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REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH
OF THE
Borough of Lambeth
DURING THE YEAR
1946

(90th ANNUAL REPORT.)

BY

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PREFACE

The health of the Borough of Lambeth during the year 1946 has been generally satisfactory as is shewn by the statistics which appear in the report. The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General to be 209,910, an increase of 36,630 over the population of the previous year, while the number of ration books in use at the end of the year was 221,290, an indication that people are still coming to live in the district in spite of the difficult housing conditions due to overcrowding, dilapidation and war damage of dwellings.

The birth rate 22.89 is the highest recorded for over twenty years and the infantile mortality 35 and maternal mortality 0.61 are each lower than at any time in the past. These are more than mere indications of the success achieved by the Ministry of Food in their scheme to insure that the most important section of the population is in fact getting enough of the scarcer foods to raise their average standard of health higher than it has been before.

Difficulties increased during the year in the repair of insanitary houses due to shortages of many kinds of materials, of labour, and of staff. In spite of the disheartening effect upon so many of having homes in which they can take no pride, and of much serious overcrowding which leads to discomfort and quarrels, people put up and continue to put up with conditions of life which were the lot of only a few before the war whereas now practically all are affected alike in their different degrees. Everyday correspondence indicated a high sense of frustration among the younger people who are trying to start a home of their own and yet the general health still stands up to the economic storm.

New homes for which water certificates were issued were 338, of which 246 were prefabricated temporary dwellings and 92 permanent flats and houses. There were some 12,500 applications for houses in Lambeth which were considered to be alive at the end of the year.

Warm thanks are due to the Chief Officers for their help and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for advice and criticism and principally to the staff of the Public Health Department.

A.G.G.T.

July, 1947.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Summary of Vital and Mortal Statistics, &c.

(The comparable figures for the previous year appear in brackets.)

Area of Borough.—4,083 statute acres (inclusive of land and inland water, but exclusive of tidal water and foreshore), divided into 4 Registration Sub-Districts, 4 Parliamentary Divisions, and 12 Wards. The Parliamentary Divisions and Registration Sub-Districts have been adjusted so that they and the Wards are co-terminus.

Population—estimated, 1946—209,910 (173,280).

Density.—51.41 persons per statute acre (inclusive of land and inland water, but exclusive of tidal water and foreshore.

Births (corrected)—4,805 (3,219)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population corrected 22.89 (18.57).

Deaths (corrected)—2,602 (2,587).

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 12.87 (14.92).

Maternal mortality (corrected) per 1,000 total births (live and still), 0.61 (1.82).

Infantile mortality, 35 (46).

Neonatal Mortality (corrected)—72 deaths under one month, being 15 per 1,000 live births.

Zymotic Death-rate (corrected)—0.12 per 1,000 population (total zymotic deaths, 27).

Marriages.

Marriage rate per 1,000 population, 10.03 (12.08).

Rateable Value at 1st April, 1946—£2,207,445. Sum represented by 1d. rate—£8,236.

Comparable rates for England and Wales and London :—

			England and Wales.		London.
Birth rate	...	...	19.1	(16.1)	21.5 (15.7)
Death rate	...	...	11.5	(11.4)	12.7 (13.8)
Infantile mortality	...	...	43	(46)	41 (53)
Puerperal causes	...	...	1.43	(1.79)	not available

Causes of, and Ages at, Death (Corrected) During the Year, 1946.

MORTALITY 12.87 (14.92).

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGES—BOTH SEXES						Totals	
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
4. Whooping Cough	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
6. Tuberculosis, respiratory system	—	3	—	78	52	14	86	61
7. Other Tuberculosis	—	4	4	3	2	—	6	7
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—	3	14	10	15	12
9. Influenza	4	—	—	5	19	17	26	19
10. Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Ac. Infectious Encephalitis (Lethargic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer, Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M.) } Uterus (F.) }	—	—	—	1	20	19	24	16
14. Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	7	25	31	33	30
15. Cancer, Breast	—	—	—	2	17	18	—	37
16. Cancer, all other sites	—	—	1	16	107	114	139	99
17. Diabetes	—	—	—	2	3	11	8	8
18. Cerebral Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	6	57	162	104	121
19. Heart Disease	—	—	—	21	118	563	340	362
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1	1	2	33	76	59	—
21. Bronchitis	8	1	—	7	53	109	110	—
22. Pneumonia	27	3	1	7	31	66	79	—
23. Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—	2	10	18	17	—
24. Ulcer, Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	6	20	19	40	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	20	1	—	—	—	—	17	—
26. Appendicitis	—	2	2	5	1	2	9	—
27. Other Digestive diseases	4	1	1	7	13	40	31	—
28. Nephritis	—	—	—	7	18	39	35	—
29. Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile diseases	45	—	—	—	—	—	27	—
33. Suicide	—	—	—	4	3	—	29	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	14	7	—	18	—
35. Other Violent Causes	—	1	5	8	3	5	12	—
36. All other causes	12	2	1	12	10	37	29	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	5	2	4	18	38	92	90	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	172	22	24	246	674	1,464	1,388	1,2

**Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality,
and Case rates for certain
Infectious Diseases in the year 1946.**

**Provisional Figures based on Weekly and
Quarterly Returns.**

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population, 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adminis- trative County	Lambeth
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—					
Live Births ...	19.1†	22.2	21.3	21.5	22.89
Still Births ...	0.53‡	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.60
DEATHS :					
All Causes... ..	11.5†	12.7	11.7	12.7	12.87
Typhoid and Para- typhoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza ...	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.21
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—					
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	43‡	46	37	41	35
Deaths from Diar- rhoea and Enter- itis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	4.4

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Rates per 1,000 total population.

‡ Per 1,000 related births.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Nursing in the Home.

The seven district nursing associations in the area are the Ranyard Nurses, Camberwell and District, South London, Brixton, Southwark, Newington and Walworth, Norwood and District and the Catholic Nursing Institute. A flat rate payment of 2s. 2d. a visit is paid to all cases including tuberculosis requiring skilled nursing which in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health can properly be regarded as coming within the scope of the Lambeth nursing (infectious disease) scheme or the Lambeth Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The number of visits paid to children under 5 years of age was 3,900 and to persons over that age 2,818.

Welfare Centres.

Total individual cases dealt with	...	20,865	(15,601)
„ sessions held	... ..	3,352	(2,486)
„ ante-natal cases	... ..	5,884	(3,422)
„ post-natal cases	... ..	823	(678)
„ nursing mothers	... ..	4,511	(3,527)
„ infants under 1	... ..	5,971	(4,588)
„ children 1-5	... ..	3,676	(3,546)
Visits paid to A/N cases	... ..	9,642	(6,990)
„ „ P/N cases	... ..	4,212	(2,762)
„ „ nursing mothers	... ..	22,277	(20,176)
„ „ infants under 1	... ..	23,174	(18,882)
„ „ children 1-5	... ..	39,300	(37,273)

The increase in the population and the unusually high birthrate led to a general enlargement of the work of the welfare centres where extra sessions and new clinics were in demand in all districts. The Moffat and the Brixton Welfare Centres had to surrender their premises during the year and went out without any home in the case of the Moffat and an ill-sited inconvenient hall for the Brixton. The Moffat were forced to share the premises of the Babies' Care Centre which placed an intolerable strain upon both, but owing to the devastation in the area and the lack of any building in the neighbourhood which could be adapted, no other course was open. Brixton Welfare Centre was in almost as bad a case. Every centre

requires better premises but while housing needs are so urgent everything else must wait. It is hoped that the Brixton Centre will be housed before the end of 1947 in a block of flats on the County Council's Tulse Hill estate but that will only be a temporary home until a new one fitting into the scheme under the National Health Service Act is built.

Most of the welfare centre buildings are old and in some cases have reached beyond the end of useful life so that it is uphill work trying by example to encourage hygiene in such unattractive out-of-date premises. The plans for three new centres were in hand in 1939 and but for the war at least these would have been rehoused in modern buildings some years ago, yet the war not only put a stop to the erection of new premises but also to the normal upkeep which accounts for much of the drab, shabby appearance.

So far as the health and welfare of mothers and children can be statistically recorded, the infantile mortality rate of 35 and the maternal mortality rate of 0.61, in each case much lower than ever before, are the two principal pointers. Whatever the discomforts and privations to which all are subject the most important sections of the population have been outstandingly healthier than in any previous period.

The evacuation scheme for confinements outside London has relieved some of the strain upon the homes where room and convenience for childbirth were often non-existent. The number taking advantage of the scheme in 1946 was 481, compared with 729 in 1945, 643 in 1944 and 605 in 1943.

Child Life Protection.

974 visits and re-visits were made to foster mothers and nurse children.

Foster mothers on Register at 31.12.46	.....	.....	32 (28)
Nurse children on Register at 31.12.46	...	...	34 (32)

Many inquirers are sent away unsatisfied because of the lack of women willing to become foster mothers owing to more remuneration and less arduous employment being readily available.

Care of Premature Infants.

A space is provided in the notification of births card for the insertion of the child's weight, and all cases born in the district weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or under are followed up specially until they are one month old.

Close co-operation is maintained between the hospitals and the public health department in order that on returning home the

mother shall know to whom to turn immediately an emergency arises needing extra equipment, help in feeding the infant, and so on.

Of the 321 premature children notified in the year, 85 were born at home and 236 in hospital. Of the former, 5 died in the first 24 hours, and 72 survived the first month. Of the 236 born in hospital, 20 died in the first 24 hours, 28 died later and 183 are known to have survived the first month. The remaining 5 were taken away by their parents who could not subsequently be traced.

Illegitimate Children.

The Southwark Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare undertakes on the Council's behalf the Lambeth part of the joint London Scheme. The Council's grant to the Association was £233; Assistance was given to 108 unmarried mothers and their children, and to 30 married mothers and their illegitimate babies. As the result of the efforts of the Welfare visitors, no less than 67 girls were able to return home with their babies which is the best solution of the difficulty. Of the rest, 6 remained with co-habiting parents, 4 babies were cared for by foster mothers, 29 were adopted, 2 mothers found homes with friends for themselves and their babies, 8 to situations with mothers, 3 to lodgings with mothers, 2 in hostels with mothers, and 10 mothers made their own arrangements. The remaining 7 babies did not survive the year.

Home Helps.

513 (229) applications and home helps provided—cost to Council, £922 15s. 0d. (£366 9s. 0d.), the rest of the gross cost of £1,484 11s. 0d. being paid by the applicants.

The service is designed to help those women who find it impossible to arrange otherwise for their home duties to be performed without assistance during the lying-in period. Often a relative or friend is willing to act as home help but to do so must give up remunerative employment which she cannot afford. The Council's home help service covers just such cases and assistance towards a financial loss of up to as much as £3 a week was given during the year. The more general charge is from £2 to £4 for the fortnight.

Again it is possible to record that no application was refused except in those cases where the income was £7 a week or more when financial assistance towards the cost was deemed not to be necessary.

Domestic Helps.

The domestic help scheme is run upon entirely different lines from the home help service. Here there is no time for making

any preparations for a known period months ahead, but sickness or accident or some other misfortune suddenly occurs which makes it impossible for the home to be maintained without help. All the domestic helps are employed on the basis of 1s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. an hour, for up to a 47-hour week, plus bus or tram fares, increased to 1s. 11d. an hour from 1st December. Some can only give as little as two hours a day, but assistance was given to 116 distressed families during the year.

A visit is paid immediately an application for help is received to assess the need—how many hours work a week will maintain the home—and how best it can be relieved—which domestic help is likely to get on well with the applicant. Payment is made by the applicant according to the agreed metropolitan scale. One visit a week is paid regularly for the time sheet of the domestic help to be certified by the applicant and at least one other surprise visit during the week to verify that no "ramp is being worked."

Employment by the hour is well liked and well suited to the needs of both sides. Many women so employed can take a week off when they wish as there is no binding tie as would be the case if employed full time. On the other hand, none are sent far from their homes and if there is no employment for a week in their neighbourhood there is no obligation for them to go far away from home which to the woman with a home to maintain of her own might be a strain greater than she is prepared to bear.

The staff employed for the service consists of a senior woman in the A.P.T. grade I and two juniors in the general division.

The cost is reimbursed in full by the Ministry of Health.

Dentures for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

7 (17) applications were received and dentures provided for 6—cost to Council, £21 0s. 0d. Owing to the increased cost of living and higher wage rates the scale adopted by the Council in 1942 became out of touch with present conditions. The scale was revised in March, 1947.

Sterile Maternity Outfits.

Nil (Nil).

Obstetric and Gynaecological Consultants.

Nil (Nil).

Obstetric Unit for Blood Transfusion.

5 calls (Nil). Each call costs 5 guineas which is paid by the Council to the London County Council who provide the service from their hospitals.

Free Provision of Insulin.

Insulin was provided free by the Council under §227, Public Health (London) Act, 1936, to fifty-two persons at a total cost of £214 3s. 5d.

Convalescent Home Accommodation.

The four beds maintained for Lambeth children at the Hart's Leap convalescent home, Farnham, have been kept full during the year. 15 children were given prolonged periods of convalescence in the home and in every case returned to London much improved in health. Some children stay longer than three months but generally speaking the length of time spent by the majority is from six to twelve weeks.

Information is sent to each mother every week by the matron concerning the well-being of the child, and one month after returning home the welfare centre doctor reports to the convalescent home the child's condition, weight, etc., so that the value of the convalescence in promoting the child's health can be assessed.

The Zachary Merton Convalescent Home for mothers and babies at which the Council have agreed to maintain four beds has not yet reopened its doors. Before the war the Council had two beds there for mothers which include cots for their infants and if needed accommodation for toddlers as well.

Day Nurseries.

<i>Day Nursery</i>	<i>Accommodation</i>		<i>Date opened</i>
	<i>under 2 years</i>	<i>2-5 years</i>	
Cowley	20	40	14.7.1941
Tulse Hill	30	40	17.12.1941
Black Prince (closed 10.8.46)	26	48	4.2.1942
Annie McCall	36	39	5.8.1942
St. John's	25	20	24.9.1942
Coldharbour Lane	40	40	12.7.1943
Oval	20	50	4.11.1943
Gipsy Hill	23	40	8.8.1944
Coral Street	41	30	5.6.1944

The nurseries have been full throughout the year because quarantine has never been put into practice in the nurseries at any time since it would appear to serve no useful purpose. The demand for places in the nurseries remains almost as intense as ever, and when the Black Prince nursery was closed because the owners wanted their premises back the mothers rose at once in

uproar which led to three special meetings of the Public Health Committee in one week during the summer recess. All the children from the nursery were eventually offered accommodation in other nurseries although many mothers had to make their own arrangements for the care of their children for several weeks. The hut at the Oval nursery would have been ready to open as a school-room in time to take most of the older children but efforts were dogged by misfortune which hindered completion. Similar difficulties were experienced in finishing the Chestnut nursery, the building of which had been abruptly stopped by the fly-bombs in 1944, and it was not ready for occupation until March, 1947, after exasperating delays. It might well have been ready at least six months before and relieved some of the pressure when Black Prince was closed. Permission to repair the Council's war-damaged maternity home at Knight's Hill to use as a hostel for the resident probationers and as a nursery to replace the Annie McCall nursery was received in the latter part of the year and at first it was hoped that it might be ready for occupation by the beginning of 1947. The Annie McCall nursery is housed in a badly needed maternity hospital but the premises cannot be vacated until Knight's Hill is ready to take the children owing to the serious dislocation which would follow some seventy mothers giving up their work in office, shop or factory.

Diphtheria prevention is obligatory for all entrants to the nurseries and on leaving to go to school a "boosting" dose is given. Routine injections against whooping cough were given up following one or two sore arms and the uncertainty of the treatment giving any assurance of safety. The result of the immunisation endeavours at all the nurseries left an impression that some success had been achieved but as this could not be statistically confirmed the treatment was given up until a reliable prophylactic had been discovered.

Morbidity has fortunately been low in all nurseries throughout the year.

Summary of Work Done by the Official Health Visitors.

Ante-natal visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,631
Ante-natal re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	136
Births, 1st visits	...	...	...	...	...	920
Births, re-visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Births, stillborn ...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Ophthalmia, 1st visits	...	...	...	...	...	72
Ophthalmia, re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	50

Infantile deaths, visits	18
Welfare Centres attendances	257
Diphtheria prevention clinic attendances	208
Post-natal visits	1,287
Visits to children 1-5 years	244
Puerperal Pyrexia visits	19
Puerperal Pyrexia, re-visits	7
Special visits : evacuation, scabies, etc.	2,218

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Total number of inspections (including war damage to property, etc.)	14,234
Total number of re-inspections	28,651
Total number of intimation notices served	6,646
Total number of nuisance notices served	934

Women Sanitary Inspectors.

Total number of visits and inspections (factories, workplaces, infectious disease, etc.)	2,190
Total number of re-visits	231
Total number of intimation notices served	96
Workshops in which defects were found	136

A second male sanitary inspector was seconded to the Housing Committee for duties connected with the repairs and alterations of requisitioned property during the year. This left the outdoor work of sanitary inspection, already almost unmanageable, with two vacancies among the district sanitary inspectors. Difficulties of materials and labour coupled with the uncertainties of licences and permits already meant a great increase of work in maintaining the pressure to get much-needed repairs put in hand and the loss of the two men has meant that intimation notices cannot be followed up regularly. Moreover the increase in cases going to court wastes much valuable time of the inspector concerned and completes the full circle starting with the inability of the depleted staff to see that notices are in fact complied with.

Nuisances on bombed sites are the cause of special difficulties which seem to be insuperable. The sites cannot be fenced for lack of materials nor can they be cleared because there is usually uncertainty regarding war damage repair or some disposal difficulty and they draw irresistibly every kind of unwanted rubbish in the neighbourhood. The same applies to the static water tanks still

dotted about the area, but these are cleared out by the National Fire Service every now and again when they become nuisances. This type of nuisance can be lessened by palliative measures but the only real remedy is development of the site to some useful purpose and that seems as far off as ever.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936, Section 224

One application was made for an order under this section.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The year 1946 brought a return to more normal conditions in so far as the inspection and sampling of food was concerned. Outstanding among renewed activities was the sampling of ice cream and the supervision of its manufacture. It was found difficult to effect all the desired improvements to food premises owing to the restrictions on the use of building materials except in cases where war damage or neglect over a period of years had rendered them unfit for the sale, storage or manufacture of food.

1. Sampling.

The following samples were submitted :—

(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(i) For chemical analysis.

2,000 (1,527 informal and 473 formal). Of the formal samples, 11 were reported to be adulterated (milk 9, zinc ointment 1, non-brewed vinegar 1).

(ii) For bacteriological examination.

100 (including 63 samples of ice cream).

(b) Labelling of Food (No. 2) Order, 1944.

3 (2 formal and 1 informal). All three samples contravened the Order.

(c) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-46.

Methylene Blue Test—35. 4 samples failed to satisfy the test.

Phosphatase Test—23. All passed the test.

2. Inspection of Food.

This was carried out :—

(a) At Slaughterhouses—where 222 pigs, the property of pig clubs were dealt with.

(b) At shops, stores and factories—where large quantities of food were examined.

As a result of these inspections the following amounts of food were surrendered as unfit for human consumption and unsound food certificates were issued.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
(i) <i>At the slaughterhouse.</i>				
Pig carcasses and organs	—	6	3	19
(ii) <i>At shops, stores and factories.</i>				
Fresh meat, fish, poultry, vegetables, prepared and canned foods	36	5	—	4
Total ...	36	11	3	23

The following articles of food were seized and taken before magistrates who made orders for condemnation and disposal:—

	lbs.
Fish	3
Horsefat	1
Horseflesh	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sausages	$\frac{1}{2}$

In appropriate cases the unsound food was disposed of for animal feeding either through the Salvage Division of the Ministry of Food or the Council's Salvage Scheme.

3. *Inspection of Shops and Stores.*

Inspections have been directed to conditions of cleanliness rather than to structural improvements. In certain cases the necessary notices were served and licences obtained to carry out repairs to premises. Certificates were also issued to enable new chopping blocks to be provided.

In March the London Wholesale Meat Supply Association's Depot in Stockwell Road from which all meat retailed in Lambeth (with the exception of Kosher meat) had been distributed, removed to the Central Meat Markets at Smithfield.

4. *Ice Cream.*

Although there were no legal standards of quality or cleanliness for ice cream, 32 samples for chemical analysis and 63 for bacteriological examination were taken during the year. The object of this sampling was two-fold, firstly to ascertain to what extent in quality and degrees of cleanliness were present and, secondly, in so far as the bacteriological examinations were concerned to improve the standards of cleanliness where necessary.

The results of the chemical analysis of samples of ice cream showed that the fat content ranged from 9.86 per cent. to 0.06 per cent., the average being 3.88 per cent.

The results of the bacteriological examinations of 63 samples showed that there were wide variations of contamination among some of the smaller manufacturers, although the results of samples examined from some of the long-established London Manufacturers showed that it is possible consistently to produce an ice cream reasonably free from contamination.

A number of samples of food other than ice cream was submitted for bacteriological examination. In no case was any sample shown to be the cause of food poisoning.

5. *Legal Proceedings.*

The following table shows the outcome of prosecutions heard at the Lambeth Magistrate's Court.

Subject of Prosecution	Nature of alleged offence	Result of Prosecution	Fines	Costs		
			£	£	s.	d
Milk	19 per cent. added water	Convicted	5	1	1	0
do.	9 do.	do.	2	2	2	0
do.	7 do.	do.	4	1	1	0
do.	16 do.	do.	10	3	3	0
do.	6 do.	do.	12	3	3	0
do.	10 do.	do.	15	5	5	0
Fish	Unfit for human consumption	do.	2s.	7	7	0
Horsefat	do.	do.	1	1	1	0
Horseflesh	do.	do.	10	5	5	0
Non-brewed vinegar	46 per cent. deficient in acetic acid	do.	3	2	2	0
Zinc Ointment	36 per cent. deficient in zinc oxide	Dismissed P.O.F.	—	15	15	0
Savouries	Failure to comply with labelling requirements	Dismissed	—	—	—	—

Scabies and Verminous Persons.

Cleansing Centre.

The scheme for adapting one of the Council's disused mortuaries as a cleansing station is still in abeyance owing to the direction of all labour and materials to the housing need. Lambeth cases are cleansed either at the Battersea or Southwark cleansing station on

payment by the Lambeth Council. The service is free to the individual.

A total of 1,690 persons were treated at the cleansing station and given 3,285 baths, compared with 1,883 persons treated in the previous year.

Rat Infestation.

During the year 1946, 858 infestations have been dealt with. Of these 783 were brown (common) rat, 66 black (ship) rat and 29 mice infestations. 590 infestations were dealt with in dwellings, 120 in food premises and 148 in other properties. 796 baitings were carried out, 13 infestations were trapped or ferretted, and in 49 cases advice was given. 93 defective or disused drains were found to be the source of infestations and were dealt with by the Borough Engineer and the District Sanitary Inspectors.

The sewers throughout the Borough were baited by the Borough Engineer's staff in June and December, and throughout the year a very large number of disused drains have been sealed in the sewers and under footpaths by the sewers staff. Much help has been given by the Borough Engineer's Department in searching for disused or suspected defective drains whenever necessary, and the satisfactory state of the Borough is largely the result of this work.

Although the number of brown rat infestations is large, the number of serious infestations was few and most were of stray rats and minor infestations.

The black rat is still confined to the northern end of the borough and is almost entirely restricted to business premises.

The 29 cases in which baiting was carried out to destroy mice were in business premises in which the infestations were heavy and in a few exceptional dwelling house cases. Very many complaints have been received of rat infestations in which the source of the nuisance is found to be mice, but it is not always practicable to bait and suitable advice is given.

Until November, the whole of the work was carried out by one operative, but consequent upon the Council's acceptance of the Ministry of Food's circular N.S.12, a further operative was engaged. This has enabled the Council's first operative to carry out house-to-house inspections throughout the Borough. It is too early to express an opinion as to the value of this course of action, which is on the lines suggested by the Ministry, but on a very restricted scale.

Prevalence and Control Over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The mortality from infectious disease was again comparatively insignificant, scarlet fever, 0, diphtheria 1, measles 1, and whooping cough 4. The number of notifications shewed little change over the previous year, but the degree of morbidity has fortunately been even lighter than before.

The table summarising the incidence of tuberculosis for the years 1942-46 indicates that the trend downwards which was practically continuous between the wars has been resumed now that some of the war privations and difficulties are less. The notifications per 1,000 population during these years were 2.14, 2.21, 2.28, 2.24 and 1.16 respectively.

Tuberculosis.

*Notifications received during the year ended
31st December, 1946*

Pulmonary	...	...	...	324	(347)
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	26	(41)
<hr/>					
Deaths certified	...	...	...	160	(171)
<hr/>					

Year		Per 1,000 Pop.																		Total for Year	Totals all Forms							
		First Quarter			Second Quarter			Third Quarter			Fourth Quarter			First Quarter			Second Quarter					Third Quarter			Fourth Quarter			
		M. 7	F. 3	Total 10	M. 8	F. 5	Total 13	M. 6	F. 3	Total 9	M. 3	F. 8	Total 11	43	M. —	F. 1	Total 1	M. —	F. —	Total —	M. —	F. 1	Total 1	M. —	F. 1	Total 1	3	46
1942 Popn., 157,200	Private																											
	Hospitals	35	17	52	29	20	49	32	18	50	27	10	37	188	—	1	1	7	2	9	1	4	5	3	1	4	19	207
	Dispen- saries	9	11	20	12	7	19	12	10	22	9	10	19	80	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	4	84
	TOTALS	51	31	82	49	32	81	50	31	81	39	28	67	311	—	2	2	8	3	11	1	6	7	3	3	6	26	337
1943 Popn., 163,100	Private	10	1	11	7	7	14	8	2	10	5	3	8	43	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	46
	Hospitals	29	14	43	40	22	62	28	17	45	36	15	51	201	6	5	11	4	4	8	5	7	12	5	1	6	37	238
	Dispen- saries	12	13	25	4	7	11	3	13	16	15	8	23	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	77
	TOTALS	51	28	79	51	36	87	39	32	71	56	26	82	319	6	5	11	5	5	10	5	8	13	5	3	8	42	361
1944 Popn., 162,960	Private	7	4	11	9	5	14	5	1	6	5	3	8	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	40
	Hospitals	39	15	54	28	19	47	20	7	27	38	19	57	185	4	5	9	7	5	12	4	4	8	6	5	11	40	225
	Dispen- saries	14	14	28	14	12	26	8	9	17	14	25	39	110	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	5	8	118
	TOTALS	60	33	93	51	36	87	33	17	50	57	47	104	334	6	5	11	7	5	12	5	5	10	8	8	16	49	383
1945 Popn., 173,280	Private	5	5	10	5	6	11	3	5	8	5	2	7	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	37
	Hospitals	35	23	58	31	19	50	23	12	35	30	13	43	186	4	2	6	7	1	8	2	11	13	5	2	7	34	220
	Dispen- saries	22	21	43	12	26	38	9	9	18	11	15	26	125	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	1	3	1	—	1	6	131
	TOTALS	62	49	111	48	51	99	35	26	61	46	30	76	347	4	3	7	7	2	9	5	12	17	6	2	8	41	388
1946 Popn., 209,910	Private	7	5	12	7	9	16	8	4	12	3	3	6	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46
	Hospitals	20	22	42	31	12	43	17	20	37	23	17	40	162	4	6	10	3	5	8	—	1	1	2	1	3	22	184
	Dispen- saries	4	21	25	11	11	22	13	16	29	24	16	40	116	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	4	120
	TOTALS	31	48	79	49	32	81	38	40	78	50	36	86	324	5	6	11	3	5	8	—	2	2	2	3	5	26	350

The T.B. Allowance Scheme : Memo. 266/T.

The operation of the scheme continues to work smoothly but the unfair division between those who shall benefit and those who shall not still causes much heartburning. It is to be hoped that this arbitrary separation of sufferers into two groups will cease when national health service schemes are in action.

Notifications received during the Year ended 31st December, 1946.

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	234	(266)
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	53	(65)
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	59	(29)
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	(7)
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	17	(28)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	9	(10)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	20	(13)
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,633	(1,809)
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	398	(255)
Primary Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	54	(62)
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	26	(13)
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	4	(5)
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	22	(33)
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	10	(22)
Anthrax ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	( —)
Scabies ...	...	...	...	...	...	758	(851)
Typhoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	(—)
Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	( 4)

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population, 25,000– 50,000 at 1931 census	London Adminis- trative County	Lambeth
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—					
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.04
Scarlet Fever ...	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.11
Whooping Cough...	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	1.89
Diphtheria ...	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.25
Erysipelas... ..	0.2	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.28
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	7.77
Pneumonia ...	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.38

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—

(a) Notifications :—

Puerperal Fever	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62	0.60
Puerperal Pyrexia }				9.68*	3.44

* Including Puerperal Fever.

Diphtheria Prevention.

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5 years and over, but under 15 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of children who completed the full immunisation course between 1st January and 30th June, 1946	929 (595)	291 (274)	1,220 (869)
Number of children who completed the full immunisation course between 1st July and 31st December, 1946	1,096 (953)	736 (204)	1,832 (1,157)

The number immunised during the year, 3,052, while greater than the previous year, is still not sufficient to maintain the position, since the births numbered 4,805.

It is, however, a fact that every death from diphtheria in Lambeth since 1928 was of a child whom the parents had failed to protect.

Vaccination.

For many years no legal compulsion has been used in Lambeth and in fact vaccination has been purely voluntary. The difficulty during the year has been to arrange vaccination for those who desired it rather than the reverse. The repeal of the Vaccination Acts by the National Health Service Act may lead to more parents wishing to protect their children.

Set out hereunder are figures relating to the years 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946 for comparison :—

	1943	1944	1945	1946
Number of births in Lambeth registered during the year	2,978	2,581	2,183	5,467
Total number of cases requiring the Vaccination Officers' attention during the year... ..	4,390	4,092	4,011	7,223

Disinfecting Department.

3,044 rooms and 7,783 articles of bedding were disinfected during the year, among them being the rooms and articles used by the 562 cases of various forms of infectious disease taken to hospital; 354 certificates of disinfection were issued; and 103 library books dealt with from the 5,890 premises visited during the year. The clean van was used regularly for the delivery of stores to the day nurseries which reached the Town Hall in bulk from the various firms supplying the Ministry of Health.

Bacteriological Laboratory.

During the year 1946 the following 1,918 samples were examined bacteriologically in the Laboratory at Wanless Road.

<i>Specimen</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Total</i>
Swab for or suspected cases of Diphtheria	870	34	904
Sputum for suspected cases of Tuberculosis	824	108	932
Blood for suspected cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid fever	3	—	3
Miscellaneous	49	30	79
	1,746	172	1,918

In addition to the above, 100 samples were received from the Food Inspectors, consisting of:—

Ice cream, Mussels, Mutton, Corned Meat, Milk, Condensed Milk, Dried Skimmed Milk Powder, Tinned Salmon, Cooked Meat, Cabbage, Bloater Paste and milk bottles for bacteriological test of cleanliness.

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