

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

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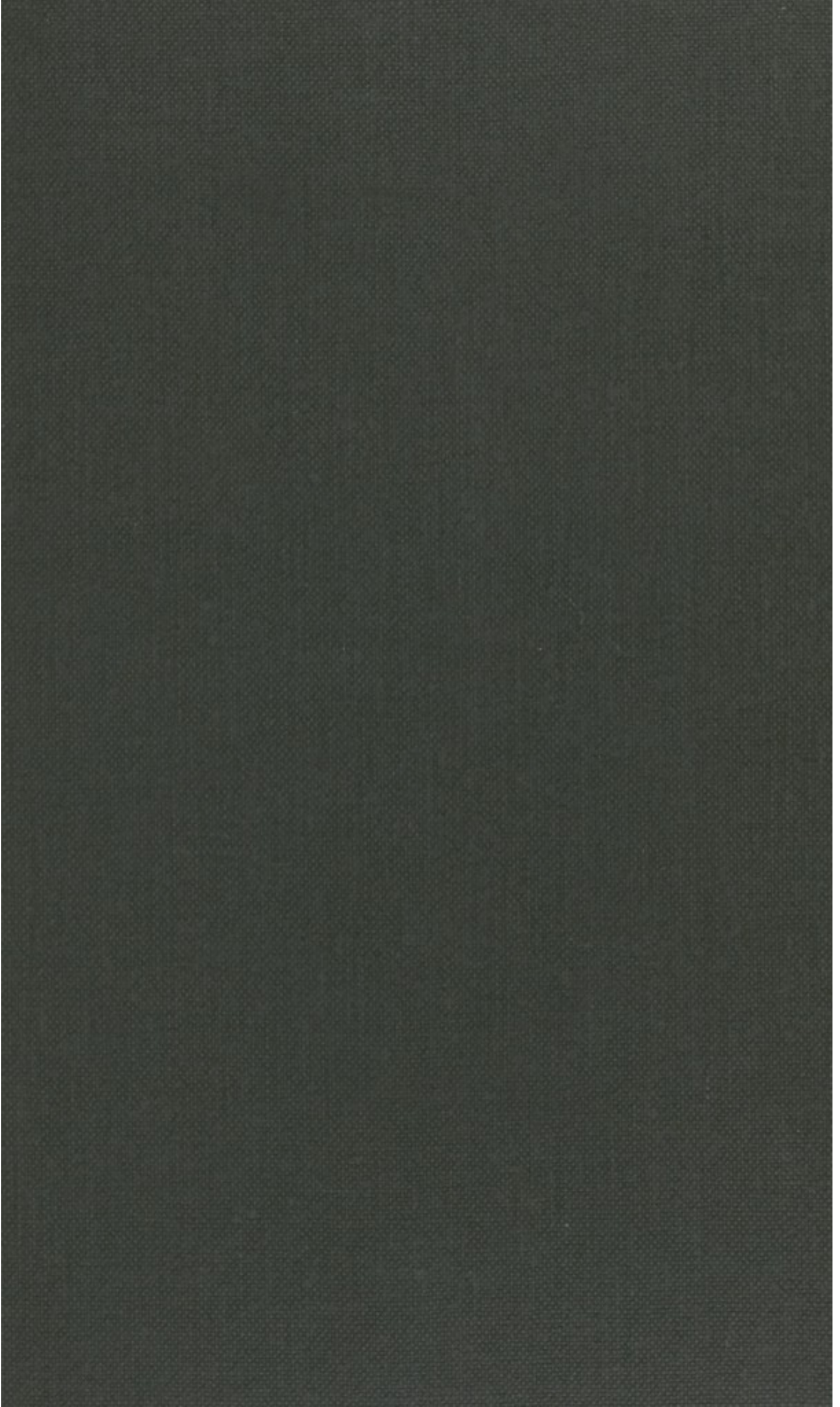
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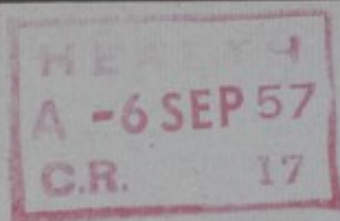






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REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH



OF THE

Borough of Lambeth

DURING THE YEAR

1956



Ans.

68626



BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(appointed by the Council on the 23rd May, 1956)

The Worshipful the Mayor of Lambeth

(Mrs. Councillor J. E. M. Wood, J.P.) (ex-officio)

*

Aldermen:

A. E. COTTON (Chairman)

C. S. JORDAN

W. LAVERICK

*

Councillors:

Mrs. D. R. COLLS

S. A. DAVEY

W. DRISCOLL

Miss B. W. HIGH

J. E. JANES

Miss K. L. JENNER

G. F. S. LIGHT

Mrs. M. MAROCK

(Vice-Chairman)

T. ROBINSON

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report on the health of the Borough of Lambeth for the year 1956.

This year marked the centenary of the appointment of the first Medical Officer of Health to the Parish of Lambeth, which was practically identical in its boundaries with the present borough. He was Dr. William Odling who was appointed to the office on the 1st February, 1856, just over 100 years prior to my taking up the duties of Medical Officer of Health on 23rd May, 1956. Another appointment, made on 8th February, 1856, about which I must confess to some personal curiosity, was that of John Summers as the first Inspector of Nuisances, a forerunner of the present day Public Health Inspector.

In 1857, the first annual report of the Medical Officer of Health on his work and that of his two Inspectors was recorded on two pages of the 27 page Annual Report of the proceedings of the Vestry of Lambeth. A reproduction of this report appears on pages 56 and 57.

A centenary is usually a time for looking back, reviewing the changes that have taken place and noting what achievements there have been in the hundred years which have passed. The processes of public health normally operate at a much slower rate than those of curative medicine so that from year to year there appears to be little or no change.

A century of public health as depicted in the annual reports of successive Medical Officers of Health of the Parish and later the Borough of Lambeth shows a remarkable story of achievement, so much so that it is difficult to know what particular aspect to pick out for comment.

Perhaps the most striking change is a decline in deaths from infectious disease, and most of the credit for this can go to those public health pioneers who introduced measures to control the spread of the disease and improve the environment of the people.

It is true that in latter years the discovery of sulphonamide drugs and the antibiotics have contributed to the decreased mortality from these diseases but most of the improvement in this field had taken place before these drugs were known. In successive reports of Medical Officers in the latter part of the nineteenth century one reads that 20 to 25% of the mortality was due to acute infectious diseases. This year there were 16 deaths from these diseases out of a total of 2,389 deaths.

On the other hand however there are some diseases which have shown an increase, notably poliomyelitis and food poisoning amongst the infectious diseases, and cancer, coronary heart disease and peptic ulcer amongst the non-infectious.

Whilst on the subject of infectious disease it is interesting to read the reports of the Medical Officer of Health on smallpox epidemics which occurred in 1871 and 1876 - in the former there were 937 deaths and in the latter 371 deaths from this disease in the parish. All of these however were not from Lambeth but included persons from other districts who died in Stockwell Hospital. The last recorded case of smallpox in the borough was in 1934 but the rapidity of modern travel is such that a person could get from any part of the world to any other well within the incubation period of the disease. It therefore is essential that the vaccinal state of the population should be kept at a high level which is, unfortunately, not the case.

Infant mortality which is regarded as a reliable index of the health of a community has shown a remarkable fall over the years. In 1876, the year in which it was first recorded, it was 150 per 1,000 live births. Even in 1906 it was still 121 whereas in 1956 it was only 21.2.

Until the end of the 19th century the reports of the Medical Officer of Health were confined to vital statistics, epidemic diseases and the improvement of environmental conditions. In 1899, however a bacteriological laboratory was set up for the examination of specimens submitted by general practitioners. In 1901 a female sanitary inspector was appointed to be followed in 1906 by a female health visitor.

A milk depot was established in 1904 despite a veto on a similar scheme in the previous year by the Local Government Board, and with the knowledge that the District Auditor would probably disallow the project and surcharge to the Council. From this small beginning the Lambeth Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme grew and had at one time the equivalent of fifteen welfare centres, a maternity hospital and later nine nurseries.

Upon the coming into force of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, 1948, these services were handed over with administrative staff to the London County Council and many felt that the work of the public health departments of sanitary authorities would be curtailed as a result. At first this may have been so but the increasing interest of local authorities in the welfare of the aged, and new legislation on clean food and clean air have resulted in an expansion of the work of the department.

During the year the Council decided to appoint an officer to the staff of the department to help with the work among the aged

with a view to preventing their deterioration socially to the point where steps would have to be taken for their removal to hospital or a home. The officer appointed, who is a state registered nurse took up her duties on 7th August, and a report of her work is to be found in the body of the report.

The office of the Lambeth Old People's Welfare Association moved during the year to the Town Hall and is now adjoining the Public Health Department. This leads to quicker and better contact between the department and the Association.

Both clean food and clean air have been the subject of legislation during the year. On January 1st, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and some of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, came into force. The remainder of the Regulations - dealing mainly with structural matters were operative from July 1st.

The Clean Air Act received Royal Assent on 5th July, and certain sections, notably those dealing with smoke control areas and installation of new furnaces became operative as from the 31st December.

On 2nd August, 1956, the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956 became operative. Under this the Inspectors will henceforth be known as "Public Health Inspectors". At the end of the year the inspectorial staff was still two below the establishment of nineteen. There were also vacancies on the clerical staff.

These shortages of necessity meant more work for the existing staff and I would like to express my thanks to all the staff for the way in which they have cheerfully carried out the extra duties.

I am pleased to express my gratitude to the Chief Officers of the Council for their help and consideration and to thank the Public Health Committee and other members of the Council for their assistance and understanding during my first year of office as your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

F. Summer.

Medical Officer of Health

July, 1957

STAFF of the PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DURING the YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health

F. SUMMERS, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 from 23rd May, 1956

W. STOTT, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
 Acting from 23rd September, 1955 to 22nd May, 1956

Deputy Medical Officer (Part-time)

B. J. L. MOSS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Analyst (Part-time)

J. E. WOODHEAD, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Ph. C.

Chief Administrative Assistant

H. P. WRIGHT

Clerical Staff

Miss L. E. Baker, A. W. Bayley, Mrs. G. Hopkins, N. A. Jupp,
 E. F. Mannerson, Mrs. M. Rogers, E. Walker, Mrs. K. Williams

Public Health Inspectors

(a) District Inspectors

J. BOWERS	Cert. S.I.E.B.	(Meat and other foods and smoke)
S. G. STARLING	..	(Meat and other foods)
D. J. HUGGINS	..	(Meat and other foods)
* J. SMITH	..	(Meat and other foods)
R. A. NEWTON	..	(Meat and other foods)
R. G. CUTLER	..	
E. E. MORGAN	..	(Meat and other foods)
H. F. BRYAN	..	
J. B. SAINSBURY	..	
A. E. WHITE	..	(Meat and other foods)

* retired 31st August, 1956

Public Health Inspectors - continued

(b) Food Inspectors

S. BRADLEY	Cert. S.I.E.B.	(Meat and other foods)
C.W. IDLE	..	(Meat and other foods)

(c) Housing Inspectors

S.G. FORD	..	(Meat and other foods)
F.J. HEFFIELD	..	(Meat and other foods)

(d) Rodent Officer

S.F. HEAL	..	(Meat and other foods)
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(e) Women Inspectors

Miss L.E. AUGER	Cert. S.I.E.B., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
Miss A.F. CROMBIE

(f) Public Health Visitor

Miss M. McNAIR	S.R.N., S.C.M. (commenced 7th August, 1956)
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Disinfecting Station

Wanless Road, Loughborough Junction, S.E.5.

Superintendent: L. BRANN

General Assistants

R.C. AYLING
W. DEAMER (Assistant Rodent Officer)
L. WHISTON (Rodent Operative)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough = 4,087.5 statute acres
 Divided into 4 Registration sub-districts
 3 Parliamentary constituencies and 21 wards.

Population - Registrar General's estimate for mid-year
 1956 - 223,900

Rateable value of District at 1st April 1956 £3,898,091

Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April 1956 £16,000

Live Births 3,915

*Birth rate (per 1,000 population) .. . 15.74

Still Births .. . 81

Deaths .. . 2,389

*Death rate .. . 11.10

Maternal Mortality .. . 0.25

Infantile Mortality .. . 21.20

* as adjusted by the following comparability factors:

Births .. 0.90

Deaths .. 1.04

(Detailed vital statistics will be found in statistical summary
 on page 45)

1- CONTROL OF DISEASE

The following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in Lambeth:

Anthrax	Paratyphoid
Cholera	Plague
Continued Fever	Pneumonia, acute influenzal
Diphtheria	Pneumonia, acute primary
Dysentery	Polio-Encephalitis, acute
Encephalitis Lethargica, acute	Polio-Myelitis, acute
Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia
Erysipelas	Relapsing Fever
Food poisoning	Scabies
Glanders	Scarlatina
Hydrophobia	Scarlet Fever
Malaria	Smallpox
Measles	Tuberculosis, all forms
Membranous Croup	Typhoid Fever
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhus Fever
	Whooping Cough

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 1,951, a decrease of 2,995 on those for 1955. In the early part of that year, however, there was an epidemic of measles which accounted for some 3,798 notifications out of 4,910. This year again measles showed the highest incidence, in this instance it being due to cases in the latter part of the year and marked the commencement of an epidemic.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the tuberculosis register on 31st December, 1956 was 3,533, an increase of 17 on the previous year. On the other hand the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 55 less than in 1955, being 198 (180 pulmonary, 18 non-pulmonary) compared with 253 (232 pulmonary, 21 non-pulmonary).

CHANGES IN THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER DURING 1956

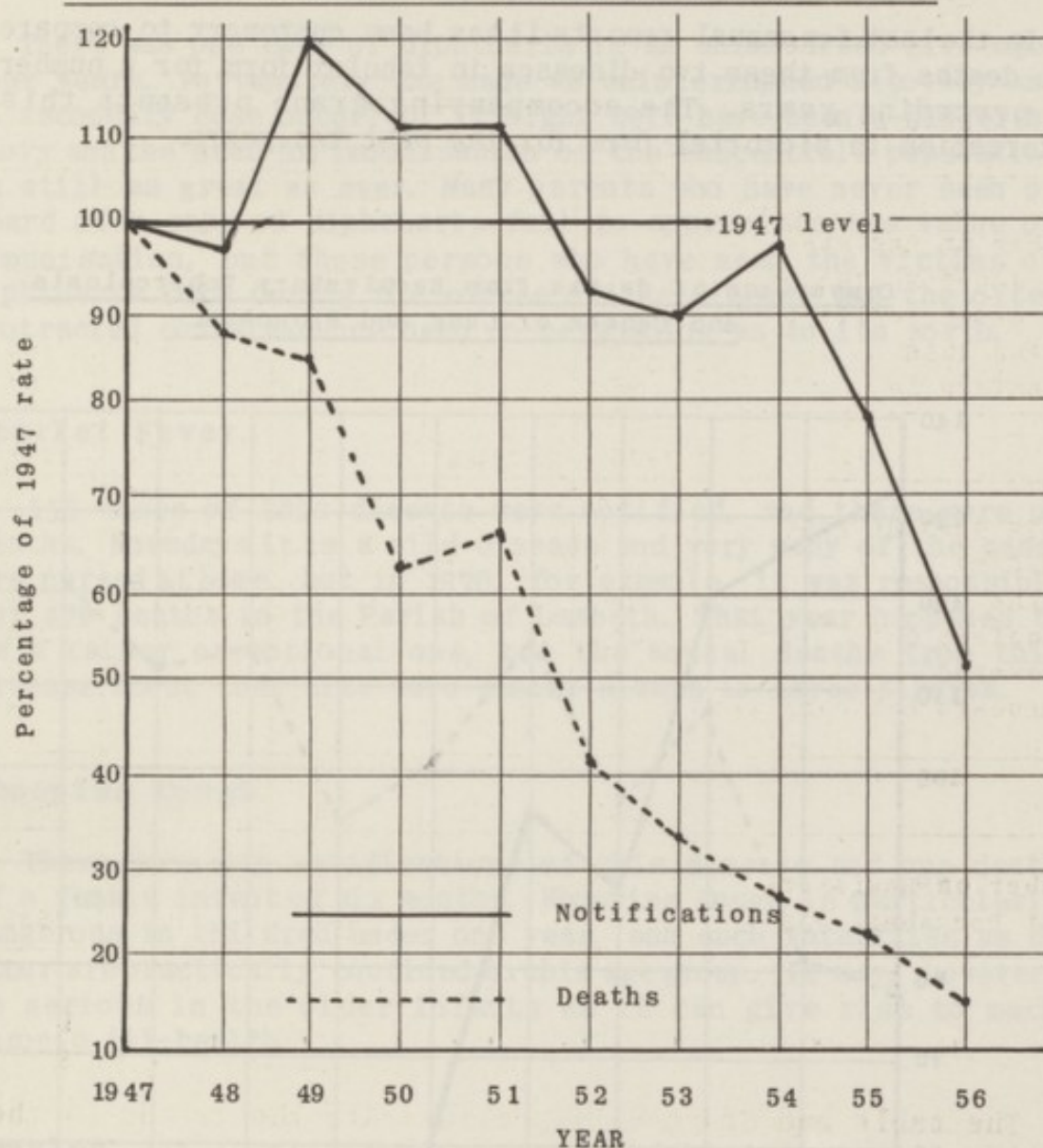
Details	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Number on Register 1st January, 1956	1772	1446	128	170	3516
New cases notified during 1956	106	74	8	10	198
Transfers in	38	43	nil	nil	81
	1916	1563	136	180	3795
CASES REMOVED FROM REGISTER					
Deaths	19	4	1	-	24
Transfers out	107	104	5	8	224
Recovered	5	4	-	1	10
Diagnosis not confirmed	2	1	-	1	4
	133	113	6	10	262
Number on Register 31st December, 1956	1783	1450	130	170	3533

The table and Graph below demonstrate the trends in the notification and death rates of tuberculosis in the Borough over the past ten years.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS PER 1,000 OF POPULATION IN LAST 10 YEARS

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Notifications	1.68	1.63	2.01	1.87	1.86	1.55	1.52	1.63	1.13	.88
Deaths	.68	.60	.68	.43	.45	.28	.23	.18	.16	.11

Notification and death rates of Tuberculosis over past 10 years, expressed as a percentage of 1947 figures.



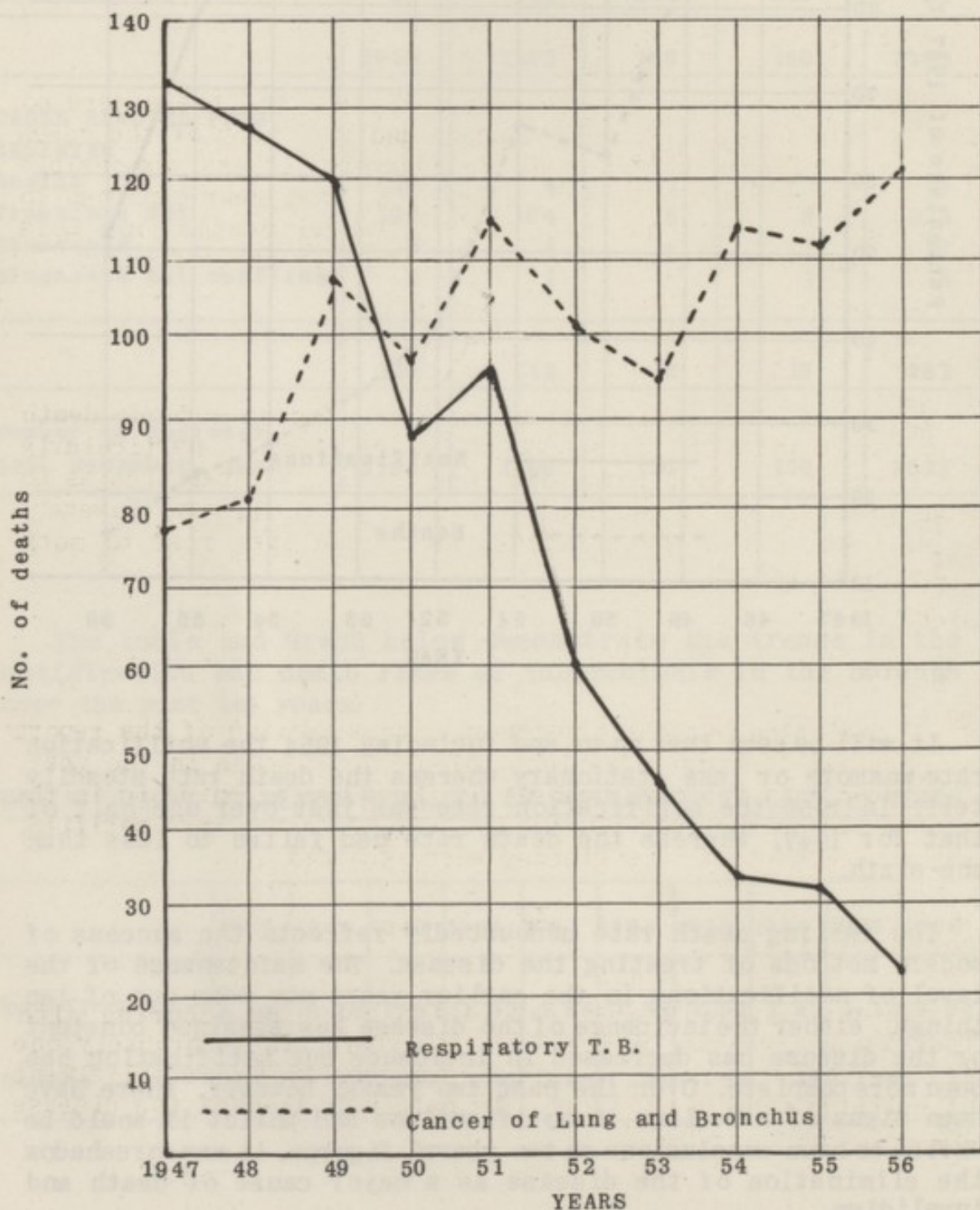
It will be seen that up to and including 1954 the notification rate was more or less stationary whereas the death rate steadily fell. In 1956 the notification rate was just over one-half of that for 1947, whereas the death rate had fallen to less than one-sixth.

The falling death rate undoubtedly reflects the success of modern methods of treating the disease. The maintenance of the level of notifications in the earlier years may mean one of two things, either the incidence of the disease has remained constant or the disease has decreased in incidence but notification has been more complete. Over the past two years, however, there have been signs of a decline in notifications and whilst it would be unwise to base conclusions on two years' figures, it may foreshadow the elimination of the disease as a major cause of death and invalidism.

Respiratory Tuberculosis and Lung Cancer.

In the last few annual reports it has been customary to compare the deaths from these two diseases in tabular form for a number of preceding years. The accompanying graph presents this information in pictorial form for the past ten years.

Comparison of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis
and Cancer of Lung and Bronchus.



Diphtheria.

There was one case of diphtheria in an unimmunised girl aged four years. Fortunately she made an uninterrupted recovery and no secondary case occurred. It might well have been a different story and the need for immunisation of the susceptible population is still as great as ever. Many parents who have never seen or heard of a case of diphtheria fail to appreciate the value of immunisation, but those persons who have seen the victims of diphtheria both during the course of the disease and the often protracted convalescence need no persuading as to its worth.

Scarlet Fever.

156 cases of this disease were notified, and there were no deaths. Nowadays it is a mild disease and very many of the cases are nursed at home, but in 1870, for example, it was responsible for 479 deaths in the Parish of Lambeth. That year happened to be a rather exceptional one, but the annual deaths from this disease about that time were almost always in three figures.

Whooping Cough.

There were 345 notifications of this disease and one death of a female infant of six months. Whooping Cough is particularly dangerous in children under one year, and such fatalities as do occur are practically confined to this age group. It may, however, be serious in the older infants as it can give rise to much chronic ill-health.

Measles.

As indicated in the introduction to this section of the report measles was the most prevalent infectious disease in the year. This was due to the commencement of the expected epidemic in the latter part of the year. During the year 571 cases were notified, but no deaths from this disease were recorded.

Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis is a disease which has been occurring with increasing frequency in the past few years. It is probably one of the prices that has to be paid for progress and the establishment of better standards of living. The paralytic stage of the disease

is practically unknown in the under-developed countries of the world and the inhabitants of those countries show a high level of protective antibodies in their blood. This state of affairs almost certainly arises from repeated sub-clinical infections in infancy which confer a life-long immunity on the individual. In those countries with a higher standard of living infants and children are not exposed to these repeated infections with the result that when poliomyelitis is introduced into a community they have no protection. To give the necessary protection the campaign for inoculation against poliomyelitis was launched during the year. The immunisation is effected by injecting a preparation of the killed virus into the child so as to provoke the production of antibodies. At present nobody knows how long the immunity will last. The campaign got off to a rather slow start owing to technical difficulties in production and the imposition of rigid safety precautions to see that no live virus is present in the inoculum.

During the year there were 15 notifications of poliomyelitis of which 9 were paralytic. One boy of five died.

Food poisoning

In all, 60 notifications of food poisoning were received during the year. 9 were notified in the first quarter, 31 in the second, 11 in the third, and 9 in the fourth. There were 47 single cases in 12 of whom the cause was found to be an organism of the salmonella group. In the remaining 35 cases, the organism was unidentified.

There was one outbreak in an institution involving 13 individuals, and was thought to have been caused by some mince. Unfortunately a sample of the mince was not available by the time symptoms occurred, but the recovery of an organism, *Cl. welchii*, from the stools of some of the patients suggested that this was the bacterial agent responsible.

Dysentery.

This disease has become more prevalent in recent years, and is almost always due to an organism known as *Shigella sonnei*. It is not usually serious except in infants and old persons. During the year 303 cases were notified, more than two-thirds of them in the first half of the year, when it was particularly prevalent in day nurseries. The co-operation of the Public Health Staff of the London County Council was enlisted, and eventually the outbreak was brought under control, although the source was not definitely traced.

Typhoid.

One case of typhoid fever was notified during the year. It occurred in a male aged 47 who was employed by the borough council as a sewerman. The course of the disease was uneventful, and no signs of infection were found in other members of the family, nor were any other cases reported.

Scabies.

There were 93 cases of scabies notified compared with 30 in 1955.

Cancer.

There were 2,389 deaths in the borough from all causes, and of these 481, or just over 20%, were due to cancer.

Of the 1,233 male deaths, 266 were due to cancer, and 215 of the 1,156 female deaths were attributable to the same cause.

The incidence of cancer has been gradually rising over many years. Fifty years ago in Lambeth there were 294 deaths from cancer in a population of nearly 316,000 - a death rate of 0.94 per 1,000. In 1956 there were 481 deaths from cancer in a population of 223,900 - a death rate of 2.15 per 1,000.

Undoubtedly some of this increase is due to improved diagnosis and an ageing population. Nevertheless there would appear to have been a real increase in the incidence of cancer over the past fifty years, and it is likely that this is associated with the changing environment and habits of individuals over that period.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.

The diseases responsible for the greatest proportion of deaths are those of the heart and circulation. To some extent one would expect this in an ageing population but one disturbing feature is the toll which coronary thrombosis takes of those in the 45-64 age group. Mortality figures do not show the whole picture as deaths may be preceded by prolonged invalidism and some of those deaths recorded in the older age groups may well have been victims of the disease at a much earlier age. Coronary disease is one of the so-called 'stress diseases' which have increased over the past ten or twenty years. It appears to be associated more with mental and psychological stress than with physical.

In all, diseases of the heart and circulation, including vascular disease of the nervous system were responsible for 1,096 deaths or nearly 46% of the total.

II - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This part of the report deals with the work carried out by the Food Inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924 and the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 and 1950, and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.

(a) FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Number procured formally	...	...	200
Number procured informally	...	...	1,300

Of the 200 formal samples, 174 were of milk, 2 of which were adulterated, of the remaining 26 other samples, three were found to be adulterated.

(b) FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL AND OTHER EXAMINATIONS.

The following shows the number and types of samples submitted for bacteriological and other examinations -

	Ice Cream and Ice Cream Mix	...	...	...	297
	Ice Cream Lolly	...	...	...	32
	Ice Lolly	...	...	...	12
*	Black Pudding	...	...	...	2
	Chinese Egg Albumen	...	...	...	1
	Egg Albumen 60% Syrup	...	...	...	1
	Egg Albumen	...	...	...	1
	Chinese Egg	...	...	...	2
*	Meat and Vegetable Hotpot	...	...	...	1
	Orange and Lemon Slices	...	...	...	1
*	Tomato Juice	...	...	...	1
	Luncheon Meat (canned)	...	...	...	3
*	Corned Beef	...	...	...	3
	Sausage Meat	...	...	...	1
	Pork Pie	...	...	...	3
	Milk (canned)	...	...	...	5
					366

* These articles were suspected of having caused food poisoning.

Milk

Type of Test	Samples No. procured	No. passing test	No. failing to pass test
Methylene Blue	165	162	nil
Phosphatase	164	161	nil

Three of these samples were void - Atmospheric Shade temperature was over 65° F.

Inspection of Food.**(i) AT SHOPS, STORES AND FACTORIES:**

Large quantities of food of all varieties were inspected and as a result the following weight of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption and unsound food certificates were issued : 18 tons 11 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lbs.

(ii) THE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All condemned animal products are sent to firms specialising in the making of glues and other like commodities. Such vegetable waste as is suitable is converted into pig food under the Council's Scheme.

(iii) COMPLAINTS

94 complaints about food were received 60 of which were justified and a list of these is set out below.

1. Mincemeat tart	containing metal
2. Frying oil	containing foreign matter
3. Bread	containing foreign matter
4. Ham (canned)	unfit
5. Luncheon meat (canned)	unfit
6. Butter	containing metal
7. Bread	containing wood
8. Bread	containing foreign matter
9. Bread	containing wood
10. Pork pie	mouldy condition
11. Bread	containing wood
12. Bread	containing tobacco ash
13. Sugar	containing beetle
14. Bread	containing insect
15. Cake	unpleasant taste
16. Bread	containing dirt and maggot
17. Butter	unfit
18. Potatoes (old)	mis-represented as new
19. Milk	dirty bottle

20. Peaches (canned)	containing foreign matter
21. Bread roll	containing foreign matter
22. Milk	dirty bottle
23. Bread	dirty condition
24. Peanuts (roasted)	rancid
* 25. Bread	containing cigarette stub
26. Sweets	containing maggot
27. Bread	containing maggot
28. Bottled beer	containing sediment
29. Cheese	containing part of insect
30. Meat	containing caseous material
31. Bread	mouldy condition
32. Butter	containing nail
33. Sausage roll	mouldy condition
34. Bread	containing wood
35. Rice (unpolished)	contaminated
* 36. Orange drink	dirty bottle
37. Ham	unfit
38. Pepper	deterioration due to improper storage
39. Sweets	containing maggot
40. Chocolate	containing maggot
41. Tea	containing cigarette stub
42. Sweets	containing insect
43. Chocolate	containing maggot
44. Sponge cake	wasp in filling
45. Corned beef	mouldy condition
46. Lemonade	unpleasant flavour
47. Bread	containing metal
48. Chicken	unfit
49. Bread	containing nail
50. Tea	containing caterpillar
51. Lemonade	unpleasant flavour
52. Swiss Roll	dirty condition
53. Bread	containing metal
54. Fish roes	unfit
55. Fish	containing hook
56. Bread	containing bristle
57. Meat	tainted
58. Bread	mouldy condition
59. Turkey	unfit
60. Bread	dirty condition

* Legal proceedings were instituted in the under-mentioned cases with the result shown -

25. Bread containing cigarette stub	Fined £5. £2.2.0. costs
36. Orange drink bottle dirty	Fined £7.

The following case was taken on behalf of Greenwich Borough Council -

Milk Bottle dirty	Fined £5. £2.2.0. costs
-------------------	-------------------------

Ice Cream Samples (Methylene Blue Test)

Year	No. of samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
1956	297	186	88	19	4
1955	236	171	42	20	3
1954	155	120	30	5	-
1953	149	123	20	6	-
1952	179	148	25	5	1
1951	196	76	15	4	1

Food Premises.

- (i) The number of food premises by type of business in the area is as follows -

Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	172
Fish shops wet, dry and fried	...	...	94
Bakers	...	...	99
Butchers	...	...	163
Restaurants	...	...	240

- (ii) The number of premises registered under section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Ice Cream	...	...	527
Sausages and potted processed etc. meat	...	...	297
Registered Milk distributors	...	...	263

- (iii) Number of inspections of food premises 1,586

In one instance action was taken through the courts to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The company concerned was engaged in the manufacture of cakes and pastry and, despite verbal and written requests for an improvement in the standards prevailing, the firm took no action.

Therefore in November summonses were taken out against the company and when the case was heard in January 1957 pleas of guilty were entered on 11 counts for contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

General.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, both came into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

The new Act has introduced a number of changes in administration. Most of these are minor changes designed to bring the law dealing with the adulteration of food and standards of hygiene in food handling into line with present day requirements.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have brought about a major change in the standards of cleanliness necessary in the sale, storage, display and preparation of food.

They not only impose standards of hygiene for food premises but they also require that persons handling food shall maintain standards of personal cleanliness. An outstanding example is the prohibition on the use of tobacco by persons handling food.

This new legislation has entailed detailed inspections being made of food shops, food factories and other places and the work is being done by the existing staff of inspectors. It is not possible at this stage to say when it will be completed but good progress is being made.

III - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

I am indebted to Dr. E. Windle Taylor, Director of Water Examination, Metropolitan Water Board, for the following report on the water supplied to the Borough -

" The supply to the Lambeth area has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year 1956.

The water is all River Thames-derived. It is stored in the Board's reservoirs at Staines, Laleham and Walton and treated in the Board's works at Hampton, Surbiton and Walton. The method of purification is by storage, filtration and terminal chlorination and contact tanks are in operation at Hampton and Walton to ensure efficient disinfection of the water. Plans are progressing for the construction of a contact tank at the Surbiton works.

Samples are collected on five days in every week, and more frequently if required, from each stage of the purification process and in the distribution system. Tests include physical, chemical and micro-biological examination of the water.

All new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to service and samples of water from them are tested bacteriologically to ensure that its quality is up to that normally supplied.

The water supplied to the Borough of Lambeth is not plumbo-solvent "

There are in addition a few deep wells in Lambeth which supply water for purposes other than human consumption whilst in a few cases the water is used for drinking on the premises and for the manufacture of beverages. In the latter case periodic chemical and bacteriological examination is made to ensure that there is no danger to health.

SECTION 95 PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936

In 1956, 1,345 applications were received for certificates of the provision of a proper and sufficient supply of water. 674 of these were in respect of borough council property.

Drainage and Sewerage System.

The sewers within the borough are operated on what is known as the combined system, that is, both the surface water and sewage are discharged into the same set of pipes which are designed to take many times the dry weather flow. In the event of flow above the capacity of the sewers, arrangements are made so that excess storm water is diverted into the River Thames, which sometimes involves pumping.

The local sewers, which are nearly 150 miles in length, are under the control of the borough council, whilst the main sewers are the responsibility of the London County Council. These main sewers, as far as the south side of the river is concerned, eventually discharge their contents at the southern outfall works at Crossness some 13 miles below London Bridge.

Here the sewage undergoes treatment before the effluent is discharged into the river.

Drainage Plans.

All plans are registered with the Borough Engineer but the Public Health Inspectors are responsible for seeing that the work is carried out in accordance with the drainage by-laws. 46 plans of new buildings and 54 plans of alteration to existing drains were deposited. In addition combined drainage was carried out in 16 cases. There were no cases of relaying defective combined drains for which no order had been made by the Council and no plans could be found, and which therefore were deemed to be sewers repairable by the Council.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The year 1956 saw the Clean Air Act placed on the statute book and certain sections of the Act, notably those dealing with Smoke Control Areas, came into force on the 31st December, 1956. Other provisions of the Act dealing with emission of dark smoke, grit and dirt from industrial furnaces are not yet operative.

There are ten recording stations for atmospheric pollution in the borough of which three are under the control of the borough council. These are volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide recording machines at the Town Hall and the Tate Library, South Lambeth Road and a deposit gauge and lead peroxide candle for measuring sulphur dioxide at the Brixton Hill M.W.B. reservoir.

The remainder are controlled by the London County Council and with one exception are in or within a short distance of County Hall. These comprise one deposit gauge, two lead peroxide candles and four volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide recorders.

All the records of pollution by both smoke and sulphur dioxide at all the stations with volumetric instruments show the same seasonal trend. From a peak figure in January the average daily pollution falls steadily until May when it is about a fifth to a quarter of the January figure. It then remains stationary until September when it commences to rise until in December the figure is approaching that of January.

This is undoubtedly due in large measure to the fact that the domestic grate is not, generally speaking, in use during the summer months, but I feel that atmospheric conditions may also play a part by more adequate dispersion of those pollutants that are emitted.

Repair, Maintenance and Sanitary Conditions of Houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART II

Section 9. Nil.

Section 10. Nil.

Section 11 and Section 11 as amended by Section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

Representations (Demolition Orders) made during				
the year	...	...	...	5
Demolition Orders Made (7) Undertakings				
accepted (-)	...	...	...	7
Demolition Orders not made before 31st December	...	...	...	3
Demolition Orders complied with	...	...	...	12
Demolition Orders not yet complied with	...	...	...	2
Premises surveyed but not yet represented	...	...	...	nil
Premises surveyed but no action found necessary	...	...	...	6

Section 12.

Representations made during the year	...	...	...	18
(a) Underground rooms	...	34		
(b) Parts of buildings	...	9 rooms		

Formal Action.

Closing Orders made (80), Undertakings accepted (4)	...	...	...	84
Closing Orders not yet made	...	...	...	4
Closing Orders determined (1), complied with (50)	...	...	...	51
Closing Orders or undertakings not yet complied with	...	...	...	45
Premises made fit after representation	...	...	...	nil
Premises vacated or closed after representation	...	...	...	nil
Premises surveyed but not yet represented	...	...	...	1

Informal Action.

Premises made fit after informal action	5
(a) Underground rooms	12
(b) Parts of buildings	nil
Premises closed or vacated after informal action ...	nil
Premises where works are still outstanding after informal action	nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART III SECTION 25
CLEARANCE AREAS.

No clearance areas have been represented during the year 1956. Preliminary surveys have, however, been made of potential areas involving the inspection of 62 individual premises.

Waterworks Place, Brixton Hill, (Nos. 2 - 7 cons.)
 Order confirmed July 1955.

Remaining tenants have been rehoused.

The 6 houses in the Clearance Area have been demolished and order complied with.

Premises surveyed but no action found necessary ...	12
Total visits (revisits 1,051)	1894

MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE.1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	6721
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	18885
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations.	64
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	181
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	18

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 1882

3. Action under statutory powers during the year.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs nil

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -

(a) By owners nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1272

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -

(a) By owners 1411

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 182

(C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 11 as amended by Section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 7

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 80

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 1

HOUSING ACT, 1949 SECTION 4.

Advances for increasing housing accommodation. Formal applications received and inspections made with position at the end of 1956

Josephine Avenue	13	} Loan not granted
ThurLOW Hill	42	

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20 AND
HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954, SECTION 16
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Preliminary Inspections.

Bartley Road	154	
Broxholm Road	65	
Burton Road	33	
Carson Road	52	
Clive Road	27	
Clive Road	83-91 (cons.)	- 9 premises
Elder Road	14	
Gipsy Road	199	
Woodland Road	48	
Poplar Walk Road	102	
Rommany Road	57	
Thornlaw Road	84	
<hr/>		
Total	20	premises

The Council decided to suspend the making of Grants for 12 months from March 1956.

Applicants were advised to apply to the London County Council.

HOUSING AND RELATED ACTS: (REHOUSING SECTIONS)
INSPECTIONS ARISING FROM REHOUSING.

331 premises were inspected as a result of notifications received from the Directors of Housing of the Lambeth Borough Council and the London County Council of the rehousing or transfer of families to new or other properties.

In one instance only was it necessary to take action to prevent the premises being re-occupied. This was done informally and the premises were later made fit.

REHOUSING AND OVERCROWDING.

1,948 cases have been investigated with the following results: -

<u>London County Council</u>	<u>Cases</u>
Overcrowding	47
Illness	247
Insanitary conditions	601

Lambeth Borough Council

Health (Medical Certificates) ...	477
Insanitary conditions	220
Inquiries from other Authorities ...	33
During this period the London County Council have rehoused ...	94
During this period the Lambeth Borough Council have rehoused ...	229

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Certificates of disrepair issued ...	50
Certificates of disrepair refused ...	6
Applications withdrawn ...	3
Revocation certificates issued ...	66
Revocation certificates refused ...	37

The cost of repairs particularly to old property remains a serious problem both for owners and for the Council who themselves carry out the necessary work when a Court Order is ignored, collecting rents to recoup themselves and registering a charge upon the property.

Under the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1955, the Council may in cases of urgency, in lieu of obtaining a Court Order, serve a notice on the owner or occupier of defective premises setting out the defects and stating that it intends to remedy them itself. If the owner does not within seven days serve a counter-notice stating that he intends to execute the works and does not within a reasonable time thereafter commence and diligently proceed with the works, the Council may after the expiration of nine days from the service of the notice execute the works and recover the expense reasonably incurred in doing so from the person upon whom the notice was served.

At the end of the year there were 130 cases outstanding from which some £7,614 was owing while in 35 others the estimated cost of works approved but not completed was £2,624.

Dangerous Structures.

Information was forwarded to the District Surveyor on 95 occasions during the year of the presence of structures which were considered to be dangerous to life or limb.

Rodent Control.

During the year 1956, 909 complaints have been investigated. Of these 668 were found to be brown (common) rats, no black (ship) rats, 168 mice, and 73 were found to be not justified; 926 baitings were carried out and in 139 cases defective or disused drains were found to be the cause of infestations and were dealt with by the Borough Engineer and the Public Health Inspectors. No major infestations have come to light during the year. In no case has the infestation been of a serious character.

Inspections	...	...	...	1,177
Revisits	...	...	...	1,252
Notices served	...	...	...	34

Sewer treatment with poison was carried out by the Borough Engineer's department during the year in conjunction with the Rodent Officer and his staff.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

2,817 rooms and 17,507 articles of bedding and clothing were dealt with during the year, among them being the rooms and articles used by the 510 cases of various forms of infectious disease taken to hospital; 186 certificates of disinfection were issued, and 185 library books dealt with from the 4,408 premises visited during the year.

206 houses were treated for bed bugs and in them 607 separate rooms were sprayed with Vermacine, a preparation of 5 per cent. D.D.T. with Pyrethrum as a 'Knockout'. It was necessary to treat 39 houses a second time.

There were many complaints during the year of insect infestations. The usual offenders were wood boring beetles, psocids, ants, cockroaches, drug store beetles, carpet beetles, clothes moths, weevils, clover mites and silver fish.

Clover mite infestation on new housing estates has been difficult to eradicate although some measure of control has been achieved. It would seem that the mite is imported in the turves which are used when the spaces around the blocks are laid out. Close contact has been maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food in the campaign against these pests.

Registrations.

MILK

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, 36 distributors of milk were registered. Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation), (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, there were 263 licenses with 24 supplementary licenses and two Pasteurisers licenses.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

The number of persons entered or retained on the list under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933 (Section 21) Part II was 175.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Under the provisions of this Act no premises were registered during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Under the provisions of this Act, which came into force on the 1st January, 1952, no pet animals may be sold except from registered premises. The condition in which animals, including birds, fish, reptiles, etc., must be kept if registration is granted ensure that they enjoy a reasonably comfortable existence while on the premises and has greatly improved safety from fire, and other calamities. 22 premises have been registered and are under supervision.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Licensing of Slaughtermen.

No application was made for the issue of a licence under the provisions of this Act.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) ACT, 1954.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

On the 6th July 1955, the Council made by-laws as to hairdressers and barbers under this Act and fixed the appointed day for their operation to be the 1st January, 1956. Sub-section 1 of Section 18 of the Act requires that as from the appointed day no person shall carry on the business of a hairdresser or barber on any premises in the borough unless he and those premises

are registered by the Borough Council. During the year 26 registrations were made making a total of 166 premises and 181 persons on the register.

Offensive Trades.

Establishment Orders have been granted to two companies who carry on the offensive trades respectively of (a) fellmonger and (b) fatboiler.

- (a) Messrs. Gaston Morrell, Ferndale Road.
- (b) Messrs. Lepard, Wandsworth Road.

These two orders are renewable annually.

Street Markets.

Markets are held in The Cut, Lower Marsh, Lambeth Walk and Wilcox Road in the inner wards, and in Popes Road, Electric Avenue and Brixton Station Road. All these are inspected regularly.

HOME OFFICE TABLE

Factories, and other premises

1. - INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions. (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
FACTORIES:				
With mechanical power	641	202	9	
Without mechanical power	164	65	3	
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	51	58	1	
Total	856	325	13	

2. Defects Found

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Referred by H. M. Inspector (5)	No. of defects in respect of which prosecu- tions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (4)		
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	12	12		2	
Overcrowding (S. 2)					
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)					
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)					
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S. 6)	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
Insufficient	2	1		2	
Unsuitable or defective } Not separate for sexes }	5	5			
	1	1			
Other offences	5	5	1		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)					
Total	26	25	1	4	

OUTWORK

NATURE OF WORK	No. on Register	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel			
Making, etc.	282		
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen	1		
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, etc.	1		
Artificial flowers	1		
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper bags	3		
Paper, etc. boxes	23		
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	11		
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosagues, Christmas crackers			
Christmas stockings, etc.	2		
Textile weaving			
Lampshades	55		
Total	379		

Summary.**Public Health Inspectors.**

Total number of inspections	...	8,322
Total number of reinspections	...	14,089
Total number of intimation notices served	...	2,213
Total number of statutory notices served	...	1,260

Women Public Health Inspectors.

Total number of visits and inspections (factories workplaces, infectious disease, etc.)	...	1,341
Total number of intimation notices served	...	143
Total number of statutory notices served	...	1
Total number of revisits	...	720
Restaurants in which defects were found	...	123
Visits to Old and Infirm persons living in insanitary conditions	...	84

IV - GENERAL

Health Services provided by other authorities.

HOSPITALS

Lambeth is within the catchment areas of two hospital groups, the Lambeth and Camberwell groups, these in turn being administered by two different Regional Hospital Boards, the South West Metropolitan and South East Metropolitan respectively. Further the areas served by the two hospital groups extend beyond the borough boundaries, the Lambeth group has premises outside the borough whilst the Camberwell group has none within it.

In addition to hospitals within the normal hospital framework of the National Health Service there are two teaching hospitals in the borough, King's College Hospital and St. Thomas' Hospital, each with its own board of governors.

The following is a list of hospitals within the borough -

Lambeth Hospitals Group (S.W. Regional Hospital Board)

Lambeth Hospital - Brook Drive, S.E. 11.
South Western Hospital - Landor Road, S.W. 9.
Annie McCall Maternity Hospital - Jeffreys Road, S.W. 4.

King's College Hospital Group.

King's College Hospital - Denmark Hill, S.E. 5.
Belgrave Hospital for Children - Clapham Road, S.W. 9.

St. Thomas' Hospital Group.

St. Thomas' Hospital - Westminster Bridge, S.E. 1.
St. Thomas' Babies Hostel - Black Prince Road, S.E. 11.
General Lying-in-Hospital - York Road, S.E. 1.
Royal Waterloo Hospital - Waterloo Road, S.E. 1.

Personal Health Services.

It is the duty of the local health authority, i.e. the London County Council, to either provide these services or arrange for their provision by some other organisation.

The county council does in fact administer the Maternity and Child Welfare services, the vaccination and immunisation, health visiting and domestic help services from the Divisional Health Offices, 128, Brook Drive, S.E. 11.

Vaccination and immunisation is also done by general practitioners.

The midwifery, ambulance and mental health services are administered direct from the Public Health Department, County Hall, S.E. 1. and home nursing is carried out on behalf of the county council by voluntary organisations.

The voluntary nursing associations working in the borough are as follows -

Brixton District Nursing Association.
Camberwell District Nursing Association.
Norwood and District Nursing Association.
Ranyard Nurses.
Roman Catholic Nurses' Institute.
South London District Nursing Association.
Southwark, Newington and Walworth District Nursing Association.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory service provides a comprehensive service for the examination of specimens submitted by local authorities and general practitioners. The local laboratory is situated at County Hall and is under the direction of Dr. A.J.H. Tomlinson.

Care of the Aged.

The care of the aged is a matter which is constantly engaging the attention of the department. Unfortunately it is not always possible for your officers to intervene directly in the welfare of the old people unless there is a nuisance or danger to health. Nevertheless, close contact is maintained with the officers of the Lambeth Old People's Welfare Association and through them it is often possible to assist. Similarly, officers of the Public Health department are frequently able to help the Old People's Welfare Association in dealing with cases.

The factors which bring about the unhappy plight of many of these old people are varied. They are often alone in the world and have to make do on a small fixed income such as the old age pension and some are reluctant to apply for National Assistance.

The result is that they live in one room, usually in a basement or at the top of the house and get insufficient to eat.

It often appears at first sight that some of those who have

children are neglected by them. This may be true in some instances but on the other hand investigation may shew that there is some real obstacle such as the housing circumstances of these children which will not permit them to give shelter to their parents. A further factor which is often overlooked is the independence of the old person himself, who will carry on long after he should have had help, and who is reluctant to do anything which in the slightest way suggests a whittling away of that independence. There is almost an element of tragedy when one comes across an old person who steadfastly refuses to accept the services which are available in the mistaken idea that he will lose something of his independence by so doing. It is usually this type of case which becomes the subject of court action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. The sad thing about this procedure is that so often the person concerned dies soon after he or she has been removed, as if the will to live has been lost. Consequently, one is reluctant to take action, but if conditions are such as to constitute a serious nuisance or danger to the individual or other persons then action is taken, but only if persuasion fails.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

This Act enables an authority, on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, to apply to the Court for an order to remove a person in need of care and attention to a home or hospital for a period of up to three months. Before granting the order the Court must be satisfied that certain conditions laid down in the Act are met.

As action under this Act may be protracted, an amending Act was introduced in 1951 which enables the Medical Officer of Health, under delegated powers, to apply to the Court himself in an emergency, but in this instance a second medical certificate is required and the maximum period of detention is three weeks.

During the year seven persons were removed under the provisions of these Acts.

LAUNDRY FOR INCONTINENT AGED.

One of the problems which faces those looking after bedridden aged persons in their homes is the cleansing of soiled linen and clothing. Facilities for doing this in the home are usually lacking and commercial laundries are naturally reluctant to handle the material without prior cleansing. The local authority has power under Section 122 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, to cleanse filthy and unwholesome articles, but the problem

still remains - where can it be done or who will do it? Some boroughs have solved the problem by coming to an agreement with a neighbouring borough which has the appropriate facilities, or by arrangement with a local hospital laundry. Neither of these courses was possible in Lambeth, although Southwark is installing machinery in its cleansing station for this purpose and it may be possible to come to an arrangement with that authority when the installation is complete.

A temporary solution was, however, possible through the generosity of a local laundry proprietor who offered to run a pilot scheme free of charge for a period of three months. For administrative reasons it was not possible to do personal and individual laundry, so the laundry proprietor provided a stock of drawsheets, sheets and pillowcases, sufficient for six cases, which became the property of the Lambeth Old People's Welfare Association. Instances of persons needing this service are referred to the Public Health department, generally by the district nurses.

The service was started on 5th December, and although at first confined to the area of one District Nursing Association, six patients were being catered for and there were two on the waiting list at the end of the year. It has been a boon to both the patients and those attending them and has been greatly appreciated by them.

HOLIDAYS FOR THE ELDERLY.

The scheme to send old age pensioners to the seaside for a week's holiday for £1 was continued again during the year under review. To be eligible to participate in the scheme a person had to be an old age pensioner who had lived in the borough for at least three years and not to have had a holiday in the same period. During four weeks in May and early June some 237 old persons availed themselves of the holiday and in a similar period in September and early October 219 went away. The 456 persons consisted of 65 married couples, 245 individual females and 81 males.

The holidays were arranged at Brighton, and the old folk were taken by coach from the Town Hall to the hotels at Brighton where the accommodation had been reserved for them. A stop was made at Crawley for light refreshments. At the end of their week's stay they were collected from the hotels and brought back to the Town Hall where the next party was already assembling.

During the week, cinema and theatre shows and afternoon coach trips were arranged. The old people were very grateful

for the holiday and the entertainment provided for them and many appreciative comments have been made, both verbally and in letters to the Public Health department.

WORKROOMS FOR THE ELDERLY.

In July, this project was started at 58 Lansdowne Way and some forty old people are employed for two hours per day, either morning or afternoon, for five days per week, for which they are paid 10s. per week.

They are engaged on simple employment, such as button carding, plastic sorting and light assembly work. The old folk are not pressed but encouraged to give of their best. The scheme is an attempt to relieve some of the monotony and boredom of old age and let them feel that they can still do useful work, and in this respect it has succeeded as the changes which have taken place in some of the workers have been truly remarkable. From being depressed and careless about their personal appearance they have become cheerful and bright and once again taken an interest in themselves.

In the latter months of the year it was decided to provide hot meals for those who wanted them through the Meals-on-Wheels service. This has been much appreciated by the workers and during the winter months as many as 25 meals were delivered on four days per week.

VISITING BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH VISITOR

When it became apparent that more time would have to be spent in the follow up of cases of old folk referred to the Public Health department by various outside agencies, the Council agreed to the appointment of a woman inspector for this purpose. Prior to this, the temporary Deputy Medical Officer of Health had devoted much of his time to this work.

The officer appointed took up her duties early in August and she is primarily engaged in the follow up of those cases which appear to be in danger of social breakdown. Her work does not cut across that of the Lambeth Old People's Welfare Association but is complementary to it.

At the time of her appointment records of some 53 old people were held in this department, and by the end of the year 146 new names had been added to the register, and 452 visits made. The following table gives an analysis of the new cases by age and sex.

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
65-69	5	9	14
70-74	6	13	19
75-79	17	17	34
80-84	9	38	47
85-89	7	19	26
90-94	3	3	6
95-100	-	-	-
Totals	47	99	146

It will be seen that the bulk of the cases are over 75, and the majority of them are women. This is almost certainly a reflection of the preponderance of women in these age groups as a whole.

The visitor is able, by periodic visiting - the frequency in any particular case depending on the conditions prevailing - to enlist the help of the various statutory and voluntary agencies which may assist in preventing further deterioration. I am certain that by this supervision the lot of many old people in the borough has been eased and the appointment has been worthwhile.

It would be appropriate at this point to mention the valuable help given by the Domestic Help Service to the old folk. This is a London County Council service which is administered from two centres in the borough and the organisers in charge have co-operated wholeheartedly in efforts to help the elderly and this now forms the greater part of their work. No amount of goodwill however on the part of the organisers would be of any avail without the support of those who do the work in the homes. On going round the district one repeatedly meets these ladies working cheerfully in the homes of the old folk, sometimes in the most trying conditions. Not only that but many will keep a friendly eye on them at weekends and at holiday times when they would otherwise be lonely.

LAMBETH OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This report on the care of the aged would be incomplete without reference to the activities of the Lambeth Old People's Welfare Association which acts as the co-ordinating body in the borough for services devoted to the welfare of the aged. It receives financial assistance from the Council and acts as its agent in those welfare activities which the Council is unable to do directly.

The following details of the work of the Association have been obtained from its latest report and relate to the year ending 31st March, 1957.

Meals-on-Wheels.

This service has been operated in the north end of the borough by the Association and during the year the number of meals delivered was almost doubled - 15,436 as against 8,033.

The southern end of the borough is covered by the Women's Voluntary Service, who delivered 13,850 meals as against 9,490 last year.

Not only does the Meals-on-Wheels Service provide meals for the old folk, but it provides a means of keeping in constant touch with them so that early changes in their condition are noted.

Chiropody

This much appreciated service has further expanded and there are now five clinics working, in all, 17 sessions. A domiciliary service has also been started and comprises three sessions per week. The number receiving treatment in their homes is 98 and the total number of persons to benefit from the service during the year is over 1,400.

Old People's Clubs.

There are now 27 Clubs operating in the borough including an all-day luncheon club at St. Anne's Catholic Settlement in Kennington.

King George VI Memorial Club

This Club is designed to cater for infirm old people who would normally be denied the benefits of a club by reason of their handicap. Its catchment area is the Boroughs of Lambeth and Camberwell. At the time of writing the club is not functioning on its permanent site, but a pilot scheme has been running for some weeks at Havil Hall, Camberwell. The old people are collected by ambulance and brought to the club where they are given a hot lunch, a light tea and entertainment before being taken home.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 50 - Burials

During the year under review 30 funerals were arranged by the Council (16 males and 14 females) at a cost of £224. 19. 1d.

The actual amount paid to the Council's Funeral Contractors was £364. 4. 6d. but the sum of £139. 5. 5d. was recovered by way of grants, insurance policies, money found, and also by sale of secondhand furniture etc.

V - STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The classification of deaths is in accordance with the International List of Diseases Injuries and Causes of Death as revised under the World Health Organisation:

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Area of district (in acres)	4. 087. 5	
Population mid-year (Registrar General's estimate etc.)	224, 200	223, 900
Rateable value at 1st April	£2, 249, 788	£3, 898, 091
Sum represented by 1d. rate (Revaluation 1st April, 1956)	£9, 100	£16, 000

Births

Registered live births		
(a) Legitimate	3, 308	3, 523
(b) Illegitimate	289	392
(c) Total Live Births	3, 597	3, 915
*Birth rate (corrected) per 1,000 estimated population	14. 12	15. 74

Still Births

(a) Legitimate	87	67
(b) Illegitimate	6	14
Total	<u>93</u>	<u>81</u>
Still birth rate for 1,000 (Live and still) births	25. 20	20. 27

Deaths	2, 385	2, 389
*Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	10. 74	* 11. 10

	1955	1956
Maternal deaths	4	1
Maternal death rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	1.08	0.25
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		
(a) Legitimate	64	72
(b) Illegitimate	10	11
Total	<u>74</u>	<u>83</u>
Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births	20.57	21.20
Neo-natal (under 4 weeks) deaths	56	68
Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births	15.57	17.37
Marriages.	1,949	2,088
Marriage rate per 1,000 population	8.69	9.33

* as adjusted by comparability factor.

TUBERCULOSIS
SUMMARY OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1956.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY	RESPIRATORY				NON-RESPIRATORY			
	NEW CASES	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DISCHARGED FROM HOSPI- TAL OR DIED	INWARD TRANSFERS ETC.	NEW CASES	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DISCHARGED FROM HOSPI- TAL OR DIED	INWARD TRANSFERS ETC.
VAUXHALL	50	84	88	17	8	3	2	-
BRIXTON	62	64	77	36	7	3	3	-
NORWOOD	68	37	46	28	3	2	1	-
TOTALS	180	185	211	81	18	8	6	-

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1956 (CORRECTED FIGURES)

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection		Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
					Paralytic		Non-para- lytic											
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F			
Under 1 year	-	-	24	21					19	13			6	5				88
1 year	1	3	23	19	2				37	28			14	16	2			145
2 years	6	2	26	28	1	1			42	46			11	15				178
3 years	4	3	22	14		1			37	44			13	8				146
4 years	7	10	23	18			1		32	33	1		11	10				146
5 - 9 years	40	43	61	56	2		1		122	99			44	41				509
10-14 years	15	12	3	4			3	1	2	5			8	11				64
15-24 years	5	3		1		1			1	8			6	16		1	44	86
25 and over	1	1	1	1	1				3				24	44			41	117
Total	79	77	183	162	6	3	5	1	296	276		1	137	166	2	1	85	1479

Age Groups	Pneumonia		Small Pox		Acute Encephalitis				Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning		Oph. Neon.		Scabies		Totals
					Infective		Post Infective												
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Under 5 years	8	4											4	4	4	4	7	5	40
5 - 14	3	3				1						1	2	3			3	8	24
15 - 44	17	24									1	4	10	13			16	20	105
45 - 64	27	19							1		4	7	8	5					71
65 and over	9	10									1	3	6	5					34
Totals	64	60				1			1		6	15	30	30	4	4	26	33	274

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT

CAUSES OF DEATH		AGES	
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M F		
2. Tuberculosis, other	M F		
3. Syphilitic disease	M F		
4. Diphtheria	M F		
5. Whooping Cough	M F	1	
6. Meningococcal, Infection	M F	1	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M F		
8. Measles	M F		
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M F		
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F		
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	M F		
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F		
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	F		
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	M F		1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M F		1
16. Diabetes	M F		
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M F	1	
18. Coronary Disease, angina	M F		
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M F		
20. Other heart diseases	M F	1	

DEATH (CORRECTED) DURING 1956

(both sexes)						TOTALS	
5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and under 75 years.	75 and upwards	Male	Female
		5 1	3 1	6 1	4 1	18	4
			3	3 1		6	1
1						1	1
						1	
			2 1			2	2
		6	15 6	6 6	7 12	34	24
		5	60 9	30 3	10 7	105	19
		2	18	7	9		36
1		1	11	7	3		22
		10 9	38 36	42 33	30 34	121	113
1			2	1	1 1	6	1
			2 1	1 4	1 6	4	11
		5 4	20 27	36 50	41 98	103	179
		7	58 13	85 36	57 63	207	112
			2 6	9 16	18 29	29	51
	2	2 4	20 22	24 36	66 109	114	172

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT

CAUSES OF DEATH		AGES	
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.
21. Other circulatory diseases	M F		
22. Influenza	M F		
23. Pneumonia	M F	6 7	1
24. Bronchitis	M F	2	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M F		1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M F		
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M F	3 1	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	M F		
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M F		
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F		
31. Congenital malformation	M F	9 2	
32. Other defined and illdefined diseases	M F	28 21	2
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	M F		
34. All other accidents	M F		
35. Suicide	M F		
36. Homicide and operations of war	M F		

All ages	under 1 year	1 - 4
2.389 100%	3.52	0.29

DEATH (CORRECTED) DURING 1956

(both sexes)						TOTALS	
5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and under 75 years.	75 and upwards	Male	Female
		3 2	13 3	24 18	27 39	67	62
		1 1	1 1	2 1	2 1	4	4
1		1 2	10 5	24 13	41 57	83	85
		1 1	28 5	29 26	44 51	104	84
			4 3	2 6	5 5	11	15
		2	5 3	4 1	7 5	18	9
			1 1		3 3	7	7
		3 1	3 1	3 3	4 2	13	7
			1	7	4	12	
		1					1
1 1	1	2 1	3 1			15	5
2 2	1	8 7	20 24	20 13	19 32	97	102
2		3	2 2	1 2	3 1	11	5
1 1	2	4 2	8 2	2 3	2 7	19	15
	1	1 2	9 4	7	2 1	20	7
		1				1	
Total						1233	1156
Grand Total						2389	

5 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 - 74	75 and over
0.54	0.29	4.65	4.52	27.38	40.81

STATISTICS OF LAMBETH FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Population	Deaths	Death Rate	Births	Birth Rate	Infantile Deaths	Infantile Death Rate
1947	223,670	2,917	13.04	5,166	23.10	169	32
1948	226,600	2,508	11.07	4,311	19.02	118	27
1949	229,400	2,736	*12.04	4,108	17.91	119	29
1950	231,000	2,725	*11.91	3,875	*15.60	111	28.6
1951	229,100	2,947	*12.86	3,829	*15.40	96	25.07
1952	230,200	2,824	*12.27	3,626	*14.49	92	25.37
1953	229,000	2,408	*10.62	3,649	*15.93	93	25.49
1954	226,200	2,298	*10.26	3,684	*14.33	86	23.34
1955	224,200	2,385	*10.74	3,597	*14.12	74	20.57
1956	223,900	2,389	*11.10	3,915	*15.74	83	21.2

* as adjusted by comparability factor.

APPENDIX A

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH TO THE
VESTRY AND BOROUGH OF LAMBETH
IN THE 100 YEARS FROM 1ST FEBRUARY, 1856.

William ODLING, M.B., M.R.C.P., F.R.S.	1856 - 1862
George PUCKLE, M.D.	1863 - 1871
M.J. MacCORMACK, M.B.	1871 - 1876
Archer FARR	1876 - 1881
Firth GROVES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A.	1881 - 1883
H. Walter VERDON, M.D., F.R.C.S.	1883 - 1894
Joseph PRIESTLY, M.D.	1895 - 1927
A.G.G. THOMPSON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.	1927 - 1955
* W. STOTT, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.	Acting from September 1955

* Medical Officer of Health, Southwark.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

On the 3rd day of April, 1856, the Medical Officer of Health made his First Report to the General Purposes Committee. By the 27th day of March, 1857, there had been brought under the consideration of the Committee, by the Medical Officer and two Inspectors, 1629 cases of nuisance.

With regard to the nature of the above-mentioned nuisances, 846 cases referred to the unwholesome condition of 1964 dwelling-houses, forming nearly one-tenth part of the total number of inhabited houses that existed in the Parish at the period of the last census in 1851.

In all these cases improvements to a greater or less extent have been effected. These improvements have related principally to the state of the Drainage, to the Water supply, to the condition of cleanliness, dryness, and repair, and to the means for enclosing domestic refuse.

There have been 22 cases of nuisance, arising from offensive trades. The investigation of these cases, and the frequent supervision of the premises to which they refer, have occupied much of the time of the Medical Officer. The remaining 761 miscellaneous cases pertain to a variety of subjects; such, for instance, as offensive ditches and drains, foul urinals, piggeries, cow-sheds and slaughter-houses, accumulations of filth and refuse.

The following Tabular Statement shows the operations of the Vestry, with reference to Nuisances, &c.—

Return shewing the number and nature of Nuisances complained of in the Parish of Lambeth, and the steps taken to remove or abate the same, with the Results, from 9th of February, 1856, to the 25th March, 1857.

Description of Nuisances.	No. of cases of each class included in Com-plaint.	No. of cases in which Notices served to abate Nuisances.	No. of cases of each class in which the causes of Nuisance were abated on Notice.	No. of cases for each class in which Summonses were taken out.	No. of cases of each class in which Magistrates' Orders for abatement were made.	REMARKS.
Foul Privies	1186	758	802	384	329	<p>In consequence of an objection by the Magistrates to make Orders for necessary Constructive Works, the process of Summonses for such purpose was discontinued in 1856</p> <p>In all subsequent cases, in which Constructive Works were requisite for effecting Sanitary improvements, the Vestry has issued its Orders for carrying the same into execution.</p>
Defective drains ..	1392	758	1004	358	294	
Overcharged Cesspools	63	63	45	18	15	
Filthy Dwellings ...	1261	758	997	264	240	
Want of Ashpits ...	637	637	423	214	163	
Dust and Garbage....	858	Verbal	858	...	...
Dung and other filthy Accumulations... ..	79	79	77	2	2	
Offensive Gullies ...	79	Verbal	79	...	...
Filthy Highways	22	Verbal	22	..	...
Offensive Urinals	18	18	14	4	2	
Offensive Smells ...	61	19	60	1	...	
Offensive Slaughter-Houses	4	4	2	2	2	
Swine, &c.	283	173	209	74	74	
Obstructions of Highways	58	2	53	5	2	
Total ...	6001	3269	4675	1326	1123	

Number of Slaughter Houses Visited and Licensed, 110.

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