

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Hammersmith Borough].

Contributors

Hammersmith (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.
Day, F. M.

Publication/Creation

[1949?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kntbn9mw>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

CU347

LIBRARY
HAM 40

Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith



Abridged
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer
of Health
for the Year
1948

by

F. M. DAY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M., D.P.H.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH.

Health Committee.

At 31st December, 1948.

Councillor Thatcher (*Chairman*).

„ Pinnell (Miss) (*Vice-Chairman*).

Alderman Hallett (Mrs.).

Councillor Bennie, J.P., L.C.O.

Councillor Gosling.

„ Kirby.

„ Martin.

„ Freeman.

„ Russell.

„ Morris.

„ Turner (Mrs.).

„ Woods (Miss).

Ex officio : The Mayor (Alderman Buckingham, J.P.).

TOWN HALL,

HAMMERSMITH, W.6.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—My annual report for 1948 deals with a year which, in many ways, is quite unique. 1948 saw the introduction of the National Health Services, and it is possible now to comment, at least superficially, on the changes which have come about.

Whilst the new Service in many ways had no repercussion on many of the Health Department's activities, its onset inevitably brought about changes that could not have been forecast.

Perhaps the most important of these was to bring closer together the staff of the Fulham Health Department and our own. By agreement between the two Councils, the medical staff of each became interchangeable, and therefore familiar with both services. The benefits of this arrangement have, I think, been obvious to each Council.

On the 5th July the change-over envisaged in the Act took place.

The necessary transfer of staff from the Boroughs to the County proceeded, and the Medical Officers of Health of the London Boroughs continued their supervisory control of the transferred services. Their responsibility covered, in particular, day-to-day administration.

It is pleasing to record that the liaison between the new Divisional staff of the County Council and ourselves is of the most cordial and sincere description.

A relationship of this kind makes the introduction of great administrative changes so much easier and more efficient.

It is gratifying also to note that in the last year of the Hammersmith Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, the

infant mortality rate fell to a record new low level, and also that only one mother was lost during the year—the same as last year's record low figure for maternal deaths.

The Borough has indeed been fortunate in its health, and there is no doubt that the cumulative effect of its social services during a period of many years, has been responsible for the high standard of health which was enjoyed during 1948.

My report to you, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, is still in an abridged form, on instructions from the Ministry of Health, and I have included, the same as last year, a short paragraph of explanatory introduction to each series of statistics and tables.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the kindness and consideration shown to by me the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and to record my thanks to the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation, without which, the services of the Department could not have been so highly and efficiently maintained.

I feel that it should be emphasised that the staff during this year of change have been subjected to unusual stresses and strains, often of a personal nature, and resulting from the professional horizon confronting them. No sign of this has interfered with the efficiency of any one of them, and evidence of this is the almost unnoticed change-over of the transferred services.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. M. DAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics, 1948.

There has been a slight fall in the population of the Borough, but the natural increase resulting from an excess of births over deaths has been maintained. The fall in the population, therefore, is likely to be due to an outward movement of people to other parts of the country.

Area ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,282.5 acres
Population (1947) (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	117,280
„ (1948)	...	...	...	...	...	115,800
„ Census (1901)	...	...	...	...	...	112,239
„ „ (1911)	...	...	...	...	...	121,521
„ „ (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	130,295
„ „ (1931)	...	...	...	...	...	135,521
Natural increase, i.e., excess of births over deaths	...	...	...	...	...	847
Density of population (persons per acre)...	...	...	...	...	...	50.74
Marriages registered	...	...	...	...	...	1,366
Rateable value (April, 1948)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,229,454
Sum represented by a penny rate (April, 1948)...	...	...	...	...	...	£4,800

Vital Statistics.

As in the previous year, one maternal death only was recorded in the Borough. The infant mortality rate is the lowest that has been recorded in Hammersmith, and it may seem appropriate that this happy position occurred during the last year that the Borough Council was responsible for the Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

There is no change in the number of deaths from Cancer and this condition remains one of our most serious problems.

There were no deaths from Typhoid, Dysentery or Food Poisoning.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	1,967	1,036	931	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population = 18.5 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 17.8
	Illegitimate ...	182	105	77	
Stillbirths	...	39	21	18	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population = 11.2
Deaths	...	1,302	667	635	

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	1	0.45
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total ...	1	0.45

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	35
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	32.53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	60.43
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	254
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	4

Statistics.—The following table gives the statistics of the Borough during 1948 and previous years:—

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1948 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1925	134500	2178	2351	17·5	1034	7·7	186	756	153	65	1604	11·9
1926	134400	2001	2188	16·3	1174	8·7	195	556	144	66	1535	11·4
1927	132800	1789	2076	15·6	1581	11·9	230	377	126	61	1728	13·0
1928	136300	1938	2258	16·6	1449	10·6	222	326	156	69	1553	11·4
1929	136900	1869	2162	15·8	1757	12·8	222	340	133	62	1875	13·7
1930	136900	1962	2173	15·9	1387	10·1	219	436	140	64	1604	11·7
1931	135100	1954	2073	15·3	1567	11·6	288	373	140	68	1652	12·2
1932	133700	1795	1940	14·5	1465	10·9	294	543	129	66	1714	12·8
1933	131400	1682	1827	13·9	1500	11·4	340	530	119	65	1690	12·9
1934	129170	1551	1783	13·8	1359	10·5	346	655	137	77	1668	12·9
1935	128100	1774	1877	14·7	1347	10·5	406	583	131	70	1524	11·9
1936	127700	2266	1922	15·1	1399	10·9	441	639	116	60	1597	12·5
1937	126500	2707	1913	15·1	1333	10·5	402	662	130	68	1593	12·6
1938	125100	2840	1874	15·0	1340	10·7	450	522	117	62	1412	11·3
* 1939 {	B122800 D116200	2214	1829	14·9	1311	11·2	362	442	77	43	1391	12·0
1940	98320	1733	1600	16·3	1725	17·5	370	401	76	51	1756	17·9
1941	84880	2480	1405	16·5	1315	15·4	351	364	52	41	1328	15·6
1942	89370	2735	1589	17·8	1270	14·2	356	338	94	59	1252	14·0
1943	92050	3941	1768	19·2	1278	13·9	365	387	102	58	1300	14·1
1944	89190	4178	1788	20·0	1447	16·2	418	389	95	58	1418	15·9
1945	96100	4884	1742	18·1	1464	15·2	423	267	78	45	1308	13·6
1946	111860	5663	2310	20·6	1522	13·6	463	277	103	45	1336	11·9
1947	117280	5821	2559	21·8	1570	13·3	472	271	97	38	1369	11·6
1948	115800	5510	2149	18·5	1608	13·8	547	241	75	35	1302	11·2

* B = Birth-rate Population Figure.

D = Death-rate „ „

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1948.

It can still be stated, with satisfaction, that no death resulted from Diphtheria during the year under review. The last death from Diphtheria in Hammersmith took place in 1946.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex.	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total all Ages.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	M	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	F	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
3. Scarlet Fever ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough ...	M	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
5. Diphtheria ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	M	0	0	0	19	22	4	45
	F	1	0	0	15	5	1	22
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	M	1	2	1	0	2	0	6
	F	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	M	0	0	0	0	3	5	8
	F	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
9. Influenza ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
10. Measles ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis ...	M	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F) ...	M	0	0	0	0	3	9	12
	F	0	0	0	1	7	3	11
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	M	0	0	0	2	8	12	22
	F	—	—	—	1	9	10	20
15. Cancer of Breast ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	F	0	0	0	4	8	12	24
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	M	0	0	0	2	42	45	89
	F	0	1	0	6	28	40	75
17. Diabetes ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
	F	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular Lesions	M	0	0	0	1	17	35	53
	F	0	0	0	2	13	66	81
19. Heart Disease ...	M	0	0	0	3	47	103	153
	F	0	0	0	2	27	121	150
20. Other Diseases of Circ. System	M	0	0	0	1	7	29	37
	F	0	0	0	0	5	30	35
21. Bronchitis ...	M	1	0	0	3	12	40	56
	F	0	0	1	1	5	28	35
22. Pneumonia ...	M	3	1	0	1	6	17	28
	F	1	1	0	3	1	29	35
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	M	0	0	0	2	3	3	8
	F	0	0	0	0	4	2	6
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	M	0	0	0	1	7	3	11
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
26. Appendicitis ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	M	0	1	0	0	5	6	12
	F	0	1	0	0	4	9	14
28. Nephritis ...	M	0	0	0	3	5	6	14
	F	0	0	1	1	3	8	13
29. Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
30. Other Maternal causes ...	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Premature Birth ...	M	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
	F	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
32. Con. Mal. Birth Injuries Infant Dis. ...	M	17	1	0	0	0	0	18
	F	11	1	0	1	0	0	13
33. Suicide ...	M	0	0	0	1	7	0	8
	F	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	M	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
	F	0	1	0	0	1	2	4
35. Other violent causes ...	M	3	3	0	5	3	8	22
	F	4	1	1	0	2	16	24
36. All other causes ...	M	2	0	2	5	8	21	38
	F	3	1	2	10	6	21	43
Totals of all causes ...	M	42	9	3	50	208	355	667
	F	33	7	5	51	135	404	635
		75	16	8	101	343	759	1302

INFANT MORTALITY, 1948.

There was a reduction in the number of births but the infant mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

The following table gives the number of births and deaths of infants and the rate per 1,000 births since 1906 :—

Year.	Births.	Deaths of Infants.	Deaths of Infants per 1000 births.
Average 1906-1913	3000	359	117
„ 1914-1923	2639	230	88
„ 1924-1933	2145	141	66
1934	1783	137	77
1935	1877	131	70
1936	1922	116	60
1937	1913	130	68
1938	1874	117	62
1939	1829	77	43*
1940	1600	76	51†
1941	1405	52	41‡
1942	1589	94	59
1943	1768	102	58
1944	1788	95	53
1945	1742	78	45
1946	2310	103	45
1947	2559	97	38
1948	2149	75	35

* Rate calculated on a birth figure supplied by the Registrar-General of 1,781.

† Rate calculated on a birth figure supplied by the Registrar-General of 1,501.

‡ Rate calculated on a birth figure supplied by the Registrar-General of 1,253.

Nett deaths of infants at various ages under one year of age.

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	37
1-2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	5
2-3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	2
3-4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	1
4 weeks and under 3 months	...	...	...	...	...	11
3 months and under 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	8
6 months and under 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	11
9 months and under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	75

NET. BIRTHS IN THE YEAR: Legitimate, 1,967 ; Illegitimate, 182.

NET. DEATHS IN THE YEAR : Legitimate Infants, 64 ; Illegitimate Infants, 11.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

As mentioned previously, only one death occurred in the Borough during 1948.

The following table gives the number of Maternal Deaths and the rate per 1,000 (live and still) births since 1924 :—

Year.	Number of Deaths.		Number of live Births.	Maternal Death Rate.
	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Accidents of Pregnancy.		
Average 1924-1933	4	4	2,145	3.5
1934	4	5	1,783	5.0
1935	1	1	1,877	1.1
1936	1	2	1,922	1.6
1937	1	3	1,913	2.1
1938	—	2	1,874	1.1
1939	1	1	1,829	1.0
1940	—	—	1,600	—
1941	1	1	1,405	1.5*
1942	—†	3	1,589	1.9
1943	2	1	1,768	1.6
1944	1	1	1,788	1.08
1945	—	1	1,742	0.56
1946	2	5	2,310	2.94
1947	1	—	2,559	0.38
1948	1	—	2,149	0.45

* Rate calculated on a (live and still) birth figure supplied by the Registrar-General of 1,289.

† 1 death from puerperal sepsis not counted as "Maternal death."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspectors continued at a very high level. Fortunately little time was lost on account of sickness and the Inspectors were able to deal with all the outstanding work which faced them. Much praise is due to them for the able and efficient way in which they overcame the swollen list of visits and other duties during the year.

Cause of Inspection.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Notices served.	No. of Notices complied with.
Bakehouses	64	4	—
Cancer	2	—	—
Complaints	4,979	2,761	3,417
Drainage	1,648	18	13
Factories (Mechanical)... ..	344	41	33
Factories (Non-mechanical)	175	24	17
Food (other than Restaurants and Eating Houses)	1,417	4	5
House to House	3	1	—
Housing Act	100	—	—
Ice Cream Vendors	719	2	1
Infectious Diseases	363	18	22
Licences (Building)	3,199	—	—
Markets	631	—	—
Milk Vendors	381	—	—
Outworkers	613	4	7
Pharmacy and Medicines Act	112	—	—
Public Urinals	15	1	—
Rats and Mice	1,274	130	140
Re-Housing	2,085	86	53
Restaurants and Eating Houses	194	6	3
Scabies	245	—	—
Shops Act	19	7	2
Slaughterhouses... ..	3	—	—
Smoke Observations	16	3	3
Miscellaneous	807	33	47
Re-visits	10,353	831	601
No Answer	3,563	—	—
<hr/>			
No. of Ineffective Visits	33,324 3,563	3,974 —	4,364 —
<hr/>			
Total	29,761	3,974	4,364

During the year 1,889 Statutory Notices were served and 1,204 complied with.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS ACT, 1920/1939.

During the year 32 applications were received for certificates under the above Act, and in 16 cases certificates were granted.

This total includes ten applications from owners, nine of which were issued as the work specified had been completed satisfactorily.

SUMMONSES—YEAR 1948

The following table shows the number of proceedings instituted during the year :—

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	158
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	5
Housing Act, 1936	10

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	209	175	24	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	422	344	41	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	631	519	65	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found.				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	10	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient...	3	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	25	21	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ...	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	10	—	—
Total ...	42	31	10	—	—

OUTWORK.

Nature of Work.	SECTION 110.			SECTION 111.		
	No. of Outworkers 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 Unwholesome Premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, &c. ...	81	—	—	1	1	—
Cleaning and Washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Household Linen ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and Furniture Hangings ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plate ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
File Making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and Brass Articles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fur Pulling ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel Cables and Chains ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel Anchors and Grapnels ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cart Gear ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Locks, Latches and Keys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas, &c. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial Flowers ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than Wire Nets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Racquet and Tennis Balls ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of Boxes or other Receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of Paper ...	12	—	—	1	1	—
Brush Making ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pea Picking ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Sorting ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, &c., of Buttons, &c. ...	17	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed Toys ...	23	—	—	1	1	—
Basket Making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chocolates and Sweetmeats ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cracker Bon-bon, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, &c. ...	39	—	—	2	2	—
Textile Weaving ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	191	—	—	5	5	—

RODENT CONTROL.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Rats.—The degree of rat infestation in the Borough has shown a decrease, doubtless due to the special campaigns carried out during the previous years and the routine baiting of sewers and other fertile breeding grounds.

The infestations reported or discovered during the year were all found to be "common" or "sewer" rats. Fortunately the Borough appears free of "ship" ("black") rats, but infestation from outside sources is always a possibility. In view of the high breeding rate of both species, continual measures are necessary to prevent a rise in the rat population and to guard against re-infestation of premises.

All complaints of rats are investigated by a Sanitary Inspector, and efforts are made to trace the source of infestation.

Baiting is still the most effective way of destroying rats in occupied buildings, and is carried out by the Council's operatives free of charge to private householders. Baiting is also carried out in business premises, and the cost of the work charged to the occupier.

Mice.—The most serious mice infestations arise in certain types of business premises, particularly those where food supplies are available. Complete extermination in these cases is very difficult; re-infestation is always likely, and arrangements have been made in one or two instances for the Council's operatives to make periodical visits to keep a check on the position, and lay baits as required. The expenses thus incurred are recovered from the occupier.

Where complaints of mice infestation are received from occupiers of dwelling houses, assistance is given by loaning traps or laying baits. As in the case of rat infestation, no charge is made for this service. If the infestation is due to the occupier's neglect, a notice is served by the Sanitary Inspector.

General.—The Council's rodent staff comprises two operatives. They work under the supervision of one of the Sanitary Inspectors. All baiting is carried out in accordance

with the technique prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. On an average, each infestation entails 14 visits by the operative.

A few firms in the Borough employ servicing contractors to carry out routine control measures. Occasionally, some of these firms also seek the Council's assistance.

Sewers.—The baiting of the Council's sewers is undertaken by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department. The rodent operatives assist by preparing and mixing the baits.

Statutory Action under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Number of Statutory Notices served	14
Number of Prosecutions	Nil
Number of Private Houses baited	313
Number of Business Premises baited	48

HOUSING.

Statistics—Year 1948.

1. Total number of houses in the borough, including flats, tenements, &c., separately assessed 24,000 (approx.)

Public Health Act

2. Number of houses inspected on account of complaints or illness 4,979
3. Number of statutory notices served 1,889
4. Number of houses repaired or nuisances remedied 3,417

Housing Act, 1936

5. Number of houses inspected—house to house (Housing Consolidated Regs. 1925) ... Nil
6. (a) Number of houses included by representations by the Borough Medical Officer under Sec. 25 of H.A., 1936 Nil
- (b) Number of houses demolished following representation by Borough Medical Officer under Sec. 25 of H.A., 1936 Nil
7. Number of houses repaired under Sections 9 and 10 of H.A., 1936 :—
 - (a) by owners 1
 - (b) by L.A. in default of owners 2
8. Number of houses demolished :—
 - (a) in pursuance of orders under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil
 - (b) voluntarily Nil
9. Number of houses (wholly or in part) the subject of Closing Orders (excluding underground rooms)... .. Nil

10. Number of Closing Orders determined (i.e., houses made fit)	2
11. Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936)	
Number of families found to be living in overcrowded conditions	521
Number of overcrowded families who have obtained alternative accommodation ...	237
12. Number of houses erected by the Borough Council for working classes during the year	62 (Flats)
13. Underground Rooms	
Number occupied but unfit	3
Number closed or modified occupation approved	Nil
14. Houses let in Lodgings	
Number in Borough	9,600 (approx.)
* Number of inspections	Nil
Number of prosecutions	Nil
† Number of complaints remedied under the By-laws (not included under any other heading)	Nil
* Included under item No. 2.	
† Included under item No. 4.	

BUILDING LICENCES.

The arrangements existing for dealing with applications for building licences have continued in operation throughout the year. The Sanitary Inspectors have continued to investigate and report upon all applications received. The number of applications received during the year was 2,939.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (WAR DAMAGE) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1941.

Applications for certificates of fitness for housing purposes are dealt with by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

No application was received during the year.

EXHUMATION AND RE-INTERMENT OF BODIES.

During the year fourteen Licences were granted by the Secretary of State for the exhumation and removal of bodies from graves in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Harrow Road.

With one exception each of these was attended by the Sanitary Inspector for this area, and in each case it was possible to certify that the removal was carried out in a proper manner.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

The above Act came into operation on the 5th July, 1948.

Section 47 provides that the Local Authority shall be responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from a grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, who are living in insanitary conditions and who are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It has been found necessary on one occasion only to apply to the Court for an Order under this section. The case was that of an old lady who was infirm, living in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to herself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Enquiry and consideration showed that, in her interest and for preventing injury to the health of others, she should be removed from the premises in which she was residing.

An Order was obtained from the West London Magistrates Court for her removal to and detention in Fulham Hospital for a period of three months.

Burial or cremation of the dead

It is provided 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.

The Council may recover from the estate of the deceased person or from any person who for the purposes of this Act was liable to maintain the deceased person immediately before his death, expenses incurred for the burial or cremation.

Up to the end of the year forty-four burials and one cremation have been carried out in Hammersmith at a total cost of £269 2s. 6d. Of this amount, £26 18s. has been recovered. In one case re-imbursement is being made by instalments

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.*Meat and other Foods.*

Shops, stalls, vehicles and premises where food intended for human consumption is prepared, stored, etc., were subjected to routine inspection throughout the year.

A quantity of dried apricots was seized under Section 10 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and quantities of unsound food, including meat, were voluntarily surrendered.

In accordance with the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering Order), 1940, the three licensed slaughter-houses in the Borough are not in use.

A comprehensive survey of underground bakehouses has been made in connection with the Certificates of Suitability as required by Section 54 of the Factory Act, 1937. At the time of the passing of the Act, there were 17 underground bakehouses in the Borough to which the provisions of the Section applied. One bakehouse has been demolished and five are not now in use. Schedules, showing the respects in which the remaining 11 underground bakehouses fall short of the standard adopted by the Council, have been served.

Sampling.

The chemical analysis of food is now carried out by the Public Analyst at the City of Westminster Depot, Monck Street, S.W.1.

Eight hundred samples of various foods and drugs were submitted by the Council's Inspector for chemical analysis. One hundred and thirty-three were found to be inferior and three, or a percentage of 0.37, were reported adulterated.

Ice-Cream.

Premises where ice-cream is manufactured, stored and sold have been frequently inspected by the Council's Food and Drugs Inspector for the purpose of enforcing the requirements of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

In a number of cases, entirely new ice-cream making plants have been installed.

Sixty-nine samples of ice-cream were taken for examination by the methylene blue test. Twenty-two samples were reported to be within grade 1, 16 samples within grade 2, 21 samples within grade 3, and 10 samples within grade 4.

This test is mentioned by the Ministry of Health as one which appears to provide the best available means for ascertaining the bacterial cleanliness of ice-cream. It is suggested that, if out of the four grades recommended, ice-cream consistently fails to reach grades 1 and 2, it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture, or of handling, which call for further investigation.

Milk

Two hundred and seventy-six samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. Two, or a percentage of 0.72, were reported adulterated.

There are five milk pasteurising plants licensed by this Authority operating in the Borough. These plants are of modern design and employ the latest process of pasteurisation known as the High Temperature Short Time Method. One of these milk plants is considered to be the largest in this country.

In addition to those taken for chemical analysis, 164 samples of milk were taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936/1946, and Regulation 55G of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, and submitted for phosphatase, methylene blue and bacteriological tests.

It is of interest to note that all samples of milk submitted for the phosphatase test—a test which reveals whether milk has been effectively pasteurised or heat-treated—were reported by the Public Analyst to be satisfactory.

FOOD POISONING.

Total number of outbreaks.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each.	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each.
2	First outbreak—13	2	Bacillus Typhi Murium (Aertrycke).	Not known.
	Second outbreak—48.	Nil	Not isolated.	Dinner cooked at School Meals Kitchen.

Two examples of food poisoning occurred during the year. One was apparently entirely of a domestic nature, whilst the other took place at a public elementary school.

In the first, two children died as a result of attacks of Gastro-enteritis and in each case *Bacillus Typhi Murium* (Aertrycke) was isolated in pure culture from the stools. Later it was found in the family of 13 persons ten carried this organism in the stools for varying periods of time. In one of these there was a history of intermittent attacks of abdominal pain and diarrhoea for about a year. Treatment of three of the most persistent carriers was successful and was of the nature of a "blunderbus" attack with Sulphaguanidine, Sulphadiazine, Sulphasuccidine and Penicillin. In the cases of the other seven carriers of the *Bacillus* it was found that the carrier state "died" out in periods varying between one and three months without treatment.

An epidemic of mild diarrhoea and vomiting was reported in February from an elementary school in the Borough. Forty-eight members of the children and staff complained of diarrhoea and vomiting with abdominal pains. All had partaken of a school luncheon consisting of roast beef, yorkshire pudding and vegetables, followed by prunes and custard. This meal was delivered at the school immediately before it was consumed. Enquiries at the kitchen where the meal was prepared revealed a sorry state of affairs. Bomb damage, lack of equipment and inadequate supervision of food, during the cooling period after initial cooking, was painfully obvious.

Although no organism was isolated from any of the affected persons or from food, I formed the opinion that the luncheon was responsible.

CORONERS' COURT AND PUBLIC MORTUARY.

There was a slight reduction in the number of bodies admitted to the Public Mortuary during the year. There are no unusual facts to report and the work of the staff continued smoothly and efficiently, as in the previous year.

Six hundred and forty-three bodies were admitted to the Public Mortuary during the year :—

Bodies admitted from the Borough :—

By order of Coroner	280	
By order of Police	12	
On application of undertakers for accom- modation	47	
	—	339

Bodies admitted from other Boroughs :—

Fulham	63	
Chelsea	241	
	—	304

643

No. of P.-M. examinations conducted :—

Hammersmith cases	271	
Fulham	46	
Chelsea	213	
Total P.-M.s	—	530

No. of Inquests held :—

Hammersmith cases	80	
Fulham	54	
Chelsea	62	
Kensington	100	
Total Inquests held	—	296

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

There were, omitting tuberculosis, 1,933 cases of infectious diseases notified in the Borough during the year, against 2,046 in the previous year.

BACTERIOLOGY.

During the year the following 954 bacteriological examinations were made on behalf of the Council :—

Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for suspected cases of			
Diphtheria	1	689	690
Haemolytic Streptococci	148	40	188
Faeces	—	52	52
Vincent's Organisms	—	16	16
Occult Blood	—	1	1
Widal	—	4	4
Sputum	—	3	3
	149	805	954

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.												
	At all Ages.	AGE PERIODS.											
		Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera, Plague, Typhus, Anthrax ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	29	—	5	2	—	—	2	3	3	7	3	4	—
Erysipelas	25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	3	12	4
Scarlet Fever	141	2	6	8	17	13	59	17	9	4	5	1	—
Enteric Fever	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	8	3	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	70	8	8	9	6	2	5	—	4	3	4	12	9
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	30	1	—	4	3	1	6	1	2	4	2	6	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	905	46	154	119	135	117	303	10	5	14	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	429	41	84	75	51	51	122	2	—	1	1	1	—
Scabies	260	6	6	15	7	8	27	25	13	86	31	27	9
TOTALS	1,933	117	267	233	219	192	526	60	36	144	53	64	22

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1948.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Cases where diagnosis was not confirmed	Total deaths.
Diphtheria	29	29	24	—
Erysipelas	25	14	1	—
Scarlet Fever	141	63	5	—
Enteric Fever	5	5	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	19	13	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	8	8	1	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Influenzal)	70	5	—	†63
Dysentery	30	17	8	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	} 1
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	
Malaria	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—
*Measles	905	70	6	—
*Whooping Cough	429	53	6	2
*Scabies	260	—	—	—
TOTALS	1,933	278	56	73

* This is not total brought to notice of Department.

† Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notifications of tuberculosis registered a considerable fall during the year. This is a very hopeful sign and it is reasonable to suppose that the expected post-war drop in the incidence of the disease has now begun.

PART I. SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS DURING THE PERIOD FROM THE
1ST JANUARY, 1948, TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1948.

Age Periods.	Formal Notifications.															
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis.															
	0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total (all ages)		
Respiratory, Males	-	1	6	3	3	3	8	21	7	14	11	6	-	83
Respiratory, Females	2	4	2	8	3	18	19	17	6	3	2	-	-	84
Non-Respiratory, Males	1	1	3	5	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	15
Non-Respiratory, Females	...		-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

PART II. NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH DURING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PERIOD,
 OTHERWISE THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION.

Source of Information		Number of cases in age Groups.														Total
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-		
Death Returns from Local Registrars ...	Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2 (A)		
	Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 (B)		
	Non-Respiratory M	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (C)		
	Non-Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1 (D)		
Death Returns from Registrar-General (Transferable deaths)	Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (A)		
	Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (B)		
	Non-Respiratory M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (C)		
	Non-Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (D)		
Posthumous Notifications...	Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (A)		
	Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (B)		
	Non-Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (C)		
	Non-Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (D)		
“Transfers” from Other Areas (excluding transferable deaths) ...	Respiratory M	-	-	1	-	-	6	2	11	10	3	-	-	33 (A)		
	Respiratory F	-	-	-	2	-	1	12	14	3	2	-	1	35 (B)		
	Non-Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 (C)		
	Non-Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (D)		
Other Sources ...	Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (A)		
	Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (B)		
	Non-Respiratory M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (C)		
	Non-Respiratory F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— (D)		
TOTALS														(A) 35 (B) 36 (C) 4 (D) 1		

The following table has been prepared, giving particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from tuberculosis during 1948 :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	—	2	2	—	—	1	1	—
1- ...	8	6	6	1	—	—	2	—
5- ...	6	13	5	3	—	—	1	—
15- ...	19	50	1	1	} 19	15	—	1
25- ...	32	31	4	—				
35- ...	17	10	—	—	} 22	5	2	2
45- ...	17	5	—	—				
55- ...	13	2	1	1	} 4	1	—	—
65 and on ...	6	1	—	—				
TOTAL ...	118	120	19	6	45	22	6	3

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths is 1 to 11.

The following table indicates the number of cases and deaths from Tuberculosis :—

Year.	No. of Cases notified.			No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases on Register of Notifications.
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.		
1929	217	63	280	149	1,334
1930	196	54	250	153	1,293
1931	183	56	239	127	1,198
1932	183	45	228	156	1,128
1933	185	31	216	150	1,056
1934	184	31	215	124	1,070
1935	170	31	201	119	1,059
1936	156	40	196	116	1,063
1937	141	33	174	106	1,068
1938	155	37	192	87	859
1939	165	33	198	107	889
1940	143	24	167	118	813
1941	160	39	199	103	828
1942	169	31	200	104	963
1943	177	24	201	72	1,097
1944	192	22	214	93	1,184
1945	207	23	230	93	1,282
1946	188	23	211	85	1,487
1947	189	21	210	90	1,517
1948	167	20	187	76	1,599

Sixty-seven deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered, against seventy-six in the previous year, representing a death rate of 0.57 per 1,000 compared with 0.64 in 1947 and 0.67 in 1946.

Figures for the years 1929-48 showing the interval between notification and death of tuberculous persons are as under :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
1. Total number of deaths from Tuberculosis in the Borough ...	149	153	127	156	150	124	119	116	106	87	107	118	103	104	72	93	93	85	90
2. The number of cases notified at death ...	3	7	2	6	13	5	11	6	8	8	5	9	10	22	14	26	13	14	2
3. The number of cases notified within one month of death (excluding above)...	32	18	16	21	17	21	11	20	16	13	12	11	13	16	10	6	13	6	9
4. The number of cases notified within three months of death (excluding above) ...	18	21	14	17	17	9	8	7	11	6	3	10	10	8	5	9		6	9
5. The number of cases notified within six months of death (excluding above) ...	8	9	14	15	16	11	11	7	8	5	5	11	6	3	3	6	10	5	6

Average number of cases notified for the 10 years 1929-1938 (inclusive)=219.

Average number of cases notified for the 10 years 1939-1948 (inclusive)=202.

Average number of deaths for the 10 years 1929-1938 (inclusive)=128.

Average number of deaths for the 10 years 1939-1948 (inclusive)=94.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Campaign for the early detection of symptomless tuberculosis was continued during the year by Miniature Mass Radiography Units provided by the London County Council, and one such Unit was established at the Town Hall for three weeks, 7th June to 12th June and 21st June to 3rd July, for the purpose of conducting the X-ray examinations.

Arrangements were also made for the Unit to operate at the premises of the E.N.V. Engineering Company Limited, Hythe Road, Willesden, N.W.10, for a week commencing 14th June, and the directors of the firm very kindly offered the facilities to employees of other firms in the immediate vicinity.

The scheme enables large groups of persons to have their chests X-rayed. The object is, of course, to detect anything abnormal and, in particular, to discover cases of early tuberculosis.

In the vast majority of cases nothing abnormal is found. Tuberculosis of the lungs begins without any warning, and often before the patient is aware of it, the disease is in an advanced stage. The only method of detecting it before it produces symptoms is by X-ray examination. When discovered in the early stages the treatment of tuberculosis is simple.

A number of large industrial undertakings in the Borough were again invited to allow their employees to undergo examination by the Unit, and the managements of the firms proved very co-operative. Certain sessions were reserved for the examination of private residents.

The scheme was advertised to the public in the local Press, and the Campaign was started by His Worship The Mayor, who very kindly agreed to be photographed with X-ray apparatus and permitted the Press to publish photographs with suitable captions.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Campaign was an outstanding success, and I append particulars giving the results of the examinations.

Total examined	Referred for large films	Did not re- attend	No abnor- mality	Caled. and other lesions N.F.A.	Referred to General Practitioners			Refused further Investiga- tions
					Prob- ably Tuber- culous	Prob- ably not Tuber- culous	Cardio Vasc.	
Males ... 3,039	150	13	51	49	28	4	5	—
Females 1,568	90	2	43	27	13	1	3	1
4,607	240	15	94	76	41	5	8	1

These figures include scholars from the Upper Latymer School, King Street.

Following the termination of the examinations at the Town Hall, the Unit visited St. Clement Danes School, Ducane Road.

The total, quoted above, was, however, well exceeded, as the Campaign was completed in the autumn with the visit of the Unit to one large firm in the Borough, where, I understand, approximately 3,000 employees were examined.

It must be realised, of course, that a particular section of the population was sought out in this Campaign, and therefore the numbers examined do not compare in any way with, say, the total population of the Borough. Workers in particular were the object of the survey, and I have no hesitation in saying that the London County Council's effort was a great success.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

It is interesting to observe that there has been a reduction in the number of cases treated at the Council's Medicinal Baths during the year 1948.

The number of cases arising locally has become less and, in addition, the number of applications from other local authorities for treatment at the Hammersmith Centre has diminished. This is a normal occurrence in peace time and is to be expected, providing there are no major social upheavals, but it may well be that the additional facilities provided by

the Council last year for the treatment of the various infestations has had the effect of further reducing the incidence of human insect parasites in Hammersmith.

Special attention has been given to head lice by the Doctors and Health Visitors in the Welfare Centres and by the Matrons in the Day Nurseries, and examinations of the children's heads have been carried out during routine inspections to discover any infestations. Mothers have been advised as to the best methods of eradication and of preventing recurrence of the trouble. Families known to be in need of special attention have been frequently visited by the Health Visitors, and infested school children, together with their contacts of pre-school age, have been followed up in the home.

Facilities for cleansing at the Council's Medicinal Baths have been made available in all cases and the opportunity given to purchase special combs at cost price.

Figures showing the number of cases dealt with at the Baths during the year are as under :—

School Children—Hammersmith.

Scabies ...	...	...	...	...	420
Verminous	...	...	...	...	1,436
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	17

School Children—Non-Hammersmith.

Nil.

Children under Five Years—Hammersmith.

Scabies ...	...	...	...	...	153
Verminous	...	...	...	...	47
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	4

Children under Five Years—Non-Hammersmith.

Nil.

Adults—Hammersmith.

Scabies ...	...	...	...	...	525
Verminous	...	...	...	...	123

Adults—Non-Hammersmith.

Nil.

Lodging-houses.

Scabies	6
Verminous	121

DISINFECTION.

The following table shows the amount of disinfection carried out by your Council during the year ; all bedding and articles of clothing, etc., being removed to the Council's Disinfecting Station :—

Beds	40
Mattresses	388
Pillows	241
Bolsters	42
Blankets	248
Sheets	96
Quilts	63
Curtains	2
Articles of Clothing	275
Sundries	29
	<hr/>
	1,424
	<hr/>
Rooms (including 410 verminous rooms)	485