28 days) £1.1.0. Costs.
24. 4.57	do.	Non-compliance with Abatement Order.	£5.0.0. Fine.
30. 1.57	17 Buxton Buildings.	Leaking roof; leaking W.C. pan.	Abatement Order (28 days) £1.1.0. Costs.
24. 4.57	do.	Non-compliance with Abatement Order.	£5.0.0. Fine.
22.10.57	5 Pickard Street.	Broken window sashes and cords; defective firegrate; broken door and stairs.	Abatement Order (14 days) £2.2.0. Costs. £5.0.0. Fine.
5.11.57	15 Culpeper Street.	Broken ceiling and walls; broken window frame and sashes; broken door.	Abatement Order (21 days) £2.10.6. Costs.

London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1955 - Section 27

Considerable attention was given by the Council and its Officers during the year to the state of Buxton Buildings, Friend Street. As a result of the failure of the owners to comply with Abatement Orders the Council ordered the necessary work to be done by contractors.

Later in the year, further urgent repairs became necessary to the property and 3 notices were therefore served under the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1955 regarding the defective main roofs, the clearance and repair of the refuse chutes, the removal of refuse accumulations from the roofs and yards, the renewal of a broken waste pipe and the repair of a leaky W.C. pan. The work required was subsequently carried out by contractors on the instructions of the Council, in default of the owners.

Drainage

Extensive rebuilding and alteration to existing industrial, commercial and residential properties has been going on since the war and continues to take place. This necessitates numerous visits to building sites and discussions relating to compliance by building contractors with the London County Council Drainage and W.C. Bye Laws.

Fifty-five drainage plans were approved by the Council during 1957 and 2,393 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors in connection with the supervision of work in progress. The following table is an indication of the extent of the work carried out during the year:-

Drains laid or amended	164
Soil and Vent. pipes erected	151
Drains or Soil pipes tested	226
Waste Pipes erected	230
Waterclosets erected	575
Urinals erected	104
Lavatory Basins fixed	736
Sinks fixed	514
Baths installed	223

Common Lodging House

There is a Common Lodging House for men situated at 88 Old Street, E.C.1 which is owned and maintained by the Salvation Army. The premises are licensed for 313 inmates on the basis of the standards laid down by the London County Council prior to the transfer of functions in 1933.

Separate quarters are provided for the Deputy Keeper and staff but, generally, the common sleeping rooms are on the upper floors, the kitchen, dining room and office are on the ground floor and the washing facilities and lockers are in the basement. The main sanitary accommodation is situated in the ground floor yard, but additional toilet facilities are also provided on each bedroom floor.

Eighteen visits of inspection were made during the year.

Shops

A duty is placed on the Council by the Shops Act, 1950 to carry out inspections of retail and wholesale shops and warehouses to ensure that adequate sanitary accommodation is provided and that sufficient means of ventilation and heating are provided and maintained.

A register of shops is kept in the department and during the year 234 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. In 7 instances notices were served on the occupiers requiring various matters to be dealt with.

There are a number of exemption certificates in force which have been granted by the Council in the past allowing the use of sanitary accommodation elsewhere than on the premises owing to restricted space. One application for an exemption certificate was received in 1957.

The construction of many new shops and the modernisation of others has had the effect of raising the standards of shops generally.

Rag and Bone Dealers

There are 7 premises in the borough dealing in rags, waste paper, metal and similar articles but none is known to deal in bones. The operation of the London County Council Bye-Laws in respect of Rag and Bone Dealers is therefore technically not possible. Five visits were paid to such premises during the year, however, and no nuisances were observed.

Rag Flock

Four premises in the Borough are licensed for the manufacture or storage of rag flock and 8 premises registered to use filling materials under the Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1957. Regular inspections of these premises were made during the year with a total of 10 visits.

Eight samples of various types of filling materials were taken during the year and submitted to the approved analyst. All these passed the cleanliness standard.

Offensive Trades

One premises is at present licensed by the Council as an offensive trade for the processing of raw tripes. This is situated in Eagle Court in the area adjoining Smithfield Market and is regularly visited by the Senior Meat Inspector.

Factories

The statistics for 1957 are as follows:-

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	88	54	9	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1,343	1,081	77	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	7	-	-
TOTAL	1,440	1,142	86	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	53	42	3	2	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	4	3	-	2	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	1	-	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive	77	63	-	23	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	49	31	42	-	-
TOTAL	186	140	45	29	-

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel Making, etc.	1,747	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	15	-	-	-	-	-
Curtain and furniture hangings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and upholstery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas, etc.	12	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	27	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	75	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	17	-	-	-	-	-
Feather sorting	22	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc. of buttons etc.	47	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	52	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades	32	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,046	-	-	-	-	-

Outworkers

Many firms arrange for some work to be undertaken as outwork either under contract by other factories or by homeworkers and, in order to check the spread of vermin or infectious disease, information as to such outwork must be supplied in relation to certain classes of work. Because smallpox and scarlet fever, the two diseases considered most likely to be spread in this way, are no longer of serious concern and verminous premises only infrequently discovered, the supervision of outwork has become of less importance than heretofore. Nevertheless, the information supplied, which it must be remembered does not embrace all forms of outwork, is still of use in that it enables some supervision of the home circumstances.

A proportion of the homes have been visited each year and the conditions are on the whole satisfactory and no evidence has been found of children being required to spend long hours on this type of work or of it being carried out by groups of persons working in unhygienic ill ventilated and ill lit rooms as occurred frequently at one time. The rate of pay for outwork may not be good but it often provides occupation for those who for one reason or another are unable to go out to work and eases financial stresses.

The number of firms employing outworkers in 1957 was	170
The number of Finsbury outworkers employed by them was	329
The number of non Finsbury outworkers employed by them was	4,306
The number of Finsbury outworkers employed by firms outside the Borough was	95
The total number of Finsbury outworkers employed by firms in or outside the Borough was	424
Of these 82 were firms and 342 homeworkers	
Number of visits paid to homes	516

The registers of outworkers which firms are required to maintain are inspected as part of the routine during the inspection of the factories concerned.

Atmospheric Pollution

Certain sections of the Clean Air Act, 1956 came into force on the 31st December 1956. These included provisions relating to the installation of new furnaces and the establishment of smoke control areas.

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act requires a person proposing to instal industrial and other large furnaces to give notice of intention to the local authority. One such notice was received during the year. The Section also provides for the optional submission of plans and specifications of such furnaces whereby prior approval may be given by the local authority.

Section 11 of the Act enables local authorities to establish "smoke control areas" by means of Orders confirmed by the Minister. When a smoke control area has been established the emission of smoke from any chimney becomes an offence, subject to any exemptions made and a defence that it was not caused by the use of any other fuel than the recognized smokeless fuels.

In any proposed area it is necessary to convert unsuitable fire-places and furnaces to a type capable of burning the smokeless fuels. Responsibility for conversion would appear to fall normally on the owner and may be enforced by the Council, but in the case of private dwellings the owner is entitled to a 70% grant towards the cost from the local authority who can recover 40% of the total cost from the government.

Early in the year careful consideration was given to the possibility of establishing a smoke control area and discussions took place with other central London boroughs with a view to concerted action. It was suggested that an area of approx. 66 acres, abutting on the City Smokeless Zone and extending northwards to Old Street, should form the first Finsbury area. This is a mixed area containing residential dwellings, including Council property as well as commercial and industrial premises. A large number of post-war buildings, including flats, have been erected in the area. The latter have been provided with modern grates suitable for burning authorised fuels, whilst a high proportion of the new commercial and industrial buildings have oil fired furnaces and are therefore generally exempt from the provisions of the Clean Air Act relating to Smoke Control Areas.

A preliminary survey of the proposed area was carried out during the year and the following information obtained:

		No. where conversion required
Estimated number of privately owned dwellings	750	550
Estimated number of Council dwellings	20	8
Estimated number of L.C.C. dwellings	50	12
TOTAL	820	570
Estimated number of commercial and industrial premises	220	20

Details of the proposed area were submitted to the Council and the matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

The number of complaints received by the department during 1957 in respect of smoke nuisances was 22. All these were investigated. The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 590 timed observations on industrial chimneys, in addition to keeping a general watch on smoke emission from boilers.

Written intimation notices were sent to 5 firms whose chimneys were emitting smoke in such quantities as to be a nuisance.

Air pollution from industrial chimneys appears to have lessened during the year as a result of improvements to boiler plants carried out by firms and other institutions in the main because of pressure by officers of the department.

The Council continues to co-operate with the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research in the daily measurement of the amount of smoke and free sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere and the monthly measurement of deposits and sulphur dioxide content by the lead peroxide method.

Verminous Premises and Articles

The Disinfestation Service provides for the eradication of insect pests, viz., ants, bugs, fleas (human and animal), cockroaches, beetles, moths, steam flies and other insects. During 1957, 419 premises were found or suspected to be verminous, and disinfestation measures were carried out.

Similar measures have been carried out on certain other occasions on request. In all, disinfestation measures were carried out in 515 premises.

The usual method employed being the use of a spray with a 5 per cent. solution of D.D.T. to leave a residual film; this is repeated after 14 days if on re-inspection it appears desirable. Whenever considered necessary bedding is also removed for steam disinfection.

As a routine measure for the control of vermin, disinfestation is carried out in the case of tenants moving into the Council's Housing Estates (other than Post-War Estates), or requisitioned property. The normal routine is for the old accommodation of the prospective tenant to be sprayed with a D.D.T. Solution some days before the removal, and at the same time for the proposed new accommodation to be treated in the same way. On the day of removal bedding is collected from the old address, steam disinfested in the Council's ovens, and

then removed to the new premises. In the case of Post War Estates the Council has entered into arrangements for the furniture and effects to be treated with hydrogen cyanide gas before removal to the Estate.

Section 122 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 enables the Council, on a report from the Medical Officer of Health that any articles in a house in the borough are in such a verminous, filthy, dangerous or unwholesome condition that health is affected or endangered thereby, to cause the articles to be cleansed, disinfected or destroyed.

47 such representations were made in 1957.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons

The Borough Council continued the operation of the Bathing Centre in the Health Centre for the treatment of verminous conditions, including Scabies, and the arrangements whereby school children were treated on behalf of the London County Council under the supervision of a nurse appointed by them. At other times the work was carried out under the supervision of the nurse appointed by the Council, who also undertook the Home Visiting when this was necessary.

Arrangements were also continued during the year by which cases were treated on behalf of the Shoreditch Borough Council.

Body lice have been dealt with by means of a hot bath during which the clothing is steam disinfected and then powdered with D.D.T.

Head lice have been dealt with by the usual method of washing and combing the hair together with the use of Suleo, a preparation containing D.D.T.

Scabies has been treated by painting the body after a hot bath with Benzyl Benzoate on the first attendance followed by a further hot bath on the next day and the application of calamine lotion. The clothes are not normally disinfected. Scarcely any recurrences have taken place.

	Vermin	Scabies	Total
Total number of treatments given to			
Finsbury cases (other than school children)	78	44	122
Total number of treatments given to Shore-			
ditch cases (other than school children)	3	35	38
Total number of treatments given to school			
children (all the school children treated			
were not resident in Finsbury; a pro-			
portion being from adjacent boroughs)	524	55	579
Total number of home visits paid	...	...	3

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control

This Council employs six rodent operatives, one foreman and one rodent officer. On the 11th March 1957 an assistant rodent officer, Mr. F. J. Moody, was appointed.

Records for the year under review show that complaints for both business and domestic premises have considerably reduced.

Since March 1957 it has been possible to carry out inspections on a "block" principle, and this has revealed that many small business premises contained infestations of either *rattus rattus* (Ship Rat) or mice and that the occupiers in many cases were doing nothing to control them.

Treatment for the eradication of both rats and mice has been provided free at all domestic premises, but otherwise a charge was made to cover the cost of such work.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food the treatment of sewers is carried out every four months, and in conjunction with the Borough Engineer's Department maintenance treatments took place during February, July and October.

No. of complaints received	Business premises	58
	Domestic premises	238
No. of additional infestations found	Business premises	905
	Domestic premises	70
No. of premises treated	Business premises	963
	Domestic premises	310
No. of visits made	Business premises	19,858
	Domestic premises	8,075

Pet Animals

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, requires that all premises, including shops and stalls, where pets are sold, shall be licensed annually by the local authority.

Seven licences were issued by the Council during 1957, viz. 3 in respect of shops, 3 in respect of stalls and 1 in respect of premises used for the breeding and sale of tropical fish. Except for the latter, the amount of trade in pet animals and birds is comparatively small and no difficulties have arisen in connection with the implementation of the Act.

All the premises were inspected during the year, a total of 11 formal visits being made.

Heating Appliances

The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952 and the Regulations made thereunder are enforced by the Health Department. Inspections were made of shops, warehouses and stalls known to be selling new or second-hand gas, electric or oil fires to ensure that such appliances were adequately guarded in accordance with the standards laid down in the Regulations. Where necessary, the prescribed probe, weight and burning tests were carried out by the Inspectors.

Apart from many casual inspections, 19 official visits were made under the Act during 1957, as a result of which letters were sent to 2 retailers warning them of illegally offering for sale reconditioned heating appliances without a proper guard. In each case steps were taken to remove the offending heaters from sale.

During the year a summons was issued against a street trader for exposing for sale a second hand electric fire without a regulation guard. The case was dismissed on the evidence submitted by the defendant that the fire was not for sale but was in his possession for repair.

One Public Health Inspector was obstructed from exercising his powers under the Act by a shopkeeper refusing permission for him to undertake the prescribed tests on an oil heater. As a result of a formal warning to the firm concerned the tests were subsequently carried out satisfactorily.

Reception House

The portion of the Health Centre which had in the past been maintained by the Council as a Reception House (for persons who could not remain in their own rooms whilst these were being cleansed after infectious disease, or who had no alternative accommodation in which to reside during housing repairs) continued to be used, by agreement with the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, for the purpose of accommodating the administrative side of the Mass Radiography Unit.

The Islington Borough Council has kindly agreed to provide accommodation for Finsbury residents at their Reception House as and when the occasion should arise.

Disinfection

Disinfection is carried out in all cases after infectious disease has occurred when it is considered necessary, and in other cases on request, generally after advice has been given that it would be advisable for it to be carried out.

During the year it was carried out in the following instances for the reasons set out:-

Suspected Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	34
" Poliomylitis	...	...	...	...	12
" Dysentery and Gastro enteritis	...	...	...	...	34
" Measles	...	...	...	...	42
" Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	21
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	18
Scabies	...	...	...	...	3
On behalf of St. Marks and other hospitals	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	15
					<hr/>
					191
					<hr/>

Bedding and clothing were brought to the Disinfecting Station in the Health Centre in these cases, and disinfected with steam. In all, including the cases where this was carried out for the control of vermin, 7,942 articles were treated.

Goods, mostly clothing, were also disinfected on behalf of certain export firms as follows:-

Number of articles	...	...	...	...	170,337
Number of times disinfecting plant charged	...	...	...	...	422½

Nuisance from Pigeons

In order to control the number of pigeons in the borough, licences have been granted for catching them in the streets and open spaces, as they are liable to become a public nuisance and to do much damage. Enquiries are made as to the means employed by those authorized, to ensure that they are humane and as to disposal of the carcasses to ensure that birds unfit for human consumption are not sold for this purpose. During 1957 two licences were in force.

Under the provisions of Section 121 of the Public Health (London) Act 1936 the Council used its powers to abate a nuisance caused by pigeons congregating on certain premises in the borough. This involved a series of visits by a firm of contractors to destroy pigeons and to place pigeon scarers.

Mortuary

The mortuary attached to the Health Centre has remained until this year available for the reception of bodies, and it has been of great value to have this provision for use in an emergency. The mortuary being primarily intended for the early removal from overcrowded rooms of the bodies of those dying in them and for the isolation of the bodies of those dying from infectious disease.

Only occasional use has been made of these facilities since the War, and after careful consideration the Council decided to arrange alternative mortuary accommodation with an adjacent authority and to convert the portion of the Health Centre used as a mortuary into accommodation for rodent operatives.

The Corporation of London was so good as to make available mortuary accommodation at their Golden Lane Mortuary for Finsbury infectious and emergency cases and the converted accommodation was occupied by the Rodent Control Operatives on the 18th April, 1957.

No bodies were accommodated in the mortuary during the year.

Hairdressers

Under the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954 power was given to Borough Councils to require the registration of persons carrying on the business of a hairdresser or barber and the registration of the premises and the Council fixed the 1st February 1956 as the appointed day on which the provisions of the Act came into force in Finsbury.

In accordance with the Act, the Council made byelaws for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of registered premises including the instruments towels and equipment used therein and also the cleanliness of persons employed in such premises in regard both to themselves and their clothing. These were based on the model agreed by the metropolitan boroughs and were confirmed by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

A total of 44 premises have been registered under the Act.

In all, 49 visits were made to hairdressers and barbers during 1957.

SECTION D

HOUSING

General

The estimated number of dwellings in the borough at the end of 1957 was 9,904 consisting of 3,495 houses, 6,368 flats and 41 huts. The houses are almost entirely privately owned. Ownership of the flats is as follows:

Finsbury Borough Council	1,592
London County Council	559
City Corporation	266
Metropolitan Police	126
Housing Associations	2,644
Private ownership	1,181

New Accommodation

The housing construction programme of the Council and other housing authorities has continued to make progress during the year and I am pleased to report the erection and occupation of the following 339 new flats during 1957:

By the Finsbury Borough Council	
19-24 Wynyatt Street	12 flats
By the City Corporation (Golden Lane Estate)	
Great Arthur House	120 flats
Stanley Cohen House	32 "
Basterfield House	54 "
By Housing Associations (Peabody Estate)	
St. Mary's Tower	52 flats
Peabody Court	42 "
By Private Owners	
Pensioners Court, Charterhouse (conversion)	13 flats
29/31 Pentonville Road (conversion)	5 "
17 Paget Street (conversion)	3 "
6/7 Paget Street (conversion)	3 "
Others	3 "

Fifteen certificates of habitation under Section 95 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 were issued during 1957 in connection with new or converted premises which included the above mentioned blocks of flats.

At the end of the year the erection of 211 flats for the Council at Brunswick Close was well under way and the building of an additional 12 flats at the Holford Square Estate had been commenced. In addition, plans were being prepared by the Council's architect in connection with the redevelopment of the extensive Galway Street Clearance Area. Work was still in progress on the City Corporation Golden Lane Estate.

Basement Rooms

Steps are taken as and when necessary to prevent the re-occupation of unsatisfactory basement rooms by making Closing Orders. When information is received of the pending rehousing of families living in basements, inspection of the premises is carried out to ascertain whether the rooms could be made to comply substantially with the Housing Act standards at reasonable expense. If not, an official Representation is made to the Council and in most cases a Closing Order results.

Premises subject to a Closing Order are inspected annually for the purpose of ascertaining whether any infringement of the Order has occurred. One prosecution was successfully instituted in 1957 in respect of the use of basement rooms in contravention of a Closing Order.

A total of 208 inspections of basement rooms were made for all purposes during the year and the following is a summary of action taken:-

	Premises	Rooms
No. of closing orders in force on 1st Jan. 1957	99	164
No. of representations under consideration on 1st Jan. 1957	83	133
No. of representations made during 1957	17	54
No. of representations under consideration on 31st Dec. 1957	82	156
No. of undertakings accepted	3	6
No. of closing orders made during 1957	16	28
No. of closing orders determined during 1957	2	2
No. of closing orders in force on 31st Dec. 1957	113	190

Unfit Parts of Houses (other than Basement Rooms)

From time to time it has become necessary to take action in respect of a few individual rooms in houses still regarded technically as fit for habitation where these have for one reason or another deteriorated in condition beyond reasonable possibility of being rendered fit.

	Premises	Rooms
No. of closing orders in force on 1st Jan. 1957 (2 made in 1952, 1 in 1953, and 2 in 1954) ...	5	10
No. of representations under consideration on 1st Jan. 1957 ...	5	9
No. of representations made during 1957 ...	1	2
No. of representations under consideration on 31st Dec. 1957 ...	6	11
No. of undertakings accepted during 1957 ...	-	-
No. of closing orders made during 1957 ...	-	-
No. of closing orders determined during 1957 ...	-	-

In addition to the closing orders detailed in the above table certain other orders have been made under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of whole flats which have been for the purpose considered as part of the building in which they were incorporated.

Repair of Houses under Sections 9 and 10, Housing Act, 1936

No action has been taken since the war under these Sections.

Individual Unfit Houses

Chiefly because of rehousing difficulties, action to secure the demolition or closure of individual unfit houses has been restricted to a comparatively small number of very bad houses, including certain unoccupied premises. Since the war Demolition or Closing Orders have been made in respect of 110 premises.

The following was the position at the end of 1957:

No. of closing orders in force on 1st Jan. 1957	31
No. of representations under consideration on 1st Jan. 1957	4
No. of representations made during 1957	40
No. of representations under consideration at 31st Dec. 1957	35
No. of closing orders made during 1957	8
No. of demolition orders made during 1957	1
No. of premises subject to demolition orders demolished during 1957	2
No. of premises subject to closing orders demolished during 1957	6
No. of closing orders determined as a result of reconstruction	1

Tabular Statement prepared in accordance with the Housing
Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932

No. of houses considered on inspection to be unfit for human habitation	58
No. of houses wherein defects were remedied by informal action	
No. of representations made with a view to:	
(a) serving notices requiring the execution of work	
(b) making demolition or closing orders	58
No. of notices served requiring the execution of repairs	
No. of houses rendered fit after service of notice	
No. of demolition or closing orders made	25
No. of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	
No. of houses demolished	8

Slum Clearance

The position obtaining at the end of the year in respect of individual Clearance Areas is summarised below:-

1. *Macclesfield Place - 19 premises*

The tenants were rehoused and the premises demolished.

2. *Ironmonger Passage - Lizard Street - 3 premises*

Rehousing was completed.

3. *James' Gardens - Frye's Buildings - 25 premises*

Rehousing of the tenants was completed, and the west side of James' Gardens was demolished thus completing the clearance of the site.

4. *St. James' Row - 8 premises*

The area had not yet been cleared.

5. *Cynthia Street - 8 premises*

This Clearance Order made by the Council has not yet been submitted to the Minister.

6. *Galway Street - 168 premises*

Rehousing of the tenants on this large area commenced during the latter part of the year.

7. *Herbal Hill/Herbal Place - 7 premises*

Representations were made to the Council in respect of these premises during the year.

8. *Field Place - 7 premises*

These premises were represented at the end of the year.

9. *Medcalf Place - 15 premises*

These premises were represented at the end of the year.

10. *Macclesfield Road/President Street/Central Street - 26 premises*

This area was represented during the year under the title of the "King Square (No.1) Area".

11. *Buxton Buildings - 28 premises*

These flats were included in the agreed slum clearance programme but on grounds of expediency each individual flat was made the subject of a closing order representation.

As a result of the action taken during the year representations have now been made in respect of all the properties scheduled in the 1951/56 programme agreed between the Council and the London County Council.

Inspections

During the year inspections were carried out by the Public Health (Housing) Inspectors of certain properties which it was felt might be added to the provisional list of premises scheduled for clearance under the Housing Acts.

Discussions continued with the London County Council during the year on various aspects of slum clearance. The total number of house to house inspections made in 1957 was 87.

Overcrowding

It is difficult to estimate the extent of overcrowding in the borough - either overcrowding based on the purely legal standard or what may well be considered to be overcrowding, of families living in cramped conditions necessitating the use of kitchens as bedrooms but not legally overcrowded. Generally speaking, however, serious overcrowding is much reduced and the majority of cases coming to the notice of the department are invariably overcrowded to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 unit. Forty such families were reported to the appropriate authority during 1957.

Five new instances of wilful overcrowding came to light during the year. In each case strongly worded letters were sent to the landlord and tenant. Two of the families eventually found alternative accommodation and in one case the overcrowding was abated by the removal of one member of the family. In the remaining two cases conditions were ameliorated by re-arrangements within the households concerned.

A case of gross overcrowding in which legal proceedings were pending at the beginning of the year was resolved as a result of the family buying another house.

Rehousing

Applications for rehousing by the Borough Council are made to the Housing Manager and these have been assessed for some years according to a points scheme. When accompanied by medical certificates to support the application on medical grounds these have been referred to the Medical Officer of Health. Enquiries are then made by the Nurse/Visitor into the detailed nature of the family health, and the apparent bearing on this of the accommodation in use, and when desirable, an inspection is carried out by the Public Health Inspector.

These reports are then correlated with the medical certificates, and a degree of medical priority is then allotted.

During the year 386 applications were dealt with as follows:

New cases	242
Cases reconsidered on new medical certificates	123
Cases reconsidered	21
Cases specially considered for Housing Committee	-
L.C.C. cases	-

Applications for rehousing by the London County Council are made to that body. Reports are then frequently asked for and supplied in regard to existing overcrowding and sanitary defects. If accompanied by medical certificates further information is given on request to the Divisional Medical Officer of the London County Council who is responsible for allocating priorities on medical grounds.

The approximate number of families rehoused during the year was:-

Rehoused in Finsbury Borough Council flats	80
Rehoused from Clearance Areas	40
Rehoused by London County Council	120
Rehoused in new towns	15

In addition 13 families on the Council's housing list were rehoused by the City Corporation and some by private companies.

A considerable number of tenants allocated flats at the Peabody Estate were taken from the register of L.C.C. housing applicants.

Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

The Rent Act came into operation on the 6th July 1957 and it is difficult, as yet, to accurately assess the full results of its application in the borough. So far as the Department is concerned inspections have been made by the Public Health Inspectors in connection with applications to the Council by tenants for a Certificate of Disrepair and for advice in completing the appropriate forms required by the Act.

By the end of the year 34 premises had been inspected in connection with official applications and some 37 for other purposes. In 10 cases it was recommended to the Council that a Certificate of Disrepair be issued for all the defects specified by the tenant on form "G", in 23 cases for some of the items only, and in one case that no certificate be issued.

The number of Certificates actually issued by the Council up to the 31st December was 8 and undertakings to carry out the necessary work were accepted in 6 instances.

Improvement Grants

Property owners in the borough have taken little advantage of the financial assistance available under the Housing Acts whereby improvements can be effected to sub-standard houses at the discretion of the Council.

Work was completed during the year in the conversion of 3 premises subject to grant previously agreed to by the Council. This resulted in the provision of 8 three-room flats and 3 one-room flats, the latter for old people.

One formal application only was received and agreed to by the Council during the year in respect of the horizontal conversion of two adjoining houses in Myddelton Square to provide 5 three-room flats. The alterations were nearing completion at the end of the year.

SECTION E

FOOD

Food Premises

The number of known food premises in the borough at the end of the year was as follows:

Restaurants, cafes & snack bars	165
Public houses	120
Off-licence premises	9
Factory canteens	73
Commercial canteens	approx. 50
Dairies and milk distributors, etc.	137
Ice Cream sellers	145
Confectioners (sweets) shops	73
Bakers shops	24
Bakehouses	16
Grocers and provision shops (retail)	40
Provision merchants (wholesale)	13
Cheese importers (wholesale)	3
Greengrocers and fruiterers	22
Fish shops	4
Fish curers	3
Fried fish shops	9
Eel & pie shops	5
Poultry dealers (wholesale)	4
Butchers shops (retail)	37
Wholesale butchers and offal dealers	24
Wholesale horseflesh dealer	1
Bacon factories	8
Sausage factories	3
Sausage casings merchants	6
Meat extract factory	1
Public cold stores	6
Chemists shops (retail)	19
Manufacturing and wholesale chemists	9

In addition, there are some 200 street market stalls dealing in various foodstuffs.

The total number of visits paid to all food premises during 1957 was 3,552 and to food stalls 3,399.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Following the detailed survey, initially carried out during 1956, of all restaurants, cafes and snack bars, efforts have continued during the year toward the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations in such premises. Visits by the Public Health (Food) Inspectors have intensified and pressure has been brought to bear on proprietors where necessary by sending a schedule of works, etc. required to be done. Although not required by the Regulations, this form of notice has proved useful in stimulating owners to carry out improvements required to comply with the Regulations.

The total number of visits made to restaurants, cafes and snack bars, during the year was 1,750; these included visits to discuss proposed work with contractors and others as well as to supervise improvements in progress.

At the end of the year the position was as follows:-

Total No. originally inspected	...	161
Premises subsequently opened	...	4
		<hr/> 165 <hr/>
No. of premises closed	...	5
No. of premises in Clearance Areas	...	5
No. of premises considered to be satisfactory	...	93
No. where work was in progress	...	59
*No. where little or no work had been done	...	3
		<hr/> 165 <hr/>

*In 2 cases the Council subsequently authorised legal proceedings; the other premises were closed.

Adulteration of Food

In 1957 a total of 620 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst. Of these, 13 were formal and the remainder were informal samples.

Details are appended:

	No. of Samples Obtained
Foods	
Milk	88
Cream and Condensed Milks	11
Ice Cream	5
Sausages	19
Meat and Fish Products	88
Butter, Margarine and Fats	15
Cheese	11
Jams, etc.	20
Dried Fruits	13
Cake and Pudding Mixtures, etc.	21
Cereals, etc.	15
Flours, etc.	3
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Extracts	17
Sauces, Vinegar, etc.	37
Soups	9
Herbs, Spices and Condiments and flavours	39
Canned Vegetables, Fruits, Fish, etc.	33
Non-Alcoholic Drinks	34
Confectionery	48
Table jellies and gelatine	9
Cakes, Bread	8
Alcoholic Drinks	7
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	2
Restaurant Meals and Snacks	12
Drugs	
Simple Medicines	16
Powders	9
Tablets	10
Ointments, lotions, etc.	15
Prescriptions	6
Total	<u>620</u>

An informal sample of buttered rolls purchased from a cafe was found to contain margarine. A formal sample was purchased with a similar result and legal proceedings were successfully instituted against the vendor.

Similarly, at the end of the year, an informal sample of non-brewed condiment was found to be deficient in acetic acid, and a formal sample was obtained. This contained only 3.6% of acetic acid, a deficiency of 10%, and proceedings were subsequently authorised by the Council.

One informal sample of pork chippolata sausages was found to contain 15 p.p.m. excess sulphur dioxide but a formal sample proved to be genuine.

Informal and formal samples of unlabelled beef chippolata sausages purchased from another shop, which did not display the requisite notice, were found to contain 350 and 130 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide respectively. A warning letter was sent to the vendor in this case.

An informal sample of milk was found to contain 11.5% of added water and fat abstracted to the extent of 30%. A formal sample from the same source, however, was genuine.

Of the remaining formal samples, 7 were spirits and wines and 1 was sweetened condensed milk. All were reported as genuine by the Public Analyst.

Food Complaints

Sixteen complaints in respect of alleged unsound or adulterated food purchased from shops in the borough were received from members of the public during the year. In every case an investigation was carried out and a report submitted to the Health Committee. Legal proceedings were recommended in 3 instances, all of which were successful. In the remaining cases action appropriate to the circumstances was taken.

Legal Proceedings

The Council instituted legal proceedings under Section 2 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 as under:

Date	Premises	Offence	Result
1. 8.57	22 Skinner Street	Buttered rolls not of the nature demanded (containing margarine).	Fined £10 Costs £2.11.0
1. 10.57	414 St. John Street	Choux bun containing a nail.	Fined £2 Costs £2.2.0
1. 10.57	76 Chapel Market	Blackberry pie containing two pieces of wood.	Fined £2 Costs £2.2.0
8. 10.57	8 City Road	Steak pie containing a piece of glass.	Fined £20 Costs £3.3.0

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

A prosecution was successfully instituted by the Council against a street trader for unlawfully selling by retail an article, viz. pills, consisting of a substance recommended as a medicine supplied in

a container upon which was not written each of the ingredients of which the said pills were compounded. The vendor was fined £3 and ordered to pay £1 1 0 .costs.

Bacteriological Examination of Food

The pathological laboratory in the Health Centre was used whenever possible during the year for the routine examination of various types of food and whenever suspicion of contamination arose.

During the past year several types of foodstuffs have been submitted for bacteriological examination in addition to the usual routine examination of milk and ice cream, as indicated in the following list.

Canned Hams	13
Canned Ox Tongue	2
Corned Beef	2
Other Meat Products	5
Meat and Fish Pastes	5
Minced Meat	1
Roast Beef	1
Jellied Eels	1
Evaporated Milk	6
Skimmed Milk Powder	1
Angel Cake	1
Cream Sandwich	1
Wines & Spirits	29
Frozen Foods:-	
Fish Fillets	11
Fish Fingers	5
Chicken Fillets	1
Vol au Vent	1
Chicken Puffs	1
Pork Fingers	1
Lamb Chops	1
Sausages	9
Peas	1
Total	<u>99</u>

Some of the samples have been submitted as the result of complaints from the general public but in many cases it has been thought necessary to have detailed checking of the quality of the product from a bacteriological aspect. Foods which have been submitted in this latter category are as follows:

Canned Hams

Owing to the fact that a considerable weight of canned hams from various continental countries were found to be unsound and in view of the monetary loss involved it was considered desirable to ascertain by bacteriological examination the possible cause of the unsound condition of the contents of the cans. In some of the samples submitted *Cl. Welchii* was isolated and generally it was found that the types of organisms isolated suggested careless handling and insufficient sterilization at the time of manufacture.

Frozen Foods

Several samples of the various prepacked frozen foods were submitted and in the majority of cases it was reported that the samples were free from pathogenic organisms. In the case of samples of a meat product submitted it was not possible to prove definitely the presence of any contamination or the use of infected material. Nevertheless the results do serve as a warning that very close hygienic and bacteriological control of these materials should be exercised.

Canned Evaporated Milk

As a result of information received from another local authority samples of a particular brand of canned evaporated milk on sale in the borough were submitted for examination. The report of the bacteriologist showed that the contents of these tins were not fit for human consumption and the whole of the stock held by the trader was destroyed and an appropriate certificate issued.

Wines and Spirits

An interesting and unusual case occurred during the year in respect of a quantity of wines and spirits which had been stored in a cellar which had been flooded with crude sewage. As a result of exhaustive examinations it was decided that no serious infection by pathogenic organisms had taken place and after negotiations with the owners, some of the goods were destroyed and the remainder were released for consumption.

Milk

Regular sampling of milk for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination is carried out from shops, depots, roundsmen, schools and day nurseries. In addition, routine inspections of dairies and milk shops are made, the number of visits during 1957 being 198.

Summary

No. of dairies on register at end of 1957	9
No. of distributors on register at end of 1957	128
No. of transfers approved during 1957	5
No. of new applications approved during 1957	3
No. of premises removed from register during 1957	..

Designated Milk Licences issued

	Dealers	Supplementary
Tuberculin	60	29
Pasteurised	76	29
Sterilised	79	32

Quality of Milk

No. of samples submitted to Public Analyst	88
No. of samples reported as adulterated	1
Average fat content of milk samples	3.68%
Average non fatty solids content	8.76%
No. of samples submitted for bacteriological examination	77
No. reported as fully satisfactory	77

Ice Cream

Since the coming into force of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947-52 the number of premises where ice cream is manufactured has been considerably reduced. Although 22 premises are still registered for the purpose the number where any manufacturing actually took place during the year was 2. At one of these the product is subjected only to the freezing process following delivery after pasteurisation from a factory outside the district. At the main plant in the borough the ice cream is subjected to pasteurisation at a temperature of 150°F for 30 minutes. The standard of ice cream from a chemical and bacteriological standpoint has generally been satisfactory.

The number of visits to ice cream premises by the Public Health (Food) Inspectors during 1957 was 134

Summary Premises

No. of premises registered for manufacture	22
No. of premises registered for storage and sale	121
No. of premises registered for storage only	2
No. of new registrations during 1957	3

Summary - Sampling

No. of samples submitted to Public Analyst	5
No. reported as adulterated	NIL
No. of bacteriological samples taken	36
No. reported as fully satisfactory	25
No. reported as unsatisfactory	1
No. reported as indeterminate	10

Meat Inspection

In the neighbourhood of the Smithfield Meat Market there are a considerable number of wholesale butchers and offal shops, bacon factories, wholesale bacon and provision warehouses, poultry, game and rabbit shops, and Public Cold Air Stores, all of which are regularly inspected by the meat inspector.

Several of the wholesale butchers shop trade in old cow and bull carcasses beef which is used for manufacturing purposes. Due to the nature of these carcasses a rigid inspection was maintained to ensure that diseased carcasses were not passed on to the public.

A systematic examination of imported frozen carcasses of mutton and lamb was made for Caseous Lymphadenitis in the Public Cold Air Stores.

Consignments of Continental and Scandinavian offals and tinned hams continued to be imported into the Borough and condemnations of these took place on several occasions.

The collection of unsound meat and other foodstuffs continues to be collected satisfactorily by the contractors, Messrs. Henson and Burbidge, Matusa Works, Beckton, who render down the foodstuffs for technical purposes only.

During the year 119 certificates were issued for the export of meat, bacon and meat essence. Several of these certificates were issued for the export of boneless and bone-in quarters of cow beef to France and Italy.

A total of 1,597 visits were made to the retail butchers shops and stalls in the borough.

During the course of the year the meat inspector examined 2,794 cartons and 2,242 bags of New Zealand Beef Livers, each containing 6 to 8 livers for a parasitic hydatid cyst - the *Echinococcus Granulosus*.

Each liver was slightly thawed out and 2 or 3 incisions were made into the substance of the liver to demonstrate the presence of the parasitic cyst which varied in size from a pea to a small orange. Those livers which were affected with the hydatid cyst were condemned.

A tabular table in regard to the examination is set out below:

NEW ZEALAND BEEF LIVERS
examined for Echinococcus cysts:

EXAMINED		CONDEMNED		
NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	PER- CENTAGE
2794 Cartons	184,613 lbs.	1530 Livers	17,289 lbs.	9.2%
2242 Bags	184,319 lbs.	1864 Livers	20,931 lbs.	13.9%

Bakehouses

At the end of the year there were 11 underground bakehouses in the borough for which certificates under the Factories Acts are in force. In addition, there were 6 other bakehouses in use. A total of 105 visits were paid during 1957.

Registered Food Premises

In addition to ice cream shops, the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food is 73. The various types of business carried on at these premises are as follows:

Sausage manufacturing	...	...	...	32
Sausage smoking	...	...	...	1
Meat pickling	...	...	...	38
Offal cooking	...	...	...	5
Cooked meats and pie making	...	...	...	4
Ham boiling	...	...	...	10
Bacon curing and smoking	...	...	...	3
Fish curing	...	...	...	3
Shellfish cooking	...	...	...	2
Jellied eels	...	...	...	2
Meat extraction	...	...	...	1

A total of 217 visits were paid by the Inspectors during 1957.

In some instances more than one type of business is carried on at the same premises. For example, meat pickling is invariably done at retail and wholesale butchers shops, at most of which sausages are also

manufactured. There are, however, 3 wholesale sausage factories in the borough. The cooking of meat, offal and pies is done mostly at premises that specialise in that type of trade; this also applies to jellied eels. The number of premises at which the boiling of hams regularly takes place is not as high as pre-war as several small provision merchants have ceased to cook their own, preferring to sell precooked or canned hams. Large quantities of bacon are smoked at the establishments in the borough registered for this purpose. The smoking of fish is also carried out locally and in addition 2 retailers cook their own supplies of shellfish. One large firm has a factory in the borough for manufacturing and bottling meat extract.

In general, the conditions under which this type of food preparation is carried on are reasonably satisfactory. Certain improvements however, have been effected at particular premises during the year.

Street Markets

The four Market Streets in the borough are Chapel Market, Exmouth Market, Whitecross Street and Farringdon Road. A total of 590 stalls were licensed by the Borough Council at the end of 1957 of which 200 were food stalls. The Inspectors visit the Market Streets daily, and made 3 399 inspections during the year.

Food stalls present many difficulties to be overcome in enforcing the Food Hygiene Regulations and some individual stall holders have made an attempt to meet the requirements. All new street trading licences in respect of foodstuffs are issued subject to the Public Health Department being satisfied that the stalls and storage places comply with the Regulations. In certain cases, e.g. the confectionery trade, a licence is issued restricting sales to wrapped goods.

Licensed Premises and Public Houses

Finsbury has 129 licensed premises all but 9 of which are public houses. The number of inspections carried out during the year was 224 of which 53 were visits in connection with the transfer of licences and other matters under the Licensing Act 1953. In this way the Licensing Justices are advised of unsatisfactory conditions, particularly of insufficiency of sanitary accommodation for customers in public houses.

Matters requiring remedy under the Public Health Act or Food Hygiene Regulations are dealt with accordingly.

During 1957, 28 premises were improved in this way.

Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933

The Council keeps a List of Sellers of Part II Poisons under the Act and in 1957 42 applications for names to be placed or retained on the List were approved. Each of the premises concerned was visited during the year to ensure that the provisions of the Act and Poisons Rules were complied with in regard to containers and labelling.

Unsound Food

No formal seizure and condemnation of food under Section 9 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 was necessary during the year. There is little evidence of attempts by traders to sell unwholesome food to the public, in fact it is the traders themselves who generally notify the Department of any suspected unsound food in their possession. In such cases voluntary surrender of food is accepted and certificates issued by the Food Inspectors accordingly. The amount of food dealt with remained comparatively high because, in addition to the many retail food shops in Finsbury, certain multiple stores have their warehouses in Finsbury to which doubtful food is returned from branches all over London. Similarly large quantities of foodstuffs are handled by the British Transport Commission which has depots in the borough and the Food Inspectors are frequently called in to adjudicate on food that has been damaged or contaminated in course of transit.

No occasion arose during the year for the special examination of any large quantity of a specific stock or consignment of food other than meat.

A total of 154 visits were made by the Food Inspectors during the year in connection with the examination of unsound food and 986 condemnation certificates were issued. These figures exclude any reference to meat inspection.

Small quantities of food are subject to incineration where facilities exist, but generally, unsound food other than meat is removed as trade refuse by the Council's general contractor. Where necessary, the cans containing food are pierced.

Details of the unsound food surrendered during the year are as follows:

	lbs.
Meat (diseased)	16,088
Meat (unsound)	21,731
Meat products	8,525
Bacon	33,430
Offals (diseased and unsound)	53,345
Poultry	6,552
Game	219
Rabbits	193
Canned foods	37,237
Bottled fruit, pickles, etc.	95
Dried fruit	234
Confectionery	388
Cheese	4,348
Fats	284
Fish	338
Cereals	852
Eggs	-
Miscellaneous	583
Total	184,442 lbs.
	82.34 tons

Food Poisoning

Nine cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning due to identified or unidentified causes during the year.

The following individual cases were investigated:

<u>Agent identified:</u>	<u>Notified</u>	<u>Otherwise ascertained</u>
	Sept. Salmonella Thompson	Nov. Salmonella Typhi-murium
	Oct. Salmonella Anatum	Dec. Salmonella Typhi-murium
	Nov. Salmonella Typhi-murium	

Agent not identified:

Feb. Two

Agent not identified but possible cause:

Feb. Pork
Apr. Sausage Rolls
Nov. Mussels
Nov. Fried Fish.

SECTION F

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

General

The incidence of infectious disease at no time during the year gave rise to any serious concern.

All cases notified were visited by the Infectious Diseases Nurse/Visitor and energetic measures taken wherever indicated to ensure adequate minimization of danger of infection to others.

The number of visits made by the Infectious Diseases Nurse/Visitor in 1957 was 3 345.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases in 1957 -

	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65+	Cases treated in Hosp
Acute Pneumonia	57	3	4	3	5	10	20	12	38
Dysentery	119	8	36	50	3	20	2		31
Erysipelas	2					2			1
Encephalitis	2						1	1	2
Food Poisoning	9			1		1	3	4	3
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	30	11	19						17
Measles	344	22	220	99	1	2			56
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1							1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3		3						3
Poliomyelitis (Non- paralytic)	1		1						1
Whooping Cough	47	10	25	12					23
Scabies	29		5	10	2	11	1		-
Scarlet Fever	39		19	20					27
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	37		1	3	2	9	16	6	-
Tuberculosis (Non- Pulmonary)	1			1					-
Total	721	55	333	199	13	55	43	23	203

DISEASES NOTIFIABLE IN FINSBURY

Diphtheria

There were no cases or contacts of Diphtheria during 1957.

Smallpox

There were 11 Smallpox contacts in June, these being persons who had visited hospitals where this infection had been found. They were all kept under supervision and remained well, and no further incident arose.

Enteric Fever (i) Typhoid

There were no cases or contacts of Typhoid Fever during 1957.

Enteric Fever (ii) Paratyphoid

There were no cases or contacts of Paratyphoid Fever during 1957.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

There was 1 notified case during 1957 which responded well to treatment, and no blindness developed.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There were 22 cases, all of which developed in hospital; they all made satisfactory progress.

Meningococcal Infection

There were no cases or contacts of Meningococcal Infection during 1957.

Acute Infective Encephalitis

There were 2 notified cases, both in elderly females. Both died. The contacts were kept under supervision and remained well.

Malaria

There were no cases of malaria notified during the year.

Erysipelas

There were 2 notified cases, both facial, and both were moderately severe. One was removed to hospital. Both responded well to treatment and recovered.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were 3 notified cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis, 1 Non Paralytic, and 1 abortive case. Two of the Paralytic cases were mild, the other one has a fair amount of paralysis involving back and leg

muscles. They are making satisfactory but slow progress. One Paralytic resident of the borough developed the disease whilst on holiday and has fair amount of paralysis, and is progressing slowly. Five were removed to hospital.

Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonias

There were 57 notified cases of these pneumonias, 14 were severe cases of Influenzal Pneumonia. Of the 43 Acute Primary Pneumonias, 17 were severe cases, 26 moderately severe. 48 were removed to hospital. The largest number of notifications were in the last quarter. There was 1 death, a female aged 32 years, who was also suffering from Mitral Stenosis. The remainder made satisfactory recovery.

Scarlet Fever

There were 39 notified cases during 1957. 38 of these were mild cases, 1 moderately severe case who developed Double Adenitis plus Double Otorrhoea. This condition responded well to treatment. All made satisfactory recovery. 25 were removed to hospital.

Whooping Cough

There were 47 cases of Whooping Cough notified during 1957, there were also 4 unnotified cases. They were spread out over the whole year. Two young children had severe attacks, 24 and the 4 unnotified cases were moderately severe, and 21 were mild cases. 22 were removed to hospital. All but one made satisfactory recovery, but there were 4 complications of Bronchitis. In one instance a few months old child discharged after whooping cough was re-admitted some time later to hospital and subsequently died.

Measles

There were 344 plus 4 unnotified cases of Measles, the largest numbers being in the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year. There was 1 severe case, 172 plus 4 unnotified were moderately severe, and 171 were mild cases. 52 were removed to hospital. All made satisfactory progress. Complications: Broncho-pneumonia 3, Bronchitis 6, Otitis Media 2.

Scabies

Twenty-nine cases were notified during the year.

Dysentery

There were 120 notified cases of Dysentery, 119 were Sonne Dysentery and 1 Flexner Dysentery. The most of these cases were connected with an outbreak at one school and were in the last quarter of the year. None were seriously ill and all made satisfactory progress.

Gastro enteritis (under 2 years)

There were 30 notified cases of Gastro enteritis in babies, 1 was severe, moderately severe 12, mild cases 17. There were 15 removed to hospital. All made satisfactory progress.

Gastro enteritis (over 2 years)

There were 5 mild cases, all of which responded well to treatment.

Rubella

There were 45 mild cases of Rubella during 1957. There were no known contacts with any early pregnancies.

DISEASES NOT NOTIFIABLE IN FINSBURY

Chickenpox

There were 144 cases of Chickenpox, which came to the knowledge of this department. None of these were severe and all made satisfactory recovery. There were no complications.

Mumps

There were 53 cases of Mumps, none were severe and all progressed satisfactorily. There were no complications.

Infective Hepatitis

There were 2 cases of Infective Hepatitis, 1 adult and 1 child. There was no contact between the cases and both progressed satisfactorily.

Food Poisoning

Please see Section 'E' - Food.

Glandular Fever

There was one case of Glandular Fever, a male aged 13 years. He was removed to hospital and made satisfactory progress.

Influenza

During October 120 visits were paid to reported cases of Influenza. There were no cases of serious illness amongst these and most were school children. All made satisfactory progress.

Tuberculosis

The total number of new cases entered in the register during the year was 58.

The distribution by sex and age, and according as to whether the case was of Pulmonary or Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, was

		0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65+	Total
Pulmonary	M	-	-	2	-	2	4	5	3	10	5	5	36
	F	-	1	1	1	3	4	3	1	1	3	2	20
Non-Pulmonary	M	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TOTAL		0	1	4	1	5	8	9	4	11	8	7	58

These figures do not necessarily correspond, due to technical reasons, with those shown in the report of the Chest Physician.

The non-pulmonary cases include:

1 Renal; 1 Cervical glands.

The notification rate for all forms of tuberculosis was 16.6 per 10,000.

The total number of cases remaining on the register after adjustments for deaths and transfers was on 31st December 1957, as follows.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	151	117	268
Non-pulmonary	8	11	19
	<u>159</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>287</u>

The full details of each case obtained by the Tuberculosis Visitor were, by kind co-operation of the London County Council, made available to and any preventive measures possible co-ordinated with those of the Borough Council.

There were seven deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis as follows

Males	32	56	57	63	73	77
Females	85					

There were no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 20, as in 1956, and well below the rates that prevailed before then. It remains however above the national rate which was 10.7.

I should like to acknowledge the willing co-operation and facilities for the interchange of information which have been provided by the Chest Physician, Dr. W. D. R. Thompson, and his staff.

Finsbury Chest Clinic

(Information kindly provided by Dr. W. D. R. Thompson, Chest Physician).

During the year 1957 a total of 1,838 patients were seen in the Chest Clinic. Of this total, 94 attended for the first time as contacts of notified cases, and a further 131 were re-examined as routine checks.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis taken on the clinic register during the year amounted to 33, of which 32 were pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. Of the pulmonary cases 11 proved to be infectious. In addition to these cases a further 15 notified cases (14 pulmonary, 1 non-pulmonary) were transferred into the borough from other clinics and hospitals.

The number of notified cases shown on the clinic register at the 31st December 1957 was as follows

Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Totals			Grand Total
M.	W.	Ch.	M.	W.	Ch.	M.	W.	Ch.	
135	101	20	4	8	3	139	109	23	271

The previous year's total was 257.

During 1957 there were 7 deaths (6 males and 1 female), 1 lower than 1956.

Of the cases removed from the register during 1957, a total of 3 were recovered. 17 were transferred out to other areas, and the remaining 6 were removed as "lost sight of" and "diagnosis not confirmed".

The total number of cases X-rayed during the year was 1,469.

The London County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor, seconded to the Chest Clinic, made 1,045 visits to homes in the borough during the year.

Each case was visited with the view to tracing the source of infection, and advising on the prevention of the disease spreading and on giving any other assistance where necessary.

Disinfection was carried out by the Finsbury Borough Council in a number of cases at the request of the Chest Physician.

Mass Radiography Unit 6D

(Information kindly provided by Dr. W. D. R. Thompson, Medical Director).

During 1957 the Mass Radiography Unit examined 40,097 males and 25,295 females, making a total of 65,392. This is a small increase on the previous year's figures. The final total would have been higher but for the wave of illness which struck London during the latter months of the year, and which greatly affected the attendances at the Unit.

Up to the end of 1957 the Unit has examined 426,039 people since its inauguration in May 1950.

Eighty-four active cases of tuberculosis have been discovered - which is an increase of 35% on last year's results - and nine hundred and sixty-three cases with tuberculous lesions. All clinics have recorded their sputum findings, and thirty-one cases with a positive sputum have been reported which is an increase of 50% on the 1956 returns.

The Unit functioned at the Mass Radiography Centre, 20 Golden Lane, E.C.1. for nine months in the year divided into two periods. During the "mobile" period the Unit visited firms, etc. within its zone, viz. the City of London and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Finsbury and Shoreditch. This included a two week's stay at the Haggerston Library, 236 Kingsland Road, London, E.2., by kind permission of the Shoreditch Libraries Committee, when the Unit concentrated upon the eastern portion of the Borough.

Of the firms examined during 1957 many were small and/or new firms. It is interesting to report that during the year under review a far higher proportion of active cases of tuberculosis were discovered in firms previously X-rayed than in new firms.

Much attention has, of late, been directed to carcinoma of the lung. Deaths from broncho-genic carcinoma are reported to have increased five-fold since 1930. During 1957 the Unit discovered thirteen cases which is a little above the average of the past few years.

It should be noted that asymptomatic carcinoma will often show no abnormal radiological shadows. Most of the cancers picked up by Mass Radiography Units were from cases referred by general practitioners on account of symptoms. Up to the end of 1957 general practitioners in the neighbourhood have not utilised the services of this Unit so fully as might have been expected, but it is hoped that a revised procedure to be introduced early in 1958 will produce a better response.

The function of a Mass Radiography Unit is to discover tuberculosis and other chest ailments in the early stages, which will result in an earlier cure. Examinees who attend the Unit (by prior appointment) are X-rayed over their clothes, except when attending for a second (and large) film. All volunteers receive the result of their examination.

The Service is free, reliable and confidential, and the Organising Secretary, Mass Radiography Unit 6D, Finsbury Health Centre, Pine Street, E.C.1. (Tel. No. TERminus 0031, Ext. 9) will be pleased to send full details of the Service to firms and individuals who may be interested.

APPENDIX "A"

List of special reports submitted to the Health Committee by the Medical Officer of Health during 1957

February	11	Mid-day Meal Services for the Aged, 1956.
March	11	Further Interim Report on Restaurants and Cafes.
April	8	*Removal of Refuse from Premises and Derelict Sites. Bacteriological Examination of Foodstuffs.
May	13	*Removal of Refuse from Premises and Derelict Sites (Revised Report).
June	11	Conference Report. Royal Society of Health Congress, Folkestone. Restaurants and Cafes in the Borough of Finsbury (Further Report).
July	8	Report on Individual Duties of Public Health Inspectors.
October	14	Finsbury Employment Scheme for the Elderly - Progress Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 1957.
		The Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution.
		Smoke Control Areas.
		Review of Manual Staff.
		Absences through Sickness (Five years).
		The Association of Public Health Inspectors' Annual Conference - Eastbourne, 1957.
November	11	24th Annual Conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society held at Hastings 2nd-4th October 1957.
		Aged Persons - Holiday Scheme 1957.
December	2	Grants - Voluntary Associations.

APPENDIX "B"

List of special reports submitted to the Housing Committees by the Medical Officer of Health during 1957 ..

April	1	(Report on Herbal Hill Area (Report on Herbal Place Area, and Formal Representations.
June	3	(Report on Herbal Hill Area (Report on Herbal Place Area, and Formal Representations (Amended).
July	1	(Report on Herbal Hill Area (Report on Herbal Place Areas (No. 1 and No. 2), and Formal Representations (Further amended).
July	8	Buxton Buildings.
October	9	Draft Underground Room Regulations.
November	11	Report on King Square (No. 1) Area, and Formal Representa tion.