

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

### **Contributors**

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Metropolitan Borough of Hampstead.

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*Abridged Report on the Health  
of the Borough.*

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1946.

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H. LESLIE OLDERSHAW,  
M.D. State Medicine (Lond.), B.S., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres) ... ..	2,265
Population ... ..	89,720
Rateable Value, March, 1946 ... ..	£1,546,347
Sum produced by 1d. rate ... ..	£5,978

## BIRTHS.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ... ..	1,421	708	713
Illegitimate ... ..	143	62	81
	1,564	770	794

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	17.4
(Rate for London : 21.5)	
Number of Stillbirths ... ..	35
Rate of Stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	21.8

## DEATHS.

Net deaths (males, 513 ; females, 547) ... ..	1,060
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11.8
(Rate for London : 12.7)	
Deaths from maternal causes (.64 per 1,000 births) ...	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year (males, 33 ; females, 24) ...	57
Infants under 1 year : Infantile Mortality Rate	
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	36
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	34
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	63

The causes of death, arranged under the headings of the short list used by the Registrar-General, were as follows :—

1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .. .. —	19. Heart disease .. .. 319
2. Cerebro-spinal fever .. .. —	20. Other diseases of circulatory system .. .. 35
3. Scarlet fever .. .. —	21. Bronchitis .. .. 58
4. Whooping cough .. .. —	22. Pneumonia .. .. 52
5. Diphtheria .. .. —	23. Other respiratory diseases .. 11
6. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system .. .. 30	24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. .. 14
7. Other forms of tuberculosis .. 4	25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. 4
8. Syphilitic diseases .. .. 8	26. Appendicitis .. .. 6
9. Influenza .. .. 9	27. Other digestive diseases .. 22
10. Measles .. .. 1	28. Nephritis .. .. 17
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis .. .. 2	29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .. .. —
12. Acute infective encephalitis .. 1	30. Other maternal causes .. 1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (m) uterus (f) .. .. 13	31. Premature birth .. .. 15
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum .. .. 32	32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases .. .. 2
15. Cancer of breast .. .. 22	33. Suicide .. .. 12
16. Cancer of all other sites 111	34. Road traffic accidents .. 6
17. Diabetes .. .. 10	35. Other violent causes .. 47
18. Intra cranial vascular lesions 90	36. All other causes .. .. 82
	Total .. .. 1,060

## Public Mortuary, New End.

During the year 139 bodies were brought to the mortuary, 11 by the Police and 128 by order of the Coroner.

139 post-mortem examinations were made.



## Infectious Disease during 1946.

	Notifications	Removals to Hospitals	Deaths
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	2	—
Diphtheria ...	13	12	—
Dysentery ...	14	11	1
Erysipelas ...	17	7	—
Measles ...	324	33	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	1	—
Pneumonia ...	77	39	12
Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	2
Puerperal Fever ...	4	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	20	16	—
Scabies ...	197	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	115	52	—
Smallpox ...	2	2	—
Typhoid Fever ...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	92	12	—
Total ...	883	193	15

Cancelled cases have not been included.

## Smallpox.

Two cases of smallpox were notified in this Borough on 9th February, and they were removed to Hospital the same day. The circumstances were that a Doctor discharged from the Army, left India on the 9th January, immediately prior to which he had been in contact with smallpox. He arrived in this country on the 15th January, and it would appear that he infected his wife and daughter, as the history shows that he himself had symptoms of smallpox.

A thorough disinfection of the premises was carried out immediately after removal of the patients and every endeavour was made to trace all possible contacts. The main difficulty was in connection with the school which the child had attended up to four days prior to notification. The Head Mistress of the school was most co-operative, and we were able to vaccinate all the school children who might have been possible contacts. In all some 250 children at the school were vaccinated, and approximately a further 50 people were vaccinated who feared they might have some association with the patients.

Both patients recovered, and no further case of smallpox occurred.

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

Free immunisation against diphtheria may be obtained:—

- At Borough Council clinics held weekly at No. 230, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3 (Wednesdays, 2 to 3 p.m.), and No. 60, West End Lane, N.W.6 (Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m.).
- In L.C.C. Schools under the school medical service.
- Through private doctors in accordance with a scheme operated by the Borough Council whereby prophylactic, *i.e.*, alum precipitated toxoid, is made available to medical practitioners who receive payment in accordance with the approved scale of the British Medical Association.



Sessions for immunisation are arranged from time to time in private schools and in the day nurseries. The Borough Council assumes responsibility for post-Schick testing all children, including those immunised in L.C.C. schools and by private doctors.

During 1946, 931 children were immunised under the arrangements described above; of these 810 were of pre-school age and 121 attended school. One adult was immunised. Comparative figures for 1945 and 1944 were 725 (690 of pre-school age; 35 attending school) and 468 (386 of pre-school age and 82 attending school) respectively.

Ninety-nine sessions were held at the Borough Immunising Clinics and the attendances were as follows:—

	Total attendances.	Average attendances per clinic.
First injections .. ..	774	7.8
Second „ .. ..	759	7.7
Schick Tests .. ..	697	7.0
Schick Readings .. ..	554	5.6
	<hr/> 2,784 <hr/>	<hr/> 28.1 <hr/>

The estimated percentages of children immunised up to 31st December, 1946, are:— under 5 years, 55 per cent.; of school age, 78 per cent. The total number of children immunised since free immunisation was commenced in the Borough in mid-1933 is 7,074.

As will be seen from the following table, the figures relating to the numbers of cases and deaths among young children continue to be very satisfactory.

Of the 13 cases of Diphtheria only two had been immunised, and 10 were adults.

Year.	Children : 0—15 years.		
	Number immunised under official arrangements.	Number of cases of Diphtheria.	Number of deaths from Diphtheria.
1928 .. ..	Nil	55	3
1929 .. ..	Nil	42	2
1930 .. ..	Nil	63	2
1931 .. ..	Nil	44	2
1932 .. ..	Nil	46	3
1933 .. ..	192	81	3
1934 .. ..		94	7
1935 .. ..	503	44	Nil
1936 .. ..	343	31	Nil
1937 .. ..	328	57	4
1938 .. ..	343	55	Nil
1939 .. ..	220	20	1
1940 .. ..	24	5	Nil
1941 .. ..	824	9	2
1942 .. ..	1,336	10	Nil
1943 .. ..	837	3	1
1944 .. ..	468	2	Nil
1945 .. ..	725	1	Nil
1946 .. ..	931	3	Nil

In Hampstead each Health Visitor is responsible for securing the immunisation of children under school age in her district. Particular effort is made to secure immunisation about the age of one year and of

the 931 children immunised in 1946, 592 were born in 1945. This is the highest number of "one-year-olds" ever immunised in a single year in the Borough. Every child who reaches the age of one year and has not commenced immunising injections receives a Birthday Greetings leaflet inviting the parent to have the child immunised. This leaflet is most successful.

### Bacteriological Examinations.

The following examinations were carried out:—Diphtheria 144; Scarlet Fever (for Hæm. Strep.) 56; Sputum for T.B. 491; Dysentery 7; Vincents Angina, 12; Malaria, 1; Meningococci, 1.

### Vaccination.

1,751 Certificates of successful primary vaccination were received during the year, and of the 999 births registered during 1945, 73 per cent. had been successfully vaccinated by the end of the year 1946. This percentage is the highest ever recorded in the Borough.

### Tuberculosis.

#### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

During the year 1946, 114 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 100 being cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 of other forms of the disease.

The following statistical table, prescribed by the Ministry of Health, gives an analysis of the newly notified cases and deaths during 1946:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .. .. .	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 .. .. .	5	1	3	1	—	—	1	—
15—25 .. .. .	12	7	1	3	1	1	—	—
25—35 .. .. .	13	18	—	2	2	4	—	—
35—45 .. .. .	12	6	1	1	5	3	—	1
45—55 .. .. .	8	6	—	—	2	3	—	—
55—65 .. .. .	4	1	—	—	4	—	1	1
65 and upwards ..	2	2	—	—	5	—	—	—
Totals .. .. .	58	42	7	7	19	11	2	2

#### Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

There were 559 Pulmonary and 83 Non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis known to the Department at the end of the year 1946.



*Municipal Chest Clinic and Tuberculosis Dispensary.**(a) Chest Clinic and Tuberculosis Dispensary.*

	1946.	1945.
Number of sessions .. .. .	152	145
Number of patients' attendances ..	2,633	2,115
Average attendance .. .. .	17.3	14.6
Number of patients attending .. ..	980	898
New patients .. .. .	428	373
New contacts .. .. .	130	105
Number of patients examined for		
National Service Medical Board ..	41	—
Blood examinations (E.S.R.) .. ..	84	—

*(b) Chest Clinic and Dispensary, New End Hospital and Home Visits by T.M.O.*

Attendances at Chest Clinic and Dispensary .. ..	2,633
"    "    New End Hospital .. ..	1,192
Visits by Tuberculosis Officer to Homes .. ..	116
Total .. .. .	3,941

*(c) Visits by Tuberculosis Health Visitors.*

Number of visits to Homes .. .. .	1,033
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*Artificial Pneumothorax.*

Induction of Artificial Pneumothorax was carried out in 15 cases. 1,129 refills were given to 85 patients during the year.

*X-ray Examination.*

During the year, 843 films were taken at New End Hospital. In addition, approximately 1,180 X-ray screenings have been carried out there by the Tuberculosis Officer.

*Dentures.*

Dentures were supplied to five patients. The total cost being £24 17s. 6d., of which the Council contributed £13 1s. 10d.

*Financial Allowances for Tuberculosis Patients.*

The Ministry of Health scheme for the grant of maintenance allowances to persons undergoing treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis commenced in this Borough on 30th June, 1943. The patients entitled to benefit are those who may be expected to return to work within a reasonable period. The Tuberculosis Officer decides whether the patient is eligible from the medical point of view, and an Assessing Officer from the London County Council with the help of our Local Care Committee Assistant, decides from the financial side.

During the year 1946, 56 new applications were considered, of which 49 were granted maintenance and one application was withdrawn, and a total of 98 persons were in receipt of the allowances at some time or other during the year. The cost of these allowances for the year amounted to £3,490, and the whole cost is borne by the Government.

It is unfortunate that this scheme does not embrace the chronic case or the sufferer from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.



### *Mass Miniature Radiography.*

In November, the London County Council's Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was established at St. Pancras L.C.C. Hospital and became available for use by persons resident or working in this Borough.

Employers of the larger firms in Hampstead were approached, and as a result, application was made for 1,912 persons to be X-rayed. Of this number, 1,290 were referred direct to the London County Council for central appointment, by reason of difficult times requested for X-raying, or very large numbers of examinees. Appointments at St. Pancras Hospital were made for the remaining 622, of which only 537 presented themselves for examination. Of these, nine showed some abnormality and large films were taken. Three of these films were found to be within normal limits, two showed healed tuberculous lesions, whilst four patients, who were probably tuberculous, were referred to the General Practitioner concerned.

### *Chest Clinic and Tuberculosis Dispensary.*

The Dispensary premises remain unsatisfactory. The situation, on the west side of the Borough, makes it difficult of access to a large percentage of patients. The building itself is unsuitable, owing to the noise from the streets and a neighbouring garage. It is also badly planned; the waiting, reception and changing facilities for patients leave much to be desired, and there is no X-ray plant.

A centrally situated Clinic designed on modern lines, with an attractive waiting room, reception room, undressing cubicles and an X-ray plant, is an urgent necessity if the tuberculosis service of the Borough is to function satisfactorily. This matter is now being considered by the Public Health Committee.

### *Hospital and Sanatorium Accommodation.*

The greatest defect in the tuberculosis scheme nowadays is the long waiting period which elapses before the patient can be found a bed in a tuberculosis hospital or sanatorium.

This long delay increases the opportunities for the spread of infection to others, particularly nowadays, when housing accommodation is so unsatisfactory. Furthermore, the early case, or the quiescent case that commences to breakdown, cannot receive that immediate treatment which is so essential. Thus, the early detection of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, which has been brought about by Mass Radiography, as well as the careful supervision of contacts, close liaison with general practitioners, and the education of the public, is being largely nullified. The bed shortage also makes it difficult or impossible to find hospital accommodation for acute emergencies, such as cases of hæmoptysis, and for patients who require observation for the establishment of a diagnosis.

The home-help scheme, which was introduced before the War, is proving invaluable, but whilst it is of great service to both the early and the advanced patient, it only offsets to a small degree the lack of hospital accommodation. The bed shortage is surely one of the most urgent national problems of to-day.

### *Housing.*

The tuberculosis problem is closely associated with the shortage of suitable housing accommodation. Overcrowding is a potent factor in the spread of tuberculosis. Many houses occupied by tuberculous patients



are not only seriously overcrowded but are also in a poor state of repair and are damp and cold. Every endeavour is made to find alternative accommodation for patients who are unsuitably housed, but although the rehousing department co-operates to the full, only a relatively small number can be given priority. Beds and bedding are supplied in those all too frequent cases, where the patient not only has no bedroom to himself, but has to share a bed.

#### *Resettlement.*

Tuberculous persons (both pulmonary and non-pulmonary) are now brought within the arrangements for giving effect to The Disabled Persons Employment Act, 1944.

The Disablement Resettlement Officer is furnished with particulars as to the nature and amount of work patients are capable of performing. Although this Act is a distinct step forward in the resettlement of the tuberculous, the results have as yet proved a little disappointing.

#### *Extra Nourishment.*

Twelve patients were supplied with free milk during the year.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

### *Health Visitors and Home Visits.*

The six full-time Health Visitors paid 11,573 visits during the year. In addition the Health Visitors made 1,443 attendances at Clinics and Centres.

The Infant Welfare Centres open at the end of 1946 were as follows :—

Name and address of Centre.	Day and time held.	Doctor in attendance.	Health Visitor.
Children's Hospital, College Crescent, N.W.3	Monday 1.30—4 p.m.	Dr. Cryer	Miss Kuhn-Régnier
	Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m. (Social Club)	—	Miss Kuhn-Régnier
	Thursday 1.30—4 p.m.	—	Miss Kuhn-Régnier
	Friday 2—4.30 p.m. (Nursery Centre)	—	Miss Kuhn-Régnier
60, West End Lane, N.W.6	Tuesday 1.30—4 p.m.	Dr. Williams	Mrs. Whaley
	Wednesday 1.30—4 p.m.	Dr. Lewis	Miss Leahy
	Thursday 1.30—4 p.m.	Dr. Lewis	Miss May
230, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3	Monday 2—4.30 p.m. (Nursery Centre)	—	Miss Kennedy
	Tuesday 1.30—4 p.m.	Dr. Fletcher	Miss Kennedy
	Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m. (Nursery Centre)	—	Miss Kennedy
	Thursday 1.30—4 p.m.	—	Miss Kennedy
	Friday 2—4.30 p.m. (Social Club and Nursery Centre)	—	Miss Kennedy

Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—

(i) By children under 1 year of age	...	...	14,010
(ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	5,186



Total number of children who first attended at the Centres during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	1,160
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	215

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	1,036
(ii) Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	1,603

#### *Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics*

During 1946 Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics were combined, and 6 combined sessions weekly were held.

The number of patients who attended during the year was as follows :—

	<i>Ante-natal patients</i>	<i>Post-natal patients</i>	<i>Total attendances</i>	<i>Average attendance</i>
60, West End Lane ...	958	123	4,222	23
230, Haverstock Hill ...	573	36	2,148	21

#### *Massage Clinics.*

At the Children's Hospital, College Crescent, 2 sessions weekly were held and at 60, West End Lane, 4 sessions weekly were held.

	<i>Children's Hospital</i>	<i>60, West End Lane</i>
Total attendances during 1946 ...	650	1,058
Number of children attending ...	20	47

#### *Municipal Dental Clinic.*

During the year 231 mothers, 93 children and 8 T.B. patients attended the Dental Clinic, Lithos Road.

	<i>No. of Sessions</i>		<i>Total attendances</i>	<i>Average attendance</i>
Ordinary ...	68	{ Mothers	881	13
		{ Children	263	4
Gas ...	13	{ Mothers	117	9
		{ Children	30	2

#### *Ultra-Violet Ray Treatment.*

Children receive artificial sunlight treatment by arrangement with the Willesden Physical Treatment Clinic, and the Institute of Ray Therapy.

#### *Day Nurseries.*

- (a) 11, Woodchurch Road, N.W.6.—Nursery opened on 23rd October, 1941, to accommodate 40 children. On 9th June, 1942, No. 13, Woodchurch Road was acquired, increasing the total accommodation at the Nursery to 80 children.
- (b) 2, Parkhill Road, N.W.3.—Opened on the 5th October, 1942, to accommodate 65 children.
- (c) 27-29, Pond Street, N.W.3.—Opened on 12th April, 1943, to accommodate 45 children.



- (d) Berridge House, Hillfield Road, N.W.6.—Opened on 8th May, 1944, to accommodate 47 children. Closed on 16th March, 1946, as the original tenants of the premises returned from evacuation and wished to re-open the Domestic Science Training College. For the children in this nursery whose mothers continued full-time work, accommodation was arranged in the Nursery Class at Beckford L.C.C. School for those over three years of age, and in Woodchurch Road Day Nursery for the younger ones.

Throughout the year every care and attention has been given to the supervision of the Day Nurseries. It must never be forgotten that the Nurseries serve a dual function. Not only do they look after the child whilst the parent is at work, but what in my opinion is of even greater value, is that they provide an education and outlet for a child who might otherwise be a lone child in a back basement or top attic.

The cost per child per day has been 4s. 6d., of which the mother is asked to contribute 2s. per day for the first child in a family and 1s. 6d. per day for second and subsequent children in a family admitted at the same time. In necessitous cases, where the parent is unable to afford the full cost, an assessment is made according to means. During 1946, six applications were received for reduction in charge, and all these applications were allowed.

#### *Maternity Homes and Hospitals.*

During the year, 66 Hampstead mothers were evacuated for confinement under the Government Evacuation Scheme, 54 were admitted to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and 485 were admitted to New End Hospital.

#### *Nursing in the Home.*

The number of home visits paid by the two District Nursing Associations in accordance with the Borough Council Scheme was:—

Hampstead District Nursing Association ... ..	2,117
Kilburn and West Hampstead Nursing Association ...	2,324

#### *Domestic and Home Help Service.*

A scheme for the provision of Home Helps for maternity cases only, has been in operation since 1934, but this scheme was extended to include provision of Domestic Helps in November, 1946.

The present scheme covers the following types of cases:—

- (a) During home confinement.
- (b) Post-operative patients, and patients discharged from hospital and still under medical supervision.
- (c) Aged and infirm.
- (d) Sickness causing domestic difficulties, where help from friends or relatives is unavailable.

The Committee appointed a Home Help Organiser to supervise this service, which at the time of the writing of this report consists of eight full-time and ten part-time helps. The Home Helps are provided with overalls and are paid at the rate of 2s. per hour. The applicant is assessed to pay in accordance with the approved scale.

During the first ten months of 1946, when help was available only for maternity cases, assistance was provided for 99 applicants. Since the inception of the augmented scheme in November, a total of 28 domestic, and 31 maternity cases have been assisted.



*Convalescent Homes for Children under Five Years.*

Arrangements are made through the Invalid Children's Aid Association for children under five years of age to be sent to Convalescent Homes, on the special recommendations of the Doctors at the Welfare Centres.

During 1946, 30 Hampstead children were sent away through this service.

Unfortunately, particularly during the summer months, the demand greatly exceeds the vacancies available, with the consequence that children may have to wait for at least a month.

The Borough Council contributes £10 per year to the Invalid Children's Aid Association in respect of this service.

*Consulting Obstetricians.*

During 1946 no call was made on the services of a Consultant under the Borough Council Scheme.

*Supply of Milk and Food.*

Under the Borough Council Scheme 10 packets of Proprietary Brands of Dried Milk were issued free to one infant during 1946. In addition 23,077 packets of Dried Milk were sold at full cost. Other food and medicaments to total value of £630 were also sold.

*Supply of Vitamins, etc.*

By arrangement with the local Ministry of Food Office, fruit juices, etc., have been distributed at the Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics.

*Priority Utility Sheet Dockets for Expectant Mothers.*

Board of Trade Priority Utility Sheet Dockets are issued by this Department to expectant mothers, on receipt of a signed certificate from a midwife stating that the patients are in need of sheets for home confinement. A maximum of 3 Dockets can be issued to each expectant mother.

During 1946, 197 applications were received and 542 Dockets issued, as compared with 200 Dockets issued to 77 applicants in 1945.

*Child Life Protection.*

During the year, 276 visits were paid by health visitors to foster-mothers and foster-children in the Borough. On the 31st December, 1946, the number of foster-mothers on the register was 4, and the number of foster-children was 26. (These figures include a Nursing Home accommodating 18 foster-children). In addition the Eagle's Nest Foster Home, 33, Fitzjohns Avenue, can accommodate 28 children up to three years of age.

*Care of Premature Infants—Ministry of Health Circular 20/44.*

Arrangements have been made for the weight of each newly-born child to be entered on the birth notification, so that early contact can be made between the Health Visitor and the mothers of premature babies born at home. Close liaison is also maintained with Hospitals, so that Health Visitors can follow up as soon as a premature infant is discharged to its own home.



In addition, the equipment already used by the District Nursing Associations for the nursing of premature infants born at home has been supplemented by certain items provided by the Borough Council and loaned to the Associations, *i.e.*—rubber hot-water bottles, special feeding bottles, mucus catheters, etc.

The following analysis of the premature births occurring in Hampstead in 1946 has been made (a "premature" is defined as any baby whose birth weight is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less):—

Premature births in Hampstead (including non-residents): 146.

Premature births to Hampstead mothers (irrespective of place of birth):—

(a) Born in hospital, etc., in Hampstead	..	76	} 127
(b) Born at home	.. .. .	16	
(c) Born in hospital, etc., outside Hampstead	..	35	

Of the 76 premature babies born in hospital, etc., in Hampstead, eight died before discharge, and of the 16 born at home six died (one at home, five in hospital), and of the 35 born outside Hampstead, four died before discharge.

The seriousness of the problem of the Premature Birth will be appreciated when it is pointed out that of the 57 deaths of Hampstead infants under one year, no less than 18 were in respect of prematures. Further consideration of this problem will be made by the Committee during the forthcoming year.

*Care of Illegitimate Children—Ministry of Health Circular 2866 (revised).*

In conjunction with other Metropolitan Boroughs, this Council continues to make its annual payment (on a rateable value basis) of £161 to the Moral Welfare Organisations.

The Health Visitors and the Moral Welfare Workers are in close co-operation when any assistance can be given either to unmarried expectant mothers and/or illegitimate children. There are three Voluntary Associations operating in the Borough whose work during the year is analysed below:—

(a) London Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare Work:

There were 29 cases referred to this Body, 17 by the Borough Council and 12 from New End Hospital. These were dealt with as follows:—

Ten returned to relatives, one married, five remained in situations until the birth of the baby, two went to Institutions (being unsuitable cases for Mother and Baby Homes), 11 were accommodated in Pre-natal Hostels.

(b) Westminster Catholic Social Welfare Committee:

Six cases were referred to this Committee, of which three went to Special Homes, two remained in situations until confined, one was boarded out.

(c) Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls, Women and Children:

Three cases were referred to this Association and were accommodated in Homes of Voluntary Organisations, and one case refused this assistance.



Unfortunately the Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate infants remains unduly high in comparison with that of Legitimate Infants. Thus:—

Year.	Infant Mortality Rate Legitimate.	Infant Mortality Rate Illegitimate.
1946	34	63
1945	37	82
1944	58	98
1943	44	36
1942	46	71
1941	49	123
1940	46	88
1939	31	118
1938	46	134
1937	38	202
1936	60	121

It is apparent from these figures that there remains a considerable task confronting those concerned in reducing the Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

#### Staff.

The Council now employs nine Sanitary Inspectors. This is slightly below the pre-war figure which was nine, plus a woman Inspector 60 per cent. of whose time was devoted to Sanitary work.

#### Inspections.

The following brief statement shows the number and details of premises inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

(1) Total number of premises inspected	...	...	...	7,271
(2) Total number of re-inspections and other visits and revisits	...	...	...	11,982
(3) Number of inspections (recorded in (1) above) in respect of:—				
(a) Dwelling-houses for housing defects:—				
(i) Non-tenement houses	...	...	...	1,216
(ii) Tenement houses	...	...	...	346
(b) Factories, excluding bakehouses	...	...	...	186
(c) Infestation Order, 1943 (excluding revisits)	...	...	...	668
(d) Food premises:—				
(i) Bakehouses	...	...	...	38
(ii) Milk premises	...	...	...	80
(iii) Restaurants and eating houses	...	...	...	140
(iv) Other food premises	...	...	...	483
				741
(e) Shops (under Shops Act, 1934)	...	...	...	183

The balance of the number of inspections is made up of visits in connection with infectious diseases and "contacts"; flooding; checking of re-housing applications; maintenance of requisitioned premises, voluntary drainage work, etc.

The total number of complaints received was 2,284 of which 668 referred to rat infestation.

2,641 informal notices (*i.e.*, intimations) relating to 1,493 premises and 890 statutory notices relating to 551 premises were served during the year.



In twenty-three cases of non-compliance with Statutory Notices, evidence was submitted to the Town Clerk for legal action to be taken. Summary proceedings were subsequently instituted in regard to nine premises, Abatement Orders being obtained and a total of £2 fines and £12 11s. 6d. costs being imposed.

Proceedings in respect of breaches of the L.C.C. Drainage Bye-laws resulted in the offender being fined £8 with £2 2s. costs.

### Housing.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	1,562
2. Number of dwelling-houses (included in (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	47
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4. Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... ..	1,289

Problems arising out of the arrears of maintenance repairs to every class of premises, particularly those of the tenement type, are the cause of increasing concern to Medical Officers of Health throughout the country.

Statutory Notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts are still restricted to housing defects of so urgent a nature as to be classified as being prejudicial to health.

I have to call attention to the increase in the number of such notices served during the year—890—as compared with 441 during the previous year.

The need of building labour and materials for the erection of new or converted houses for families without a separate home of their own is obviously of paramount importance. Until this need is substantially met, it appears inevitable that the long delays and difficulties experienced in getting statutory notices complied with will, unfortunately, continue.

### Post-war Housing Programme.

The Council has continued throughout the year with the execution of its post-war programme, and the following sites have been under consideration by the Housing Committee in their varying stages of progress:—

	Proposed number of dwellings.	
Garnett Road .. .. .	22	Now completed and occupied.
Temporary houses at Cricklewood ..	80	Ditto.
New End area .. .. .	24	Under construction.
Parkhill Road and Upper Park Road ..	92	Ditto.
King Henry's Road .. .. .	102	
Well Walk .. .. .	63	
Kilburn Priory .. .. .	94	
West End Lane .. .. .	80	
Broadhurst Gardens .. .. .	168	
	<hr/> 725 <hr/>	



### *Hutted Camps—Squatters.*

During August onwards, " Squatters " took possession of three hutted camps in the Borough:—

- (1) *East Heath Road*—on Hampstead Heath—used during the war as part of the anti-aircraft battery.
- (2) *Primrose Hill*—Office of Works—used as No. 1.
- (3) *Lawn Road*—Huts previously used by war damage repair personnel under the control of the Ministry of Works.

At one time, forty-one families comprising 141 persons were occupying these camps.

Constant visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to each camp and steps were taken to provide fundamental facilities of main water, sanitation, and refuse storage and collection.

The conditions at East Heath Camp were particularly unsatisfactory and, in order to prevent any extension of occupancy, all the vacant huts were demolished by the Council. Instructions were also given by the Housing Committee for the demolition of all huts at East Heath and Lawn Road as and when they were vacated.

A deputation from the Council interviewed officers of the Ministry of Works and Ministry of Health regarding the future of the camps, as a result of which certain proposals were put forward whereby the Council will administer the Primrose Hill Camp only until the end of December, 1948. These huts are to be improved and rents fixed. The occupiers of the remaining huts in the other camps will be transferred thereto and steps will be taken to ensure that any vacant huts are immediately rendered uninhabitable.

### **Flooding by Storm Water.**

On the 26th July, 1946, a torrential rainstorm occurred, resulting in severe flooding of basements in many parts of the Borough. The areas most severely flooded were Sumatra Road, Kilburn High Road, Netherwood Street, Palmerston Road, Kingsgate Road, Eresby Road and Iverson Road. Individual basements were also flooded in Fleet Road, Vale of Health, Compayne Gardens, Hilgrove Road and North End. Some Sumatra Road premises were inundated to a depth of 5 ft., and in the Netherwood Street area depths of 3 ft. 6 in. were recorded. This was the most severe flooding ever experienced in the Borough. Previous floods have been confined principally to the Kilburn Area at the foot of Shoot-up Hill.

Readings obtained by the Borough Engineer from the Willesden Borough Council's Recorder at Stonebridge Park show that the equivalent hourly intensity of rainfall between 5.0 and 5.10 p.m. reached the phenomenal peak of 4.80 in. The storm was not confined to this locality but was general throughout the London area.

The Kelson Street Mission Hall was opened for the accommodation of persons whose premises had been rendered uninhabitable. Bedding, blankets, etc., were supplied by the Borough Engineer's Department; the Council's workmen were sent to the worst flooded areas to assist occupiers to clean up the silt and other debris which had been desposited; saturated carpets, bedding and clothing were collected, washed and disinfected and dried at the Central Baths and the Public Health Station. A quantity of foodstuffs in shop cellars was condemned as being unfit for food.



The Sanitary Inspectors made detailed inspections of all the flooded basements, and 68 Intimation Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on the Owners of these premises requiring them to "take up floorboards, thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the site; thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the floors, and to strip, cleanse, repair and redecorate the walls as necessary." All these Notices were eventually complied with without recourse to legal proceedings, which indicates the tact displayed by the Sanitary Inspectors concerned.

Three families were rehoused permanently, and six families temporarily by the Council.

The question of the main drainage of the Borough is now under discussion with the L.C.C.

### Factories Act, 1937.

Many changes have taken place in the Factory Register during the war, but owing to pressure of other work it has not yet been possible to complete a new Register.

Excessive noise, night work, dust and fumes, have all been the subject of a large number of complaints and petitions to the Council, and have entailed constant observation by the staff of the Department. Wherever possible, the assistance of the L.C.C., the Town Planning Authority, has been invoked, with a view to the factory being transferred to a non-residential area. This procedure seems the obvious solution, but in practice is slow and unsatisfactory.

The following table gives details of the Factories inspected and defects found during the year:—

Premises.	Inspections.	Re-inspections.	Notices served.
Factories with mechanical power (excluding bakehouses) ..	87	23	17
Factories without mechanical power (excluding bakehouses) ..	99	38	33
Outworkers premises .. ..	43	1	—
	Defects found.	Referred to	Defects
	No.	H.M. Inspector.	remedied.
Want of cleanliness .. ..	34	1	26
Unreasonable temperature ..	6	—	6
Inadequate ventilation .. ..	16	—	14
Overcrowding .. ..	2	—	2
Defective floors or insufficient drainage of floors .. ..	11	1	8
Washing facilities .. ..	7	7	5
<i>Sanitary accommodation.</i>			
(a) insufficient .. ..	10	—	6
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	6	—	4
(c) not separate for sexes ..	11	—	8
Other offences .. ..	42	1	36

### Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

#### Infestation Order, 1943.

The staff engaged on the above consists of three full time men (two temporary). The services of the Sanitary Inspectors are always available to give advice and assistance to the public on this problem.



The number of complaints of infestation by rats or mice received during the year was 668 compared with 804 during 1945.

Two poisoning operations for the eradication of sewer rats were carried out resulting in a total estimated kill (*vide* Ministry of Food formula) of 3,650 rats.

### Water Supply.

The supply provided by the Metropolitan Water Board has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.

### Disinfection.

" D.D.T." which was so successfully used as an insecticide in H.M. Forces during the war, is now available for home use. Experiments have been carried out with various preparations containing D.D.T. and at present we are using a proprietary liquid insecticide, containing 5 per cent. D.D.T. and 3 per cent. Lethane in Kerosene. This preparation is sprayed over all affected surfaces, the Kerosene evaporates and leaves a fine deposit of D.D.T. crystals which remain as a lethal film.

This insecticide has been used with success in dealing with complaints of bugs, cockroaches, flies, silverfish and crickets. In cases where powder is more suitable for use than a Kerosene spray, " Gammexane " is employed.

The following is a record of the work carried out by the Disinfecting Staff during 1946 :—

Number of houses or parts of houses and contents dis-							
infected	...	...	...	...	...	...	880
„ verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	202

### Cleansing and Disinfection of Verminous Persons and their Belongings.

The following cleansings and medicinal baths were carried out at the Bathing Station, which forms part of the Public Health Station, during the year: —

#### Verminous conditions :

Adults	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Children under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ over 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### Scabies :

Adults	...	...	...	...	...	...	392
Children under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
„ over 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

During 1946, 129 adults and 39 children received treatment at the Cleansing Station. In addition 67 Hampstead school children received treatment at Cleansing Stations outside the Borough under the L.C.C. Scheme.

During the year, 202 verminous rooms in 172 houses were cleansed and freed from vermin.

One hundred and ninety-seven cases of Scabies were notified during the year. These were investigated by the Health Visitors, and, where necessary, treatment arranged at the Public Health Station. Close contacts of patients are followed up and instructed to attend a special



Scabies Clinic for examination and, if necessary, subsequent treatment. This clinic is held weekly.

Notices under the Scabies Order were served where difficulty arose in obtaining the attendance of contacts, but in no case was legal proceedings required to be taken.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

The need for the conservation of food supplies, both local and national, continues to be of paramount importance, and the services of your Sanitary and Food Inspectors are always available for advice and assistance to the general public and food traders throughout the Borough.

I am grateful for the continued co-operation of the Ministry of Food and the food traders in connection with numerous problems of food salvage.

### **Food Premises and Restaurant Sanitation.**

It is more than ever necessary to emphasise the special need for cleanliness in every phase of food production.

Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, lays down specific requirements for, not only the sanitation, ventilation and cleanliness of all premises where food or drink is manufactured or sold, but also for the cleanliness of the apparatus and utensils used, the provision of proper and adequate washing facilities for the staff, and the cleanliness of the staff.

### **Bacteriological Examination of Foodstuffs.**

During the year 36 samples of food were examined bacteriologically, as follows:—

Milk (graded)	..	..	..	..	13
Milk (heat treated)	..	..	..	..	8
Tomatoes (bottled)	..	..	..	..	1
Fish paste	..	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	12
Tap Water	..	..	..	..	1

All heat-treated milks were submitted to the prescribed tests laid down by the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations which came into operation on the 1st March, 1946. These tests are the Phosphatase test for adequate heat treatment, and the Methylene Blue test which is designed to ensure that consumers will receive their milk sufficiently fresh to remain drinkable, if kept reasonably cool, until the next day's supply is received. The milk samples passed these tests satisfactorily. No pathogenic organisms were found.

The plate-count test, as prescribed for milks in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, is now found to be defective, not only because a wide margin of error appears inevitable in arriving at the result of the count, but more particularly because the test takes account of heat-resistant organisms whose presence is of no material significance for the safety or the keeping quality of the milk.

Appropriate action has also been taken with regard to various complaints concerning dirty milk bottles.

The attention of five vendors was called to unsatisfactory ice-cream samples which had excessive bacterial counts, and in which B. Coli were present.



### Food Adulteration.

500 samples were taken during the year by the Sampling Officers under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The number certified to be adulterated was 20, or 4 per cent. of the total number as compared with 28, or 5·6 per cent. in 1945.

Particulars of adulterated samples are as follows:—

Article of Food.	How Adulterated.
No. 28. Selecto Jelly Dessert ..	Contains 2·5 parts per million arsenic (recognised limit, 1·40 parts per million).
,, 31. Pork Sausages ..	Contain sulphur dioxide, 220 parts per million. No declaration of preservative in shop or on wrapper.
,, 35. Butter (informal) ..	Admixed with 30 per cent. margarine.
,, 54. Butter (formal) ..	Admixed with 30 per cent. Margarine. Sample combines almost every possible offence; there is excess water; there is prohibited preservative, it is not butter, but a mixture and being by definition margarine, contains an excess of butter fat.
,, 98. Chocolate Pudding Mix	A mixture of wheat and rye flour and only a negligible amount of cocoa.
,, 106. Egg Substitute ..	Deficient in strength.
,, 113. Lemonade ..	Contravenes Soft Drinks Order. Contains 0·49 per cent. Citric Acid with 0·04 per cent. saccharin, but there is no sugar.
,, 121. Ground Coffee ..	Mixture of Coffee and Chicory.
,, 184. Vinegar ..	Not a vinegar at all, but a solution of Acetic Acid. 64·8 per cent. strength.
,, 209. Ice Cream ..	Water Ice. Contains no fat.
,, 213. Parsley ..	Contains 20 per cent. grit, mostly sand.
,, 215. Ginger Wine Concentrate (Informal)	Does not comply with Food Labelling Order.
,, 253. Ice Cream ..	Fat negligible.
,, 282. Baking Powder ..	Slightly deficient in aerating power.
,, 284. Curry Powder ..	Contains an excessive proportion of bean meat, 25 per cent.
,, 289. Curry Powder ..	Contains an excessive proportion of bean meat, 25 per cent.
,, 312. Baking Powder ..	Deficient in strength.
,, 362. Lard ..	Not Lard, but sesame oil.
,, 392. Concentrated Artificial Vinegar	Contains excessive Acetic Acid, 69 per cent.
,, 490. Gin ..	Contains 11·7 per cent. added water.

The attention of the Ministry of Food was drawn to certain infringements of Food Orders and warnings were given to retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers in what may be termed the more venial offences.

### Legal Proceedings.

Prosecutions were instituted in the following cases:—

1. Pork Sausages, containing excessive preservative without the statutory declaration .. Dismissed under Probation of Offenders' Act. Costs, £5 5s. 0d.
2. Butter (mixed with margarine) .. Fine, £10. Costs, £10.
3. Gin, containing 11·7 per cent. added water. Dismissed. Appeal pending to Divisional Court.



