

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

### **Contributors**

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METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF  
LEWISHAM

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Report of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1955

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E. H. R. SMITHARD, MBE, MD, DPH

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# Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1955

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E. H. R. SMITHARD, MBE, MD, DPH

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“The chief function of the Medical Officer of Health is to safeguard the health of the area for which he acts by such means as are at his disposal . . .” “He should endeavour to acquire an accurate knowledge of the influences, social, environmental, and industrial, which may operate prejudicially to health in the area . . .” “While he has special duties for the prevention of infectious diseases, all morbid conditions contributing to a high sickness rate or mortality in the area from these or other causes should be studied with a view to their prevention or control.”

—from the Ministry of Health Memorandum on the duties of MOHs

## STAFF as at 31/12/55

## Medical Officer of Health

E. H. R. Smithard, MBE, MD, BS, MRCS, LRCP, DPH

Senior Sanitary Inspector  
E. Walker (a) (b)Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector  
A. J. Phillips (a) (b)

## Group Sanitary Inspectors

A. G. Thomas (a) (b) (Food)  
J. R. Craven (a) (b) (Housing)

R. Mahoney (a) (b) (District)

## Assistant Group Housing Inspector

R. C. Brittain (a) (b)

## District Inspectors

J. W. Bevan (a) (b)  
C. L. Connor (a) (b)  
R. L. Davis (a)  
S. Kelly (a)  
H. J. Rogers (a)  
Four vacancies

## Food Inspectors and Sampling Officers

H. W. Ellery (a) (b)  
G. E. Fallows (a) (b)  
T. R. A. Fitzherbert (a) (b)  
H. Tolson (a) (b)  
K. R. Wagener (a) (b)

(a) Sanitary inspector's certificate.

(b) Food inspector's certificate.

## Infectious Disease Visitors

Mrs. A. Carins, SRN, RFN  
Mrs. L. Champness, SRN, RFN

## Principal Clerk

E. W. Cheesman

## Clerical Staff

S. Burridge, *senior clerk*  
C. R. Coleman  
L. J. Cleverly  
Mrs. I. L. Fry  
Two vacanciesL. Gardiner  
Mrs. D. J. Handford  
A. J. Burchmore (*trainee sanitary  
inspector*)

## Coroner's Court and Mortuary

W. Richardson, *officer-in-charge*

## Disinfecting Station, Pest Control, etc.

J. G. Beale, *superintendent*  
Foreman Disinfecter

Disinfectors ... .. 9

Bathing attendants ... .. 2

Drain testers ... .. 2

R. A. Sharman, *foreman rodent  
operative*

Rodent operatives ... .. 3

Rodent/fly operatives ... .. 4

## Public Analyst

A. J. Lickorish, FIC

## Bacteriologists

E. H. Bailey, MRCS, LRCP, and A. J. H. Tomlinson, MB, BChir, of the  
Public Health Laboratory Service.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my report for the health department for the year 1955.

**Vital statistics**

The Registrar General's estimate of the population in midyear 1955 at 223,400 was 800 less than his estimate for midyear 1954 (which in itself was 1,600 less than in the previous year). The decrease from the 1951 census figure of 227,576 therefore continues. The crude birth rate for the year at 14.0 shows another small decrease of 0.2 from the previous year and the adjusted birth rate (allowing for age and sex distribution of the population) is also slightly lower at 13.0. The crude death rate at 10.8 is an increase from the 9.95 of the previous year and compares with 11.5 for the administrative county. The infant mortality rate at 17 was 4 down on the previous year and is the lowest recorded, beating the low rate of 19 in 1949. This rate is divisible into two parts, the neonatal rate (i.e. under one month of age) and the rest of the first year rate. The neonatal rate also achieved a record low of 11, though the rest of the first year rate at 6 has been equalled though not passed on several occasions before. The stillbirth rate went up to 18 from the very low figure of 14 the previous year, but the combined stillbirth and infant death rate (reproductive wastage) of 35, is equivalent to the low record which was reached in two previous years, 1954 and 1949. Girl children, as is almost universally the case, had better rates than boy children and the infant mortality rate for females (per thousand female live births) was only 13.1 (9.2 neonatal and 3.9 rest of first year). That figure of 3.9 perhaps merits a short but non-complacent pause for "counting our blessings." In 1906 the corresponding rate, for all children, was 83; in other words the chance of a child who had reached the age of one month surviving to its first birthday was a mere 12 to 1 in its favour; last year, for girl babies, the odds on the first birthday being reached were over 250 to 1. It would be difficult to exaggerate the saving in pain, anxiety and distress which this improvement entails. The premature birth rate, i.e. the number of children weighing 5½ lbs. or less at birth per thousand live births was 69, which is an increase on the 60 of the previous year. There were unfortunately three maternal deaths during the year (after nil the previous year) and this gave a rate of 0.9 per thousand registered live and stillbirths. The various comparative figures of general statistics since the beginning of the century are shown in table 10. On the whole those for 1955 are reasonably satisfactory.

**Infectious disease other than tuberculosis**

The total number of notifications received (including 271 for tuberculosis) reached the high figure of 5,217. This is not a record, as the figure was 5,581 in 1951, but it is considerably more than double the 2,263 notifications received in 1954 and this can be accounted for

entirely by the measles notifications which reached what was as far as we know a record figure of 3,905 cases. Measles tends to have a periodicity showing maxima in alternate years. Movements of population, such as occurred in the war, tend to iron out the peaks, and of course if the major peak period is at the end of one year and at the beginning of the next then there is also a likelihood that the total for each calendar year will approximate, although in fact the great majority of cases might have occurred within a short period of two or three months in the twenty-four. This phenomenon showed itself in the period under present review as the epidemic did not really begin until the commencement of 1955. There had in fact been only 521 cases in 1954, which was a record low number for some years past, and then there was this sudden period of very high incidence during the first part of 1955. The highest weekly notifications reached 371, for the week ending March 5. In spite of there being almost 4,000 cases of measles there was no death, which probably indicates both the decline in virulence of the organism compared with some years ago and, perhaps more important, the greater control we now have over the complications of measles through the newer drugs.

Dysentery cases declined considerably, but the beginning of 1956 showed a nationwide increase. Poliomyelitis was again prevalent, the number of cases notified being 63 — the highest since the record year of 1947. There seems no doubt about the efficacy of the new vaccines in the prevention of poliomyelitis, though the varying types of vaccine in use in different countries no doubt have varying degrees of prevention. The relatively small number of children for whom the British vaccine will be available prior to the summer of 1956 will certainly benefit and it is hoped and thought that there will be sufficient vaccine available in the winter of 1956 onwards for the children of all those parents who are wise enough to avail themselves of it. There was one death from whooping cough in spite of there being a slightly lesser number of cases (412 as against 449). It is desirable therefore to repeat that a considerable measure of protection can be given to a child by immunisation against whooping cough, and although this protection may not be absolute, i.e. may not prevent the child having the disease, it almost invariably makes the disease less serious and less prolonged. The injections can be given at the same time as the injections against diphtheria, and are best started about six months of age, or earlier if for whooping cough alone.

### Tuberculosis

The number of new notifications, which had decreased considerably in the previous year, showed a small increase of 15 to 271 in 1955. This is equivalent to a rate of 114 per 100,000 population for pulmonary and 7 for other forms. The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis at 22, was equivalent to a rate of 10 per 100,000 population. While the death rate therefore (as can be more easily seen in table 10) continues to fall steeply, the notification rate keeps much the same and in fact it is

very similar to what it was in 1938. There is nothing particularly sinister about this because it may mean, and in fact it is thought that it does mean, that it is due to the active ascertainment of cases through mass x-ray and through the public becoming more aware of the desirability of early diagnosis.

The prevention of tuberculosis by BCG vaccination which I have mentioned in several of my previous reports appears at long last to be becoming more popular. There has been rather excessive caution shown by the authorities in this country towards this factor in prevention, but a large control trial has recently been reported on and this (now more than thirty years since BCG vaccination was first used in man) provides clear evidence of the efficacy for some years at least of BCG vaccination in the prevention of tuberculosis in the group of adolescents who formed the material of the trial. Other countries have shown that a substantial degree of protection can be sustained for at least ten years. One has the impression however that there is too much timidity in preventing what, when it does occur, is still a very serious and prolonged disease which can upset for long periods at a time the normal life of the sufferer. It would seem that the efficacy of BCG vaccination is scientifically provable to a degree considerably in excess of what was scientifically provable of the efficacy of immunisation against diphtheria when the latter was first being pushed and popularised. Diphtheria happened to be an acute disease which in the substantial percentage of fatal cases quickly killed off its victims. It therefore interested the public (just as poliomyelitis does now) much more so than does a chronic disease like tuberculosis, and it is possibly this lack of public pressure which has slowed down the official support for BCG vaccination. Although this may be put forward as a reason it cannot be an excuse.

### Food hygiene

The number of notified cases of food poisoning at 48 was much the same as in previous years, though considerably less than in 1954, which year was abnormal in that one incident produced some 80 cases. Throughout the year the food inspectors continued to give advice to occupiers of food shops with regard to general hygiene and pest control and they completed the propaganda campaign started the previous year, in which priority had been given to dairies, distributors of milk, icecream sellers, pastrycooks (and bakers), butchers, and greengrocers. At the very end of the year — actually January 1, 1956 — new food legislation became operative. This was the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and Regulations made under it. The 1955 Act consolidated and considerably amended previous food legislation, giving various new powers, particularly in relation to labelling and hygiene. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 set out in very much more detail certain requirements which had been included under a section of the old Food and Drugs Act, and also various matters which had been dealt with by byelaws. Although most of the Regulations came into force on January 1, some

of them — those particularly involving structural alterations — do not come into force until July 1. The new legislation will increase considerably the work and supervision required of the food inspectors, and is clearly a considerable step forward in the proper hygienic control of food. Nevertheless it remains true that the greatest power is in the hands of the customer, and if customers who are in any way dissatisfied with the hygienic practices in food shops refuse to trade at those shops, this would be the quickest way of inducing a better regard for hygiene in the shopkeeper.

### Old people

Two additional clubs applied for and received grant aid, and altogether eleven clubs or organisations were in receipt of a grant from the borough council. Details are shown in the body of the report. The grant made is reviewed each year and perhaps the chief factor in any upward revision is the indication (by the atmosphere of the club and particularly by the expansion of existing facilities and the institution of new facilities) that the club is increasing its activities or comfort for the old people. The health committee are especially pleased to see the institution or extension of lunch club facilities as they are aware that defective nutrition is one of the major factors leading to physical and even mental deterioration in old people. As appetite declines and facilities for cooking and buying also decrease the tendency is for old people, particularly those living alone, to have too little food, and although the mere lack of calories may not be of much importance the fact that the total quantity of food is small often means that certain essential chemical constituents of foodstuffs are missing or are not taken in sufficient amount. A good balanced meal such as is obtainable from the lunch clubs, or from the meals-on-wheels service for house-bound old people, can do a lot towards supplying deficiencies, and the distribution of marmite, which has become very popular in the clubs, is also a considerable help in this connection. The Lewisham Old People's Welfare Association remained active during the year, and in many ways expanded its services.

### Staff

The department was handicapped in its work during the year, not only in housing but in many other public health matters, through the shortage of Sanitary Inspectors. At the end of the year there were four vacancies on the establishment. A scheme for the training of student sanitary inspectors has begun whereby one student will be appointed each year for the four-year course. This is a long-term attempt to improve the establishment, but meanwhile the short-term problem remains acute. The first trainee began work in September.

In ending the introduction to this report I wish to express my thanks to the health department staff for their work during the year.

My thanks are also due to the Public Health Committee for their support and guidance in the work done. The committee at the end of the year was constituted as follows :—

Councillor Mrs. Armstrong (*Chairman*)

Councillor Mrs. Bunce (*Vice-Chairman*)

Councillor G. T. Harman, J.P. (*The Mayor*)

Aldermen Carter, Hawkins and Mrs. Smith

Councillors Braund, Bridger, Miss Butler, Cook, Donovan, Mrs. Drapper, J.P., Greenhow, Hawes, Helps, Henry, Inch, Mrs. Land and New.

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## SECTION A — VITAL STATISTICS

## Area

The area of the borough is 7,015 acres.  
Public open space comprises 652 acres.

## Population

Census 1951 ... .. 227,576

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population at midyear 1955 was 223,400. (This includes members of the armed forces stationed in the area).

## Rateable value

County of London rateable value of the borough at April 1, 1955	... ..	£1,911,537
Estimated net product of a penny rate, 1955/56	... ..	£7,680
Estimated number of separately assessed dwellings at April 1, 1955	... ..	61,878

Births (*adjusted for inward and outward transfers*)

Livebirths	... ..	3,123
	<i>Males</i> <i>Females</i> <i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	... .. 1,529      1,478	3,007
Illegitimate	... .. 67      49	116
Totals	... .. 1,596      1,527	3,123
Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population		14.0
Adjusted birth rate for comparative purposes	... ..	13.0
(Area comparability factor for births is 0.93).		
Birth rate for England and Wales	... ..	15.0
Crude birth rate for London Administrative County	... ..	15.1

## Stillbirths

The stillbirths allocated to the borough during the year were 56, (24 males and 32 females) which represents a stillbirth rate per thousand live and stillbirths of 14.8 in the case of males, 20.5 in the case of females, and 17.6 for all stillbirths.

## Deaths

The deaths belonging to the borough registered during the year were 2,423, consisting of 1,252 males and 1,171 females, giving a crude death rate per thousand of the estimated population of 10.8. The area comparability factor for deaths is 1.0, therefore the adjusted rate remains at 10.8 per thousand of the estimated population, which compares with rates of 11.7 for England and Wales and 11.4 for the Administrative County of London.

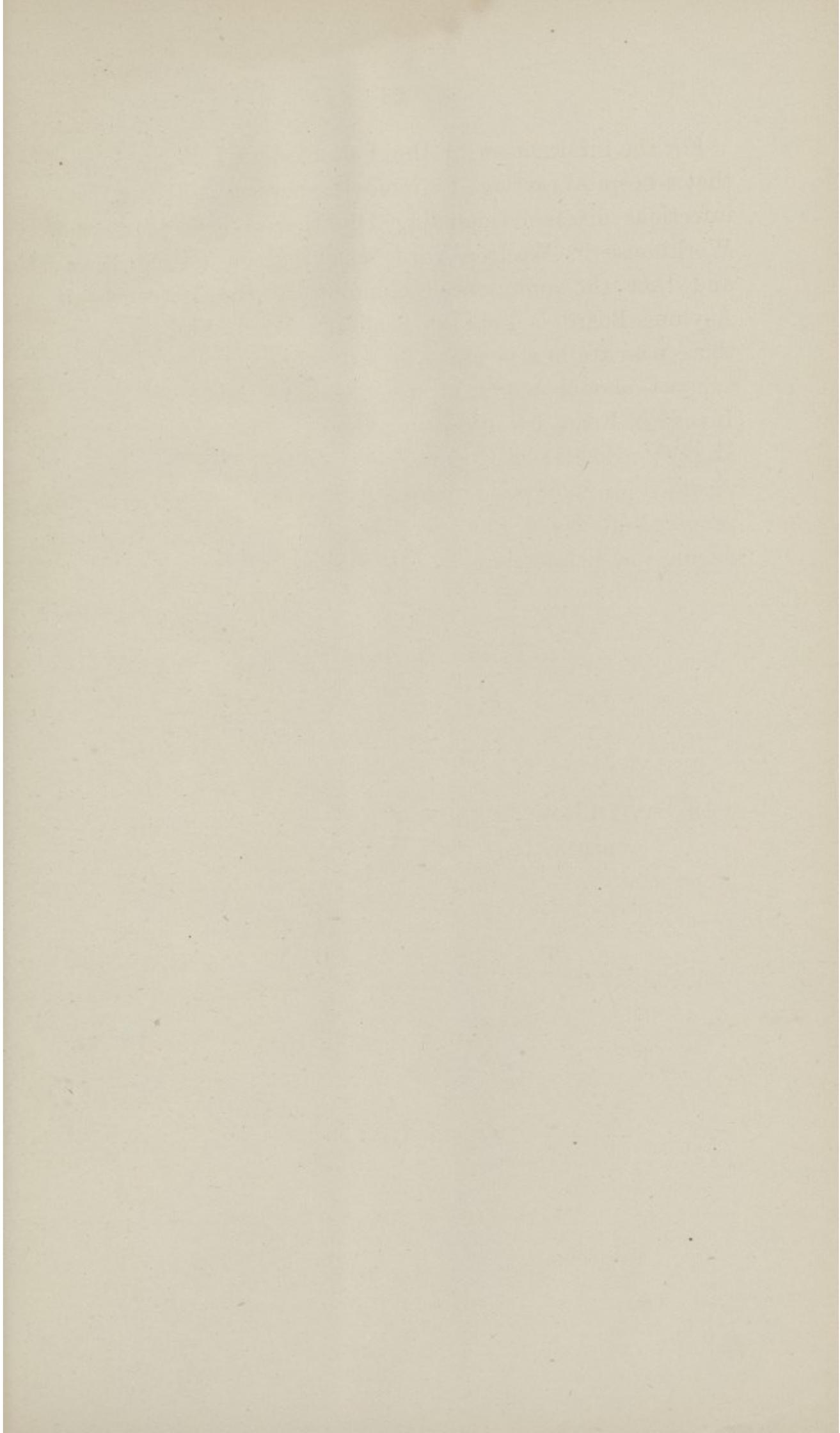
Infant mortality						
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	...	53
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	28	19	47
Illegitimate...	...	...	...	5	1	6
				—	—	—
Total ...	...	...	...	33	20	53
				==	==	==
Rates :	1. All infants per thousand livebirths	...	...	...	...	16.97
	2. Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate livebirths	...	...	...	...	15.6
	3. Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate livebirths	...	...	...	...	51.7
	4. Male infants per thousand male livebirths	...	...	...	...	20.7
	5. Female infants per thousand female livebirths	...	...	...	...	13.1
Neonatal deaths (under 4 weeks of age)	...	...	...	...	...	34
Neonatal death rates :—						
	Males, per 1,000 male livebirths	...	...	...	12.5	
	Females, per 1,000 female livebirths	...	...	...	9.2	
	All infants, per 1,000 livebirths	...	...	...	...	10.9
Reproductive wastage :—						
	Stillbirths plus infant deaths	...	...	...	...	109
Rates :—						
	Males per 1,000 live and still male births	...	...	...	...	35.2
	Females per 1,000 live and still female births	...	...	...	...	33.3
	All infants per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	34.3
Maternal deaths						
Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	0.9
Other special causes of death						
MEASLES	...	...	...	...	...	—
WHOOPING COUGH...	...	...	...	...	...	1
GASTROENTERITIS (infants)	...	...	...	...	...	—
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	...	...	...	...	...	19
SUICIDE	...	...	...	...	...	20
TUBERCULOSIS (all forms)...	...	...	...	...	...	26
OTHER RESPIRATORY (Code Nos. 22-25)...	...	...	...	...	...	316
CANCER (Code Nos. 10-15)	...	...	...	...	...	529
HEART AND CIRCULATION DISEASES (Code Nos. 17-21) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,205

## Comparative statistics for the year 1955

Table 1

	Birth rate		Death rate (per 1,000 population) (adjusted)	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 livebirths)
	Live births (adjusted)	Still births		
Lewisham	13.0	17.6	10.8	17.0
England and Wales	15.0	23.1	11.7	24.9
London Administrative County	13.1	20.2	11.4	23.3





## Deaths under 1 year of age

Table 3

Cause of death	Sex	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 wks.	1-2 mths.	3-5 mths.	6-8 mths.	9-11 mths.	Total 1-11 mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Meningococcal infection	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchitis	M	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	-	1	7	8
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	M	1	3	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	1	5
	F	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Injury at birth	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	M	3	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
	F	2	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital debility	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity immaturity	M	6	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
	F	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other diseases of early infancy	M	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
All other causes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3
TOTALS	M	12	7	-	-	1	20	5	7	-	1	13	33
	F	4	8	1	1	-	14	1	2	1	2	6	20
GRAND TOTAL		16	15	1	1	1	34	6	9	1	3	19	53

There were no deaths in the following groups: tuberculosis (respiratory and other forms), syphilis, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, diphtheria, whooping-cough, measles, diseases of ear and mastoid antrum, influenza, gastritis and duodenitis, gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea, convulsions and lack of care of the newborn.

Nineteen infants (13 males and 6 females) thus died between the ages of one month and one year compared with 24 in the previous year. Eleven of the nineteen deaths (9 males and 2 females) were from pneumonia or bronchitis and therefore it seems that some of these might be regarded as being preventable, though sometimes pneumonia or bronchitis are merely the terminal illness of a weakly baby.

## Local sickness

Through the courtesy of the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of National Insurance, I am sent weekly a return indicating for the various areas of London the first certificates of sickness benefit received in the local offices. The areas served by these local offices are in the main coterminous with postal districts of London and do not coincide with borough boundaries. Lewisham is served by four offices, "Lewisham," "Downham," "Eltham," and "Norwood," but as only a very small portion of the borough comes within the purview of the last two, it is felt that a better representation of the trend of sickness within the borough is given by quoting only the figures for "Lewisham," and "Downham."

Table 4  
Morbidity shown in insurance certificates

Average for period ending	"Lewisham"	"Downham"
January 25 ... ..	870	242
February 22 ... ..	786	201
March 22... ..	621	177
April 19 ... ..	472	115
May 17 ... ..	372	94
June 14 ... ..	340	96
July 12 ... ..	295	74
August 9... ..	273	69
September 6 ... ..	311	85
October 4 ... ..	410	109
November 1 ... ..	512	145
November 29 ... ..	519	138
January 3 ... ..	465	126
Corresponding figure for November, 1954 ... ..	474	131
Weekly average for the year 1955	480	129
Weekly average for the year 1954	424	115
Weekly average for the year 1953	471	133

## Social class in relation to cause of death

Of the 2,423 deaths analysed by us the social categories were as follow :—

Table 5

Social class	I	II	III	IV	V	Total	No in-formation
Males ... ..	38	185	747	147	128	1245	7
Females ... ..	29	209	599	179	95	1111	60
Total ... ..	67	394	1346	326	223	2356	67
Percentage ... ..	3	17	57	14	9	100	—

In detail, the social class, related to cause of death, was as follows :—

Table 6

Code No.	Cause of death	Male						Female					
		I	II	III	IV	V	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	1	7	2	4	14	1	2	1	—	—	4
2	Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
3	Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
7	Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
8	Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	4	23	3	4	35	—	2	13	3	3	21
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2	18	55	17	9	101	1	4	10	2	—	17
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	9	32	5	2	49
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	1	10
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	5	20	98	19	10	152	3	20	60	11	17	111
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	3	6	2	—	11	—	1	3	1	—	5
16	Diabetes ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	6	1	—	7
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system... ..	4	22	66	13	8	113	8	41	99	29	15	192
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	9	28	102	15	11	165	3	15	49	11	3	81
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	12	40	6	12	71	4	13	33	7	9	66
20	Other heart disease ...	4	19	73	21	18	135	3	36	105	41	20	205
21	Other circulatory disease ...	2	9	44	7	11	73	2	16	45	13	6	82
22	Influenza ...	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	1	1	2	—	4
23	Pneumonia ...	3	1	36	7	6	53	—	12	28	10	6	56
24	Bronchitis ...	2	19	84	18	19	142	1	11	28	13	4	57
25	Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	—	4	11	2	1	18	—	—	5	1	2	8
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	4	10	3	2	21	—	1	2	2	—	5
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	3	5	2	1	11	—	1	8	8	—	17
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	2	13	1	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
31	Congenital malformations ...	—	4	3	1	—	8	—	2	6	—	—	8
32	Other defined and illdefined diseases ...	2	8	42	3	5	60	2	7	42	11	6	68
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	1	10	3	—	14	—	—	3	—	—	3
34	All other accidents ...	—	1	7	1	4	13	—	3	7	3	1	14
35	Suicide ...	—	1	7	—	2	10	—	4	3	2	—	9
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	No social class assessed ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	60

There are various discrepancies between the above table and table 2, owing to different methods of assessment, and for comparative purposes therefore it is safer to group the causes of death which are linked together. Thus code numbers 10 to 15 may be regarded as all different kinds of cancer, while numbers 17 to 21 are all diseases of the heart and circulation. Similarly 22 to 25 are best grouped together.

Certain statistics have therefore been extracted from the last table and grouped in this way. They are shown in the following table which also includes the percentage of each social class for each disease or group of diseases. The percentages should be compared with those in table 5 for all deaths, but for certain groups it will be realised that the numbers are too small for comparison year by year.

Table 7  
Grouped deaths in social class

			Male					Female						
			I	II	III	IV	V	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
1, 2	TB	No. %	— —	1 7	7 50	2 14	4 29	14 100	1 17	3 50	2 33	— —	— —	6 100
10-15	Cancers	No. %	8 3	45 15	183 60	41 14	23 8	300 100	5 2	40 19	121 57	24 11	23 11	213 100
17-21	Heart and circulation	No. %	20 4	90 16	325 58	62 11	60 11	557 100	20 3	121 19	331 54	101 16	53 8	626 100
22-25	Lung, non-TB	No. %	6 3	25 12	132 61	27 12	26 12	216 100	1 1	24 20	62 49	26 20	12 10	125 100
33, 34	Accidents	No. %	— —	2 7	17 63	4 15	4 15	27 100	— —	3 18	10 58	3 18	1 6	17 100
35	Suicide	No. %	— —	1 10	7 70	— —	2 20	10 100	— —	4 45	3 33	2 22	— —	9 100

#### Social class in relation to infant statistics

The following table shows the social classification in relation to registered births, registered infant deaths, notified stillbirths and notified premature births, an extra line being added to each group to indicate the percentage. Apart from the registered births the figures are too small to be significant; the percentages in the category of registered births can be compared with those for the registered deaths shown in table 5.

Table 8

		Social classification					Total	Not classifiable
		I	II	III	IV	V		
Registered births	No. %	91 3	568 18	1808 59	395 13	231 7	3093 100	28
Registered stillbirths	No. %	— —	10 20	31 62	7 14	2 4	50 100	5
Registered infant deaths	No. %	— —	10 19	39 71	3 6	2 4	54 100	—
Notified premature births	No. %	6 3	31 16	126 63	22 11	14 7	199 100	12

## Coronary disease

In recent annual reports I have called attention to the likely association of coronary disease and other degenerative heart diseases with diet. Overweight in itself, and more particularly perhaps excess of fat in the diet, have been associated with these conditions. A great deal of research work has been going on during the past year, and although it seems even clearer that an association between diet and heart disease exists it is also obvious that there must be a multiplicity of factors concerned, many of which have yet to be unravelled. The chemical substance cholesterol keeps cropping up in this connection, but it is not yet apparent whether heart and artery disease may be caused by excess cholesterol in the diet or whether the deposition of cholesterol-containing material in the arteries may be due to a more complex chemical change in the body which in fact produces cholesterol even when it is lacking in the diet. Nevertheless as I indicated last year the association of the two conditions of coronary artery disease and a high level of blood cholesterol makes one suspicious of foods containing a large amount of cholesterol. These foods particularly include dairy products, such as butter and eggs. There is some evidence that the level of cholesterol in the blood varies more with the amount and type of fat (as such) in the diet rather than with the amount of cholesterol. Recently a wellknown research worker in nutrition has suggested that most of the trouble is due to a deficiency of what are called the unsaturated or "essential" fatty acids. These fatty acids occur naturally in certain foods, more particularly fish oil and vegetable oil, and it is pointed out that the whole tendency in the manufacture of foods which contain fat or fatty acids is to turn the unsaturated fatty acids into saturated fatty acids, as thereby keeping qualities are improved and taste is also said to be improved. Nevertheless, comparing margarine with butter, it is believed that margarine may have (according to how it is prepared) up to five times the amount of essential fatty acids that butter has, and it is also known to have considerably less cholesterol. In a controlled experiment carried out in South Africa it was shown that eating beef dripping, butter, hydrogenated ground-nut oil, and eggs in large numbers was followed by rises in the level of a fat-protein combination in the blood which is thought to be directly associated with coronary disease; on the other hand if olive oil, ground-nut oil, seal oil or pilchard oil were eaten there was a fall in the amount of this substance in the blood. The *Lancet* in commenting on this states that if the results are substantiated, coronary-artery disease becomes in part a preventable disorder, and adds that "the hydrogenation plants of our modern food industry may turn out to have contributed to the causation of a major disease."

The following table shows deaths from various heart and circulation causes in the borough in representative years from 1928, the last columns showing various percentages:—

Table 9  
Heart and circulation mortality

Year (a)	Deaths from			Total heart and circulation (all ages) (e)	Age group 45-65		Total deaths in borough (h)	Percentage		
	Coronary diseases (b)	Other heart diseases* (c)	Other circulatory diseases† (d)		Total (f)	Coronary diseases (g)		(e) of (h) (i)	(f) of (h) (j)	(g) of (h) (k)
1928		357	97	454	115	...	1993	23	5.8	?
1933		516	117	633	162	...	2271	28	7.1	?
1938		659	139	798	178	...	2403	33	7.4	?
1943		583	64	647	129	...	2359	27	5.5	?
1948		696	63	759	155	...	2253	34	6.9	?
1953		775	113	888	140	-	2502	35	5.6	-
1950	281	519	79	879	158	79	2413	36	6.5	3.3
1	288	528	78	894	154	87	2542	35	6.1	3.4
2	327	537	86	950	180	89	2580	37	7.0	3.5
3	331	444	113	888	140	84	2502	35	5.6	3.4
4	358	387	113	858	176	99	2231	38	7.9	4.4
5	329	464	115	908	148	94	2423	37	6.1	3.9

? means figure not available.

\*R.G. Code Nos. 19 and 20.

†R.G. Code No. 21.

### Lung cancer

The number of cases increased fairly considerably last year, to 121 (102 males, 19 females), from 89 the year before (76 males, 13 females). The peak does not appear to be in sight. In spite of the now fully accepted association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer (though of course there are other factors, which probably include atmospheric pollution in towns) the national habit of tobacco smoking seems to have been unaffected and, as is well known, the total national revenue obtained from duties on tobacco is in the neighbourhood of £700 million per annum. There have been one or two seemingly half-hearted warnings from the Ministry of Health, but it is likely that nothing far short of an all-out campaign, directed especially to the school-leaver and the adolescent, is likely to be effective. Chronic middle-aged smokers of 20 or more cigarettes a day can take a crumb of comfort from otherwise depressing statistics in that, if they give up cigarette-smoking now, for each year that passes their chances at that time of developing lung cancer seem to be slightly but progressively reduced. It is always possible that the carcinogenic agent in cigarette-smoking will be identified and eliminated; meanwhile the danger continues, and the individual smoker should review his habit afresh.

### Deaths under age 65

Deaths under the age of 65 are of additional importance in relation to the loss of productive manpower, this loss becoming all the more serious as the population ages. During 1955 the proportion of those dying under the age of 45 still further decreased, and reached a record low of 7.1 percent. The comparison with the corresponding proportion in 1911, the first year for which these records are available, namely 46.2 percent., is quite striking. In the last report, with regard to deaths under the age of 65, I had to show a slight increase in the proportion compared with the year before, but in 1955 this proportion again decreased to a low record, namely 27.9 percent. This compares with 74.1 percent. at the beginning of the century.

General statistics from 1901

Table 10

Year	Population	Death rate *	% dying under age 45	% dying under age 65	Birth rate *	Pre-mature birth rate ‡	Maternal death rate †	Still-birth rate †	Neo-natal death rate **	One month to one year death rate (12 - (10) **)	Infant mortality rate **	Reproductive wastage rate (9)+(12)	Pulmonary tuberculosis		Tuberculosis (all forms)
													Notif. rate ††	Death rate ††	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
1901	127,495	13.0	—	74.1	25.9	—	3.9	—	—	—	128	—	—	93	—
1902	132,432	13.7	—	74.1	26.3	—	4.3	—	—	—	122	—	—	106	—
1903	136,405	11.1	—	71.7	26.1	—	2.5	—	—	—	92	—	—	78	—
1904	140,401	12.0	—	69.9	25.6	—	3.6	—	—	—	122	—	—	84	—
1905	144,420	11.7	—	67.2	25.2	—	2.8	—	30	63	93	—	—	87	—
1906	148,463	12.0	—	71.6	23.2	—	2.0	—	30	83	113	—	—	80	—
1907	152,532	11.5	—	67.1	23.7	—	2.5	—	34	56	90	—	—	90	—
1908	156,627	11.0	—	68.1	22.8	—	1.4	—	30	57	87	—	—	85	—
1909	160,749	10.4	—	62.8	21.9	—	2.0	—	35	40	75	—	—	78	—
1910	164,899	9.7	—	64.9	20.7	—	2.6	—	29	50	79	—	—	55	—
1911	161,677	11.4	46.2	68.0	21.2	—	2.3	—	31	73	104	—	—	64	—
1912	165,249	10.5	39.5	63.1	20.3	—	2.8	—	30	39	69	—	208	68	11.0
1913	168,822	10.7	42.6	65.3	20.3	—	2.6	—	28	48	76	—	188	73	25.2
1914	169,211	10.9	39.6	61.7	19.5	—	3.3	—	27	46	73	—	138	77	17.8
1915	164,438	12.9	36.3	60.8	19.3	—	4.0	—	30	49	79	—	154	90	26.4
1916	—	11.9	—	—	18.4	—	—	—	—	—	75	—	—	102	—
1917	—	11.8	—	—	14.9	—	—	—	—	—	87	—	—	112	—
1918	—	13.2	—	—	13.8	—	—	—	—	—	66	—	—	106	—
1919	174,750	11.4	34.9	59.1	16.6	—	3.1	—	28	32	60	—	179	86	22.2
1920	174,698	10.8	38.2	59.5	22.8	—	3.8	—	32	30	62	—	160	73	21.8
1921	175,800	10.5	33.8	57.6	19.5	—	2.6	—	23	31	54	—	135	81	18.4
1922	176,600	11.1	30.9	56.8	18.1	—	2.5	—	26	28	54	—	154	74	15.7
1923	182,400	10.1	31.2	56.3	18.0	—	3.6	—	20	23	43	—	154	76	16.9
1924	184,900	10.5	29.5	55.6	16.4	—	3.6	—	23	24	47	—	149	68	21.6
1925	185,600	10.3	29.6	55.6	15.6	—	1.6	—	23	32	55	—	142	63	15.4
1926	187,800	10.0	29.0	54.2	15.4	—	2.1	—	18	22	40	—	158	71	16.9
1927	188,600	11.0	27.6	53.3	15.1	—	2.1	—	35	21	46	—	157	92	12.3
1928	199,300	10.0	29.0	54.4	15.2	—	2.3	—	22	30	52	—	168	77	15.1
1929	207,900	11.5	26.7	52.5	15.7	—	5.3	—	—	—	44	—	142	74	13.3
1930	207,900	9.7	27.9	53.1	15.1	—	0.9	37	—	—	42	79	154	76	12.3

Table 10—continued.

Year	Population	Death rate *	% dying under age 45	% dying under age 65	Birth rate *	Pre-mature birth rate ‡	Maternal death rate †	Still-birth rate †	Neo-natal death rate **	One month to one year death rate (12 - (10) **	Infant mortality rate **	Repro-ductive wastage rate (9)+(12)	Pulmonary tuberculosis		Tuberculosis (all forms)
													Notif. rate ††	Death rate ††	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
1931	220,800	10.2	25.6	51.7	14.1	—	4.9	31	25	24	49	80	132	69	13.6
1932	221,500	10.2	26.0	49.4	12.7	—	3.4	32	31	23	54	86	123	59	10.7
1933	221,100	10.2	21.9	49.8	12.2	—	2.6	31	21	18	39	70	125	68	9.2
1934	222,180	10.1	23.5	50.5	12.2	—	1.5	36	21	22	43	79	129	58	14.4
1935	223,000	10.0	22.6	46.7	12.5	—	4.3	35	24	19	43	78	126	58	12.7
1936	224,000	10.9	23.1	48.1	13.0	—	2.0	37	23	32	55	92	131	62	11.6
1937	226,000	10.9	20.4	46.7	13.4	—	1.3	39	18	29	47	86	156	59	11.9
1938	229,000	10.5	23.3	48.7	13.9	—	2.1	26	—	—	47	73	116	61	12.4
1939	220,300	10.8	—	—	13.6	—	2.9	34	—	—	42	76	111	64	11.6
1940	192,540	15.8	22.1	50.0	14.7	—	1.0	24	—	—	45	69	111	67	11.1
1941	148,150	14.3	21.7	48.1	13.9	—	1.9	29	—	—	34	63	176	93	10.2
1942	161,800	12.0	18.4	43.8	16.8	—	3.2	37	—	—	37	74	175	73	15.3
1943	168,530	13.9	20.5	44.9	18.7	—	3.1	25	—	—	42	67	194	76	13.6
1944	163,320	14.8	21.4	48.8	18.6	—	1.0	22	—	—	40	62	196	79	10.8
1945	171,280	12.1	20.5	43.4	17.7	—	1.9	18	—	—	34	52	179	71	13.2
1946	207,410	10.6	17.5	43.0	21.7	—	1.1	21	—	—	33	54	193	53	15.4
1947	221,170	11.9	17.0	41.9	21.9	—	1.0	21	—	—	33	54	166	55	12.4
1948	226,100	9.9	15.6	40.7	18.9	—	0.5	15	15	13	28	43	198	48	15.7
1949	227,700	10.2	10.7	34.9	16.8	—	0.3	16	13	6	19	35	146	40	12.4
1950	228,300	10.6	11.2	35.2	15.3	—	0.6	15	19	7	26	40	158	29	12.6
1951	227,200	11.2	10.1	33.6	15.3	67	0.3	16	17	8	25	41	117	26	14.7
1952	227,100	11.4	8.7	32.0	13.9	86	0.3	18	16	6	22	40	117	15	8.8
1953	225,800	11.1	8.9	29.5	14.4	75	0.3	23	16	6	22	45	136	19	13.8
1954	224,200	10.0	8.3	31.5	14.2	60	0.0	14	13	8	21	35	102	16	10.2
1955	223,400	10.8	7.1	27.9	14.0	69	0.9	18	11	6	17	35	114	10	5.1

\*per 1,000 population. ‡per 1,000 notified livebirths. \*\*per 1,000 registered livebirths.  
†per 1,000 registered live and stillbirths. ††per 100,000 population. — equals figure not available.

## SECTION B — GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

## Disinfection and personal cleansing

Details of the work carried out during the year are as follows :—

Disinfecting Station

Table 11

	West	North	South	Total
<b>Disinfections</b>				
Premises visited ... ..	169	148	143	460
Rooms disinfected ... ..	355	417	283	1055
Articles treated ... ..	2160	1710	1488	5358
<b>Disinfestation</b>				
Premises visited ... ..	48	45	12	105
Rooms disinfested ... ..	197	166	30	393
Articles disinfested ... ..	328	50	15	393
<b>Analysis of articles treated</b>				
Beds ... ..	53	37	56	146
Mattresses ... ..	210	155	164	529
Bolsters ... ..	42	42	43	127
Pillows ... ..	362	262	266	890
Cushions ... ..	46	54	24	124
Quilts ... ..	88	76	97	261
Blankets ... ..	466	278	326	1070
Sheets ... ..	131	97	95	323
Household articles .....	494	307	240	1041
Wearing apparel ... ..	596	452	192	1240
<b>Total articles</b> ... ..	<b>2488</b>	<b>1760</b>	<b>1503</b>	<b>5751</b>
Articles received from cleansing station ...	—	1728	—	1728
Articles received from Coroner's court ...	—	564	—	564
Public library books treated after infection ...	256	367	230	853
Private library books treated after infection ...	28	22	33	83
Articles treated under the Public Health (London) Act s.122 ... ..	10113	9808	17511	37432

A more detailed analysis of treatments for verminous conditions and for scabies is shown :—

Verminous conditions

Table 12

	First cleansing	Second cleansing
Children under 5 ... ..	17	—
School children ... ..	226	20
Adults ... ..	34	1
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>277</b>	<b>21</b>

Scabies

Table 12—continued

	Cases	Contacts	Treatments
Children under 5 ...	7	—	14
School children ...	15	—	31
Adults ...	14	2	26
TOTALS ...	36	2	71

#### London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1953

Section 43 of the above Act states that, on receipt of a report from the medical officer of health or a sanitary inspector that any aged person within their district is verminous or is for any other reason in need of cleansing in order to prevent injury or the danger of injury and is so enfeebled that he is unable to avail himself of any facilities for cleansing himself provided by the authority or to cleanse himself properly, the sanitary authority may on the application or with the consent of that person (but not otherwise) cause him to be cleansed free of charge at the place where he resides or at any other suitable place. The authority is enabled to make such arrangements and provide any apparatus required to exercise these powers.

No persons received treatment during the year.

#### Anti-fly and anti-mosquito campaign

As in previous years four men were employed, working in pairs. The campaign was held from May 2 to September 29 and Mr. Phillips, the deputy senior sanitary inspector who is in charge of anti-pest work, reports:—"433 bombed sites, grass verges and rear garage ways were visited on 5 occasions each and necessary treatment was carried out by spraying or the use of powder. The material collected or destroyed on the sites consisted of 115 mattresses and approximately five tons of miscellaneous articles such as carpets, linoleum, furniture, clothing, cushions and even perambulators. 30 gallons of paraffin were used in the destruction of this material on the sites. As in previous years, a remarkably large quantity of bread was also found, a positive encouragement to rats."

The cooperation of the Borough Engineer's department was once again available for the treatment of dustbins with a powder supplied by the health department. The powder contained gammexane and was applied to dustbins at the time of refuse collection. Altogether 4 tons of powder containing 0.5 percent gamma benzene hexachloride was used.

7 stables or piggeries, 10 allotment sites, and one plot of land known to be particularly bad as a rubbish tip were treated as special sites and visited on 22 occasions each, particular attention being paid to the manure receptacles at the stables and piggeries and the compost heaps on the allotments. Throughout the campaign regular visits were paid to Lewisham Hospital to spray the refuse container there and also the site of the kitchen waste bins. 20 visits were also paid to both this Council's and the London County Council's blocks of flats where dustchutes are used. 235 dustchutes with 826 openings were sprayed. One private block containing 9 chutes was also included in this treatment. The

caretakers of this Council's flats were also provided with sprayers, insecticide and powder, for use in connection with the containers at the base of the dustchutes, particularly after these had been cleaned out, and for the sites of the bins used for the storage of kitchen waste. In addition treatment by spraying was carried out in 8 houses by staff from the disinfecting station following complaints from the householders concerned. In a number of cases a supply of insecticide containing 5 percent DDT was also left with the householders for use in their own sprayers.

Static water tanks and sections of the rivers where the water tends to become stagnant were sprayed with 5 percent DDT in kerosene base as an anti-mosquito precaution on 5 occasions.

### Laboratory facilities

The following summary relates to the work carried out by the laboratory on behalf of the Council during 1955 :—

Table 13

Specimen	No.
Faeces ... ..	564
Throat and Nose swabs ...	115
Urine ... ..	44
Sputa ... ..	15
Total ... ..	738

### Public Mortuary and Coroner's Court

The premises are situated in Ladywell Road and comprise a court room, witness room, coroner's office, caretaker's apartments and mortuary.

The number of bodies taken to the mortuary during the year was 747, of which 417 were received from institutions. 747 postmortem examinations were made and inquests were held in 131 cases.

Details are shown in the following table:—

Table 14

Month	Bodies received from Institutions	Others	Post-mortem examinations		Inquests
			Lewisham residents	Others	
January ... ..	40	55	49	46	8
February... ..	35	29	35	29	6
March ... ..	31	32	39	24	12
April ... ..	41	24	34	31	13
May ... ..	41	28	41	28	16
June ... ..	30	18	26	22	7
July ... ..	31	18	29	20	6
August ... ..	37	16	28	25	5
September ... ..	31	23	29	25	11
October ... ..	29	26	30	25	15
November ... ..	24	22	28	18	9
December ... ..	47	39	55	31	23
TOTALS ... ..	417	330	423	324	131

In June, 1955 the London county council intimated that they proposed to reduce from the end of the year the number of Coroners' districts from four to three, and the number of Courts to two in each district. As far as this borough was concerned it would, under the scheme, come into the "southern" district, together with nine other boroughs in south and east London, and the two Courts would be at Poplar (the other side of the Thames) and Southwark. This seemed unreasonable because of the following considerations amongst others:—

- (1) The proposed southern district, although one of three districts in which the London County area would be divided, would contain well over one-third of the population and almost one-half of the acreage. In fact the population is 38 percent of the total for the County and the acreage is 48 percent.
- (2) The abandonment of the Coroner's Courts at Greenwich and Lewisham would mean that the whole of the work of this vast southern area would be concentrated at Southwark and Poplar. Since Poplar is north of the river with poor communications this would mean in fact that nearly all the work for the eight boroughs south of the river would be concentrated at Southwark.
- (3) The Coroner's Court at Southwark is, as the crow flies, some seven miles from the southern part of Lewisham and some eight and a half miles from the eastern part of Woolwich. This means that by ordinary communications it is considerably further from these areas. If, therefore, people have to travel by train and by bus the cost may be considerable, the time consumed would be large, and the general difficulty of approach would be much greater than at present.
- (4) Although the ordinary person who attends a Coroner's Court may be unlikely to do so more than once or twice in his life nevertheless that person is usually in a state of high emotional stress. For example it may be a mother whose young child has died. Therefore everything should be done to relax the stress as far as practicable; travelling inconvenient distances to strange areas is not likely to do this.
- (5) In view of the above, it was thought that should the Courts at Poplar and Southwark be retained there should be a third Court further to the south-east. Although the Lewisham Court has advantages with regard to structure, layout, convenience of situation on lines of transport and so on, this does not necessarily mean that the Lewisham Court should be the third one in the area; it might be that the Court at Greenwich would have advantages over the one at Lewisham. It was, however, certain that a third Court somewhere in this area was desirable.
- (6) Mortuary accommodation together with postmortem facilities has usually gone with the Coroner's Courts. The mortuary facilities here are reasonably good and in fact Lewisham takes in a considerable proportion of the mortuary and postmortem work of the boroughs of Greenwich and Woolwich. It would therefore appear to be a suitable centre for continuing that work, more particularly while the Coroner's Court is there.

Protests were therefore made by the Public Health committee and eventually after further consideration by the County Council various modifications were made in their scheme, and as far as this area was concerned it was agreed that the Lewisham Court should be retained for a period of twelve months from the commencement of the proposed scheme and that the matter be further considered then, in the light of the experience of the working of the new scheme, before a final decision is made.

#### Rodent control

A section, consisting from May to September of a foreman and three operatives and from October to April of the foreman and seven operatives, is maintained for the purpose of repressing rat infestation, and this section is supervised by the senior sanitary inspector.

In his report on rodent control work during 1955, Mr. Walker, the senior sanitary inspector, states :—

“The higher number of complaints received regarding rat infestation reported in the previous year continued well into 1955, the peak being reached in April, thereafter dropping, though still remaining high compared with previous years. As no reason for this rise was apparent locally, enquiries were made of neighbouring districts. It appears that the trend was evident to a greater or less extent in other areas, particularly those on the outer fringe of south east London, notably Penge, Beckenham, Bromley, and Sidcup and Chislehurst, and parts of Woolwich. This was discussed at some length at the No. 2 Workable Area Committee for rodent control, which covers the areas of Bermondsey, Deptford, Greenwich, Lewisham and Woolwich. I also attended a meeting in October of the No. 9 London Workable Area Committee which covers the area of Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst and Sidcup, Crayford, Erith, and Orpington, for a special discussion on this matter. No definite reason for the increase came to light during the discussions, although it was suggested that extensive advertising by private pest control firms may have increased the sensitivity of the public, and that the satisfactory service given by local authorities may have encouraged people to notify the existence of infestation. It will also be noticed that in both the sewer treatments carried out in the year there was an increase in prebait takes over the previous year, which would suggest a rise in the rat population in the sewers.”

The undermentioned table gives a summary of the work on the rivers and ditches :—

Table 15

Location	Base points	Days on which prebait laid	Poison bait taken (ozs.) (Est.)
River Ravensbourne ...	269	3/4	165
River Quaggy ... ..	249	3/4	135
River Pool ... ..	123	3/4	52
Ditches ... ..	140	3/4	67

Special liaison is made twice yearly with the Borough Engineer's department for the treatment of sewers. In 1955 treatments were carried out in June and December. The method employed in carrying out this work was to deposit 8 oz. prebait on the first day and if a complete take was shown, 16 ozs. of prebait were used on the second day. Where complete takes were shown on the second day, the poison bait deposited was equal to the prebait. In any case at least 8 ozs. of poison bait was deposited. Poison takes were not inspected.

The following is a summary of the results obtained:—

*Summer treatment*

Manholes baited	...	...	...	...	2,926
Manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	...	506
Manholes showing complete prebait take (on one or both days)	...	...	...	...	448

*Winter treatment*

Manholes baited	...	...	...	...	2,941
Manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	...	470
Manholes showing complete prebait take	...	...	...	...	557

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A copy of the annual report covering the twelve months ended 31 March, 1956, submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as required by the provisions of the above Act, is appended.

Table 16

	Type of property				Agri-cultural
	Local authority	Dwelling houses (including council houses)	All other (including business premises)	Total	
Number of properties in borough	138	63,015	9,613	72,766	—
Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) notification	7	1,512	149	1,668	—
(b) survey	—	3,375	4	3,379	—
(c) otherwise	—	9	7	16	—
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats—major	—	—	—	—	—
— minor	3	1,356	97	1,456	—
(b) Mice—major	—	—	—	—	—
— minor	3	342	51	396	—
Number of infested properties treated	6	1,601	141	1,748	—
Total treatments (including retreatments)	9	4,558	355	4,922	—

Number of "block" control schemes carried out ... .. 38

It has not been found necessary to serve notices under section 4 of the Act for either treatment or structural works (i.e., proofing) and consequently no default action has been necessary and no legal proceedings have been taken.

#### Swimming baths

The following is a summary of samples taken by the health department staff for submission to the public analyst for examination of chlorine content and to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination:—

	<i>Chlorine content</i>	<i>Bacteriological examination</i>
Bellingham ... ..	3	—
Downham ... ..	10	—
Forest Hill ... ..	12	2
Ladywell ... ..	2	3
Private baths ... ..	4	3

A detailed report on the use of breakpoint chlorination which is the method employed at the baths, was included in my annual report for 1950.

#### National Assistance Act, 1948 — section 50

During the year the Council accepted responsibility for the burial of 8 persons, at a net cost of £48 18s. 6d.

#### Dog nuisances

No proceedings were taken during the year.

#### Drainage work

During the year 149 plans were submitted to the sanitary inspectors for examination and approval.

#### Old people

The Council continued to make grants to organisations in the borough which are carrying out work for old people, whether by recreational facilities or by the provision of meals. A sum of £2,750 was included in the annual estimates for the year 1955–56 for such organisations as accepted the Council's conditions and to assist any other such voluntary organisations as might be established during that year. Reports were made to the Public Health committee giving details of the work undertaken by the voluntary organisations and as a result grants were made as follows:—

Lewisham Old People's Welfare Association ...	£	2,000
Lewisham Darby and Joan Club ... ..		350
St. Mark's Old Folks' Club ... ..		70
Talbot Settlement Old People's Club ... ..		30
The Good Companions Personal Service ...		35
St. Swithun's OAP Association ... ..		60
Bellingham Old People's Club ... ..		55
St. Philip's Darby and Joan Club ... ..		20
The Friendly Club (for the Over-sixties) ...		25
The Bellingham Community Association "Darby and Joan" Club ... ..		30

This left a sum of money available for new clubs which might qualify for grant. At the end of the calendar year one further application was under consideration.

It is hoped that such old people's organisations as can will not only provide the usual afternoon's recreation with a little tea, but will also make arrangements to provide lunch either on the day the club meets or another day. To this end the Lewisham Old People's Welfare Association is prepared to cooperate by conveying the meals in bulk from the central kitchen, where they are obtained, to the luncheon club.

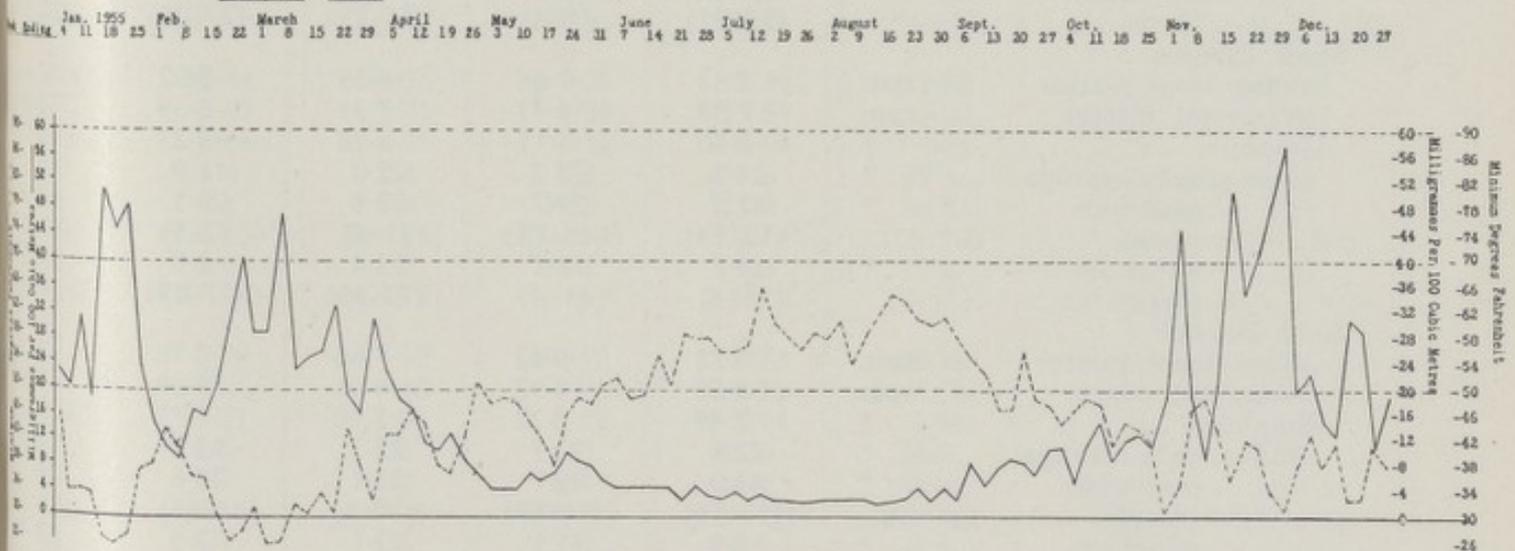
The health department during the year continued to take a detailed interest in the work for old people generally and remained in the closest touch with the Lewisham Old People's Welfare Association (LOPWA), which Association has offices in the department. LOPWA is, so far as the borough council's work for old people's welfare is concerned, the main body in the area and has affiliated to it the various other bodies to which the Council makes grant. LOPWA is responsible for the Meals-on-Wheels service to housebound old people.

The laundry service carried out by the borough council for the small number of old people living at home whose infirmity is such as to make them incontinent of urine or faeces was continued and expanded during the year, over 37,000 articles being cleansed. The service was highly appreciated; it can only be used, however, where section 122 of the Public Health (London) Act applies.

#### Measurement of atmospheric pollution

The three deposit stations and the three smoke measurement stations continued in use throughout the year, though in the next table a gap of four months is shown for the west division deposit station and a gap of one month in the south division deposit station, because of results which were found to be unreliable due to local contamination.

##### FOREST HILL



The chart shows for the Forest Hill station the amount of smoke (continuous line) throughout the year and (dotted line) the minimum temperature. It will be obvious that, in general terms, one is almost the reciprocal of the other.

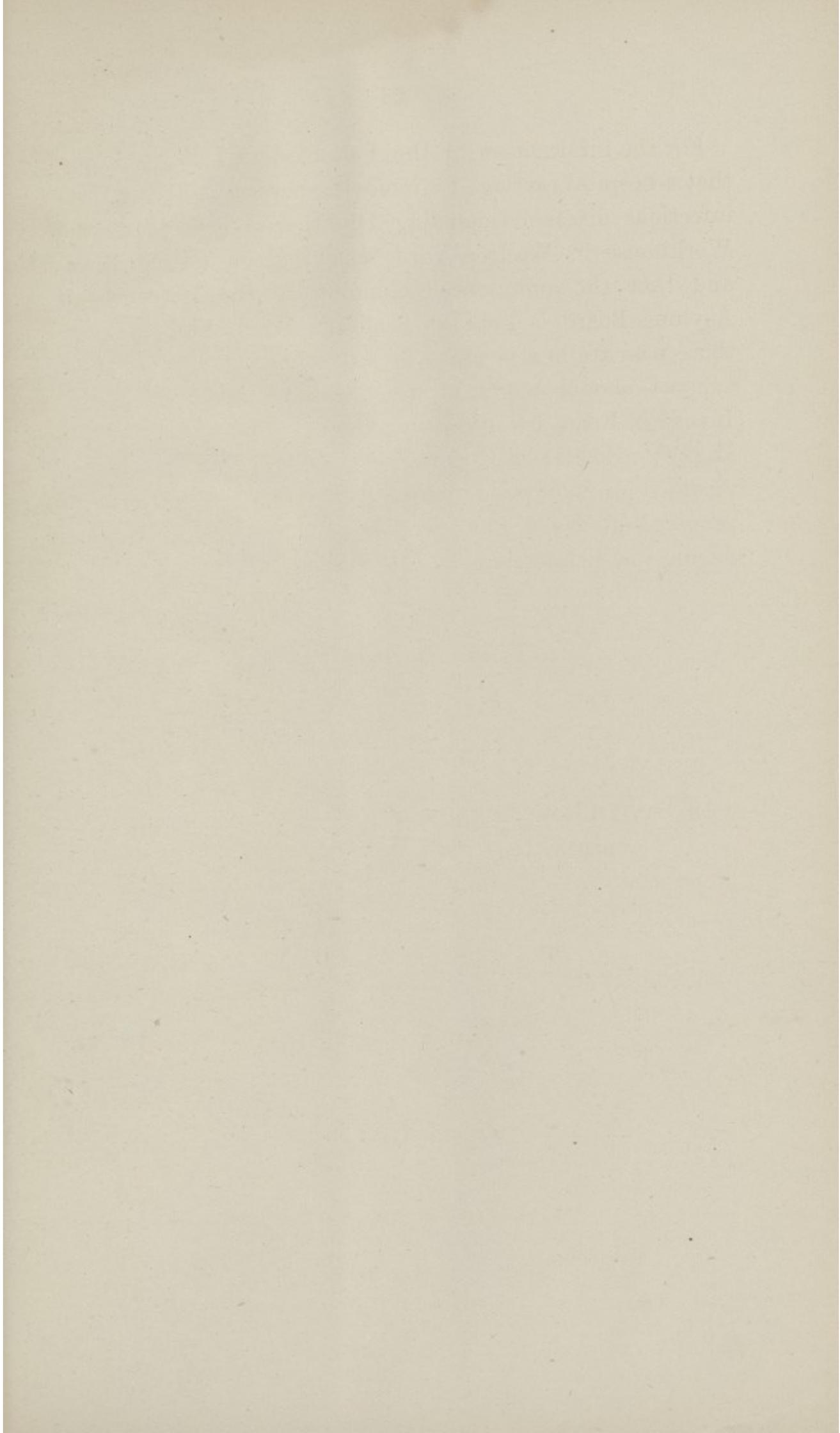
Table 17 gives a record of the principal results from the six stations and also gives some indication of the sunshine, rainfall, etc., during the year. Some of these latter data are not specific to the borough, having been obtained from a publication of the meteorological office, and relate to the nearest station which records the particular item concerned.

Atmospheric Conditions 1955

Table 17

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average (if applic.)
<b>Temperature—</b>													
Mean maximum <sup>1</sup> ... °F	41.2	40.3	45.0	58.2	59.0	67.2	74.1	74.4	67.2	56.1	50.6	48.1	56.8
Mean minimum <sup>1</sup> ... °F	33.8	31.4	31.9	40.8	43.7	51.5	55.0	56.6	51.3	42.2	41.2	39.9	43.3
Mean <sup>1</sup> ... °F	37.5	35.9	38.5	49.5	51.3	59.3	64.5	65.5	59.3	49.1	45.9	44.0	50.0
Diff. from average <sup>1</sup> ... °F	-2.6	-4.5	-5.2	+1.3	-2.4	-0.2	+1.5	+3.0	+0.7	-2.5	+1.2	+3.3	-0.5
Highest maximum <sup>2</sup> ... °F	54.0	54.0	63.0	72.0	69.0	78.0	87.0	87.0	80.0	68.0	61.0	57.0	87 (July 18)
Lowest minimum <sup>2</sup> ... °F	25.0	24.0	25.0	34.0	37.0	42.0	51.0	51.0	45.0	30.0	29.0	27.0	24 (Feb. 28)
<b>Rainfall—</b>													
Total <sup>3</sup> ... in.	1.89	1.02	0.75	0.16	3.86	1.73	0.01	0.71	2.17	2.88	0.28	1.58	17.04
Percent of average <sup>4</sup> ...	121.0	82.0	54.0	14.0	206.0	80.0	42.0	68.0	92.0	109.0	33.0	80.0	—
<b>Sunshine<sup>1</sup></b>													
Daily mean ... hrs.	1.08	2.57	4.47	5.97	7.05	5.32	6.92	5.93	5.20	3.46	1.37	1.39	4.22
Percent of average ...	72.0	114.0	118.0	120.0	110.0	74.0	103.0	96.0	109.0	104.0	79.0	107.0	99.0
<b>Wind<sup>1</sup></b>													
NE/E/SE ... %	35.0	36.0	47.0	27.0	26.0	35.0	46.0	28.0	6.0	7.0	31.0	22.0	29.0
S/SW/W ... %	49.0	42.0	22.0	55.0	61.0	48.0	16.0	28.0	73.0	57.0	29.0	56.0	46.0
NW/N/Calm ... %	16.0	22.0	31.0	18.0	13.0	17.0	38.0	44.0	21.0	36.0	40.0	22.0	25.0
<b>Atmospheric pollution—</b>													
<b>West Division<sup>2</sup>:</b>													
Water insol. matter ... tpm	18.03	12.76	—	—	—	—	12.79	13.16	11.13	11.96	10.94	9.15	12.49(8mos.)
Water sol. matter ... tpm	8.31	7.75	—	—	—	—	3.38	10.87	6.00	5.30	3.74	3.58	6.12(8mos.)
Sulphur ... †	2.71	2.99	2.74	1.54	1.94	1.23	1.08	0.97	0.88	1.68	3.00	2.71	1.96
Smoke, daily average ... *	26.7	22.7	28.3	13.7	6.5	4.7	3.2	3.0	7.2	12.1	33.9	21.4	15.3
" maximum ... *	49.4	32.1	47.4	23.7	10.0	6.0	4.2	4.4	10.6	19.9	51.3	57.8	289
" (date) ...	(12-14)	(16-18)	(1-4)	(2-5)	(21-24)	(1-3)	(6-8)	(24-26)	(28-30)	(29-31)	(16-18)	(1-2)	(2hrson30/11)
" minimum ... *	10.8	9.6	15.7	6.4	4.2	3.2	2.6	2.1	3.6	5.4	9.3	11.6	2.1
" (date) ...	(29-31)	(1-4)	(26-29)	(27-29)	(30-10)	(22-24)	(27-29)	(17-19)	(3-6)	(5-7)	(9-11)	(24-28)	(Aug. 17-19)
<b>North Division<sup>2</sup>:</b>													
Water insol. matter ... tpm	8.53	7.84	14.59	8.82	10.44	10.44	10.44	14.52	9.25	13.49	10.03	6.21	10.39
Water sol. matter ... tpm	7.38	4.93	7.31	3.59	6.88	6.75	3.89	7.21	3.56	13.89	5.00	3.35	6.14
Sulphur ... †	4.60	5.11	5.28	2.33	2.65	2.15	2.65	2.15	1.31	4.06	4.86	3.77	3.36
Smoke, daily average ... *	24.5	22.2	22.0	11.9	9.0	5.5	4.4	2.8	8.3	11.5	30.4	23.6	14.2
" maximum ... *	41.3	29.7	32.8	20.1	10.0	6.0	4.4	3.8	11.8	17.9	44.9	69.1	253
" (date) ...	(12-14)	(16-18)	(1-4)	(2-5)	(21-24)	(8-10)	(13-15)	(24-26)	(28-30)	(12-14)	(16-18)	(1-2)	(3hrson30/11)
" minimum ... *	14.7	12.1	13.4	7.0	4.2	3.5	2.4	2.2	5.2	6.0	10.6	12.0	2.2
" (date) ...	(1-4)	(1-4)	(23-25)	(17-19)	(4-6)	(22-24)	(27-29)	(17-19)	(3-6)	(5-7)	(9-11)	(10-13)	(Aug. 17-19)
<b>South Division<sup>2</sup>:</b>													
Water insol. matter ... tpm	6.78	6.42	7.64	9.98	9.09	—	8.79	14.52	10.18	8.73	8.36	3.98	8.59(11mos.)
Water sol. matter ... tpm	8.50	3.92	4.61	3.59	7.31	—	3.52	7.48	5.96	6.15	4.15	2.90	5.28(11mos.)
Sulphur ... †	2.49	3.22	2.98	1.79	1.22	1.13	1.21	1.06	0.92	2.14	2.86	2.10	1.92
Smoke, daily average ... *	22.4	22.7	22.3	12.2	6.0	3.8	2.8	2.5	6.0	11.4	26.3	18.9	13.1
" maximum ... *	44.0	29.7	30.1	20.6	10.3	4.6	3.7	3.4	8.4	18.4	42.0	46.9	46.9
" (date) ...	(12-14)	(16-18)	(30-1)	(2-5)	(21-24)	(1-3)	(13-15)	(24-26)	(28-30)	(29-31)	(16-18)	(1-2)	(Dec. 1-2)
" minimum ... *	8.9	11.1	13.1	5.5	3.4	1.2	2.2	1.6	3.8	7.0	7.3	10.3	1.2
" (date) ...	(29-31)	(1-4)	(23-25)	(27-29)	(4-6)	(22-24)	(9-12)	(17-19)	(3-6)	(5-7)	(9-11)	(24-28)	(June 22-24)
<b>Weather summary ...</b>													
	Cold ; snowy ; dull	Very cold ; snowy	Dry ; very cold ; sunny	Very dry ; sunny	Cold ; very wet ; changeable	Dryish ; normal temp.	Sunny ; dry and warm	Warm ; dry ; calm and bright	Changeable and sunny	Cold ; damp ; fairly calm	Mild ; dry ; dull ; and calm	Changeable and mild	

Notes : <sup>1</sup>Croydon ; <sup>2</sup>Lewisham ; <sup>3</sup>Valentine Court for smoke, Pool allotments for others ; <sup>4</sup>Parson Place for smoke, Wearside Road for others ; <sup>5</sup>Downham Depot for smoke, Verdant Lane for others ; tpm : tons per square mile per month ; †as trioxide in mg per 100 sq. cms. per day ; \* as per 100 cub. metres.



### Water supply

I am indebted to the Director of Water Examination of the Metropolitan Water Board for the information on which the following report on Lewisham's water supply is based.

The water supply to Lewisham is divided into three zones : the low zone is supplied from Deptford Well and by Thames - derived filtered water ; the Eltham zone is supplied from Wilmington, Darenth and Bexley Wells and should the occasion arise, with a small proportion from the low zone ; the Bromley zone to the south of the borough is supplied from Shortlands Well and again on occasions with additional Thames-derived filtered water. River Thames water is abstracted at the Board's intakes at Walton, Laleham and Wraysbury and is filtered at Hampton, Surbiton and Walton works. Contact tanks have been built at Hampton and Walton where there is opportunity for chlorine to exert its full effect before the water is pumped into supply and thereby chlorinous and other tastes are to a great extent avoided. All the well water is chlorinated and here also contact tanks are provided. Finally, any residual chlorine is completely removed or reduced to a level that would not be noticeable to consumers before the water leaves the works.

Bacteriological analyses are made at least five times a week and in the case of the river-derived supplies, the water is analysed at all stages of purification. None of the supplies is plumbo-solvent.

Tables 18 and 19 show the average results of the chemical and bacteriological analyses of the various supplies as forwarded by the Metropolitan Water Board :—

Average results of the chemical and bacteriological examination of the water supply to the Borough of Lewisham for 1955  
parts per million (unless otherwise stated)

(a) CHEMICAL

Table 18

Description of the sample	No. of samples	Ammoniacal nitrogen	Albuminoid nitrogen	Oxidised nitrogen (nitrate)	Chlorides as Cl.	Oxygen abs. from permanganate (4 hrs. at 27°C)	Hardness (total)	Hardness (non-carbonate)	pH value	Conductivity
Bexley Well ... ..	4	0.005	0.017	5.5	16	0.12	286	56	7.1	458
Darenth Well ... ..	8	Nil	0.018	5.5	16	0.06	270	40	7.2	440
Shortlands Well ... ..	10	0.002	0.020	4.5	17	0.08	272	70	7.1	450
Wilmington Well ... ..	7	0.006	0.024	7.1	21	0.12	286	56	7.2	450
Deptford Well ... ..	4	0.002	0.017	7.0	35	0.20	359	126	7.1	550
River Thames - derived filtered water ... ..	1663	0.014	0.085	3.8	26	1.04	258	65	7.8	450

(b) BACTERIOLOGICAL

Table 19

Description of the sample	No. of samples	BEFORE CHLORINATION			AFTER CHLORINATION (WATER PASSING INTO SUPPLY)			
		Plate count (average per ml.) Colonies counted on agar 37°C. (20-24 hrs.)	Bact. coli test		No. of samples	Plate count (average per ml.) Colonies counted on agar 37°C. (20-24 hrs.)	Bact. coli test	
			Percentage samples neg. 100 ml.	Average number per 100 ml.			Percentage samples neg. 100 ml.	Average number per 100 ml.
Bexley Well ... ..	420	0.1	100.0	—	256	—	100.0	—
Darenth Well ... ..	398	0.2	99.3	0.01	251	—	100.0	—
Shortlands Well ... ..	499	0.04	100.0	—	256	—	100.0	—
Wilmington Well ... ..	470	3.0	99.4	0.01	255	—	100.0	—
Deptford Well... ..	221	2.2	99.6	0.01	225	—	100.0	—
River Thames - derived filtered water ... ..	7040	—	60.4	3.73	3561	7.8	99.9	0.002

## SECTION C — SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The following table gives a summary of the inspections, etc., carried out by the district sanitary inspectors, food inspectors and housing inspectors during the year:—

Table 20

<i>Reason for inspection</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>District sanitary inspectors :</i>				
Dwelling-houses — PH Act ... ..	1231	951	521	2667
Dwelling-houses — Housing Act ... ..	850	1703	679	3232
Houses let in lodgings ... ..	—	—	—	—
Applications for rehousing ... ..	110	145	38	293
Certificates of disrepair, etc. ... ..	63	38	46	147
Notice from builder ... ..	101	122	25	248
Infectious diseases... ..	34	28	24	86
Infestation ... ..	61	90	57	208
Factories, mechanical ... ..	64	34	17	115
Factories, non-mechanical ... ..	12	6	1	19
S47 National Assistance Act ... ..	20	11	9	40
Outworkers ... ..	65	72	116	253
Smoke observations ... ..	—	1	—	1
Offensive trades ... ..	—	—	—	—
Keeping of animals in such a state as to be a nuisance ... ..	3	8	1	12
Water certificates... ..	47	43	95	185
Futile visits... ..	902	1125	448	2475
All other matters ... ..	671	666	314	1651
Reinspections ... ..	4228	3844	3355	11427
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>8462</b>	<b>8851</b>	<b>5746</b>	<b>23059</b>
<i>Food inspectors :</i>				
Notice from builder ... ..	137	44	18	199
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act ... ..	8	2	—	10
Infectious diseases... ..	7	13	9	29
Infestation ... ..	22	45	6	73
Factories, mechanical ... ..	26	39	80	145
Factories, non-mechanical ... ..	1	3	—	4
Smoke observations ... ..	1	9	2	12
Food shops — registered... ..	124	196	236	556
Food shops — not registered ... ..	104	135	165	404
Milkshops and dairies ... ..	42	98	74	214
Icecream premises ... ..	140	160	114	414
Restaurants and eating houses ... ..	130	262	223	615
Bakehouses... ..	60	40	10	110
Other shops ... ..	17	253	12	282
Food inspections ... ..	282	498	102	882
Sampling ... ..	444	281	246	971
Markets and stalls... ..	8	840	507	1355
Pharmacy and poisons ... ..	91	98	18	207
Slaughterhouses ... ..	—	91	—	91
Futile visits... ..	86	76	30	192
All other matters ... ..	567	369	144	1080
Reinspections ... ..	538	946	393	1877
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>2835</b>	<b>4498</b>	<b>2389</b>	<b>9722</b>

Table 20—continued

<i>Reason for inspection</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Housing inspectors :</i>				
Improvement grants ... ..	10	13	4	27
Dwelling-houses — PH Act ... ..	—	—	—	—
Dwelling-houses — Housing Act ... ..	73	64	34	171
Houses let in lodgings ... ..	—	—	—	—
Applications for rehousing ... ..	—	—	—	—
Notice from builder ... ..	—	—	—	—
Futile visits... ..	207	131	44	382
All other visits ... ..	204	198	73	475
Reinspections ... ..	1801	1256	344	3401
Totals ... ..	2295	1662	499	4456
Grand total — all inspectors ... ..	13592	15011	8634	37237

## Smoke abatement

Observations ... ..	...	...	13
Intimations served ... ..	...	...	—
Complaints received... ..	...	...	8
Statutory notices served ... ..	...	...	—
Legal proceedings ... ..	...	...	—
Convictions ... ..	...	...	—

## Summary of notices served in 1955

Table 21

	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Intimation notices :—</i>				
Public Health (London) Act, 1936 ... ..	475	344	223	1042
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	1	3	—	4
Informal intimations under Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	19	26	11	56
Total intimations ... ..	495	373	234	1102
<i>Statutory notices :—</i>				
Public Health (London) Act, 1936 ... ..	279	106	88	473
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	—	1	—	1
Housing Act, 1936... ..	4	2	1	7
Byelaws ... ..	51	8	6	65
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total statutory notices ... ..	334	117	95	546

## Nuisances remedied — Public Health Act

Table 22

<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Total</i>
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired ... ..	224	91	68	383
Roofs repaired ... ..	100	109	45	254
Dampness remedied... ..	522	269	243	1034
Brickwork repaired ... ..	16	38	5	59
Chimneys repaired ... ..	8	7	2	17
Drains cleared ... ..	8	6	8	22
Drains repaired ... ..	40	38	21	99
Drinking water cisterns repaired ... ..	1	5	—	6
Dustbins supplied ... ..	45	17	17	79
Doors and door frames repaired or renewed	9	6	2	17
Flushing cisterns repaired, renewed or cleansed ... ..	25	24	9	58
Flush pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	3	4	5	12
Firegrates, etc., repaired or renewed ...	32	24	11	67
Flooring repaired or renewed ... ..	92	46	16	154
Dry rot remedied ... ..	10	7	—	17
Gullies renewed, repaired or cleansed ...	3	3	1	7
Gutters repaired ... ..	52	38	29	119
Refuse cleared ... ..	6	3	—	9
Rainwater pipes repaired ... ..	18	11	3	32
Soil pipes repaired, ventilated or renewed	8	12	4	24
Sinks provided ... ..	2	9	2	13
Sashcords renewed ... ..	51	24	28	103
Water closets repaired or renewed ... ..	22	20	4	46
Walls and ceilings cleansed... ..	—	3	7	10
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	35	26	16	77
Water service pipes repaired or renewed, water supply restored ... ..	3	1	1	5
Yards and areas paved ... ..	2	7	5	14
Windows glazed ... ..	10	6	7	23
Other nuisances remedied ... ..	63	29	13	105
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>1410</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>2865</b>

## Nuisances remedied — Housing Act

Table 23

<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Total</i>
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired ... ..	158	243	57	458
Roofs repaired ... ..	23	38	15	76
Dampness remedied... ..	23	59	18	100
Brickwork repaired ... ..	24	31	10	65
Chimneys repaired ... ..	4	6	1	11
Drains cleared ... ..	—	2	—	2
Drains repaired ... ..	8	19	1	28
Drinking water cisterns repaired ... ..	—	—	—	—
Dustbins supplied ... ..	1	—	—	1
Doors and door frames repaired ... ..	30	57	14	101

Table 24—continued

Nuisance	West	North	South	Total
Flushing cisterns repaired, renewed or cleansed ... ..	—	5	—	5
Flush pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	—	1	1	2
Firegrates repaired ... ..	17	24	5	46
Flooring repaired or renewed ... ..	50	55	22	127
Dry rot remedied ... ..	3	6	2	11
Gullies renewed, repaired or cleansed ... ..	4	7	—	11
Gutters repaired ... ..	9	21	7	37
Refuse cleared ... ..	—	—	1	1
Rainwater pipes repaired ... ..	7	16	4	27
Soil pipes repaired, ventilated or renewed ... ..	—	—	2	2
Sinks provided ... ..	1	1	—	2
Sashcords renewed ... ..	16	19	14	49
Water closets repaired or renewed ... ..	5	11	3	19
Walls and ceilings cleansed... ..	17	2	—	19
Windows and frames renewed or repaired ... ..	64	81	24	169
Water service pipes repaired or renewed, water supply restored ... ..	—	2	1	3
Yards and areas paved ... ..	3	5	1	9
Windows glazed ... ..	5	9	5	19
Woodwork painted ... ..	5	3	6	14
Other nuisances remedied ... ..	89	75	51	215
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>566</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1629</b>

### Water certificates

Under the provisions of section 95 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, an occupied house without a proper and sufficient water supply is a nuisance and if a dwelling-house, is unfit for human habitation. Further, it is not lawful to occupy a house as a dwelling-house, subject to certain provisos, until the sanitary authority has certified that it has a proper and sufficient supply of water.

Certificates were issued in respect of 200 premises and 8 blocks of flats certifying that under the provisions of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, a proper and sufficient supply of water had been provided.

### Factories

Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, requiring the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences is enforced by the council in all factories, whether mechanical power is used in the factory or not. The provisions of sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, the maintenance of a reasonable temperature, the securing of adequate ventilation of workrooms and the furnishing of adequate means for draining floors where wet processes are carried on, are enforced by the council in factories in which mechanical power is not used. The provisions of section 7 are also applied to certain building operations and works of engineering construction, etc.

A local authority is required to keep a register of factories with respect to which it is responsible for the enforcement of any of the provisions mentioned above. Close cooperation is maintained with HM Inspectors of Factories in that any defaults found by them during the course of their visits and for which it is the duty of the local authority to secure that remedial measures are taken, are notified to the health department. Similarly the sanitary inspectors notify HM Inspectors of any contraventions of the provisions of the Act which come within their jurisdiction. HM Inspectors also forward to the health department details relating to the establishment of new factories, the introduction of mechanical power and other information which may come to their notice and which appears to affect factories subject to the control of the local authority.

Special attention is paid to factories which provide canteens. These factories are visited by the council's food inspectors and the opportunity is taken to discuss with the canteen staff the various requirements needed to maintain a good standard in food hygiene.

The medical officer of health is required in his annual report to the local authority to report specifically on the administration of, and furnish prescribed particulars with respect to, the matters under part I (factories) and part VIII (outworkers) which are administered by the local authority. Details follow :—

## Inspections

Table 24

Premises	Number on register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	68	23	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority ...	459	260	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	26	26	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	553	309	1	—

## Cases in which defects were found

Table 25

Defects	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S 1) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S 2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S 3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S 4)	-	1	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S 6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	-	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	16	-	12	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>

## Sanitary work generally

Mr. Walker, the senior sanitary inspector, reports: "The year's inspection figures show very little change from the previous year except for those of the district sanitary inspectors where a decrease is shown. This is no doubt due to the fact that a further district inspector left and no replacement was made, owing to there being no satisfactory response to advertisements issued. The work, as far as possible, had to be spread among other district and food inspectors. The increase in housing inspections was in the main due to the housing survey which was partly carried out during the year.

"The number of applications for certificates of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, steadily diminished as the year progressed. The total of 147 for the year is a smaller figure than was expected.

"The conditions under which outworkers are employed continues to be satisfactory, as will be seen from the fact that no adverse comments were made by the sanitary inspectors during their visits. The amount of work in many cases fluctuates, or is only seasonal, while in others it is done for the purpose of filling in spare time. Very few seem to take outwork as a full-time occupation."

## Registration of hairdressers

From October 1, 1955, under s.18 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954, no person may carry on the business of a

hairdresser or barber on any premises in a borough unless he and those premises are registered by the borough council. Exceptions are for premises which are visited only by appointment with a customer, and for a person who in effect is doing hairdressing on his own premises parttime and who does not employ any other person to assist him. Registration in the first place is automatic on application, and a register is kept for the purpose.

By the end of the year 111 persons had been registered.

Byelaws governing the conduct of these establishments, designed to ensure cleanliness of the person, equipment and premises, came into force on December 1. The standard of hygiene in those visited up to the end of the year was good.

### Outworkers

Under section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937 the occupier of every factory and every contractor employed by him must keep lists showing the names and addresses of all outworkers directly employed by him and of the places where they are employed, and must send to the district council in February and in August of each year, copies of those lists showing all outworkers so employed by him during the preceding six months. Section 111 of the same Act empowers the district council by notice in writing to the occupier of a factory or to any contractor employed by him to prohibit the employment of any persons as home workers in premises which the council regard as injurious or dangerous to health.

The Home Work Order, 1911, specified the kinds of work to which these two sections apply. The types of work consist mainly of wearing apparel and various textiles, the making of paper bags, boxes, brushes, baskets, artificial flowers, metal fittings, etc.

Outworkers were visited periodically by the district sanitary inspectors.

The following is a list of trades concerned, extracted from the August, 1955 lists received:—

<i>Trade</i>	<i>Outworkers employed</i>
Wearing apparel ... ..	147
Curtains ... ..	9
Christmas crackers ... ..	1
Boxmaking... ..	9
Carding, etc., of buttons ... ..	1
Stuffed toys ... ..	1
Paper bags ... ..	1
Lampshades ... ..	12
Textile weaving ... ..	2

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It will be noted that none of the outworkers are employed in food. Outworking in food will cease to be legal in July, 1956 as a result of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The inspectors made 253 visits and revisits during the year which included some to places in which no work was being done at the time of the visit, although the outworkers were prepared to restart work when required. Reports were submitted to the Council setting out the position with regard to outworkers in the borough. No adverse comments were made.

#### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act came into force on November 1, 1951, and repealed the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 and section 136 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936. The Act is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined.

It is an offence, subject to certain provisos, to use filling materials to which the Act applies for upholstery purposes except on premises registered by a local authority, and rag flock for filling can only be manufactured and stored on licensed premises. The local authority is required to maintain a register of premises used for upholstery and of premises used for the manufacture and storage of rag flock and to maintain a list of licences in respect of premises used for the storage of rag flock. Various penalties are prescribed for noncompliance with the provisions of the Act.

Standards of cleanliness are laid down in the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951 in relation to each kind of filling material described in the regulations, and tests are prescribed which have to be carried out by approved analysts.

Four premises are registered for the use of filling materials for upholstery purposes. Samples were taken of coir fibre and washed flock, both of which were satisfactory.

#### Pet Animals Act, 1951

During the year 22 premises were licensed as pet shops. In the main, the sale of pets at these premises consists of cage birds and tropical and coldwater fish. In general it has been found that pets are kept for sale under conditions which do not call for any particular comment and in no case has it been found necessary to attach any special conditions to any licence which has been issued.

#### Destruction of pigeons

Section 121 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, enables a local authority to take steps for the purpose of abating or mitigating any nuisance, annoyance or damage caused or which might be caused by the congregation of pigeons which are as far as can be ascertained without an owner. The local authority is enabled to seize and destroy,

or sell or otherwise dispose of any such pigeons in excess of such number as may be considered reasonable.

The difficulties of dealing with the problem remain and little of value can be added to last year's report, although 60 young birds and 56 eggs were destroyed from colonies found under railway bridges and on the Town Hall roof.

#### Exhumations

It is the practice for a sanitary inspector to be in attendance at an exhumation but no such attendances were made during 1955.

## SECTION D — HOUSING

## Building

The following 464 new houses or flats were completed by the Council during the year :—

Baizdon Road ... ..	61	Harvard Road ... ..	1
Brasted Close ... ..	27	Kilmorie Road ... ..	4
Brockley Road... ..	16	Kirkdale ... ..	6
Brookbank Road ... ..	18	Lawn Terrace ... ..	8
Burnt Ash Road ... ..	6	Lewisham Park ... ..	44
Comerford Road ... ..	2	Littlewood ... ..	3
Crofton Park Road ... ..	6	Marsala Road ... ..	7
Davenport Road ... ..	8	Mount Pleasant Road ... ..	18
Ellerdale Street ... ..	6	Paynell Court ... ..	41
Ermine Road ... ..	6	Ronver Road ... ..	7
Ewhurst Road ... ..	6	St. Mildred's Road ... ..	12
Farley Road ... ..	5	Salehurst Road ... ..	3
Fordyce Road ... ..	7	Somertrees Avenue ... ..	6
George Lane ... ..	11	Thornford Road ... ..	3
Granville Park... ..	16	Viney Road ... ..	58
Grierson Road... ..	6	Walerand Road ... ..	16
Guyscliffe Road ... ..	20		

## Families rehoused

During the year the following families were rehoused :—

1. By the Lewisham Borough Council :—	
(a) in permanent properties ... ..	255
(b) in temporary bungalows ... ..	10
(c) in requisitioned properties ... ..	31
	<hr/>
	296
2. By the London county council (figures supplied by district offices) ... ..	118
	<hr/>
	Total ... ..
	414
	<hr/> <hr/>
3. Number of families where points had been awarded for bedroom deficiency, rehoused by the Council during the year ... ..	247

## Housing Act, 1936

*Repair of houses (sections 9 and 10)*

During the year 56 informal and 7 formal notices were served. 64 properties were repaired by the owners after service of notices and 8 properties were repaired by the Council under section 10 in default of the owners.

*Demolition orders (section 11) Housing Act, 1936, and Closing orders under section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953*

The following is a list of cases involving procedure for demolition orders or for complete closure of houses which originated in or were complied with during 1955, together with the present position of cases originating in previous years which had not been complied with at the end of 1954 :—

Table 26

<i>Properties</i>	<i>Dwellings involved</i>	<i>Present position</i>
58, Knowles Hill Crescent ...	1	Statutory undertaking given to carry out works.
7, Sunnyside, Blythe Hill ...	1	Works completed.
177, Hither Green Lane ...	1	Closing Order operative on whole house.
77, Malham Road ...	1	Statutory undertaking given to carry out works.
97, Mount Pleasant Road ...	1	Order operative.
18, Knowles Hill Crescent ...	1	Closing Order operative on whole house.
2, Dallas Road ...	1	Order operative.
95, Gilmore Road ...	1	Order operative.
78, Taunton Road ...	1	Order operative.
24, Wisteria Road ...	1	Closing order operative on whole house.
3, Myron Place ...	1	Closing order operative on whole house.
2, Cranston Road ...	1	Closing order (2.1.54) on whole house revoked and demolition order substituted. Order operative.
7, Balloch Road ...	1	Closing order operative on whole house.
95, Loampit Vale ...	1	Notices served.
2, Fordel Road ...	1	Notices served.
2, Agnew Road ...	1	Notices served.
23, Lethbridge Road ...	1	Notices to be served.
12, Dalmain Road ...	1	Notices served.
169, Sandhurst Road ...	1	Notices served.

*Closing orders in respect of part of house (section 12)*

Table 27

<i>Properties</i>	<i>Part of house</i>	<i>Present position</i>
52, Lee Road ...	Four rooms and kitchen in basement.	Works to comply with undertaking completed.
94, Loampit Vale ...	Living room and scullery, ground floor; two first floor rooms and attic room.	Works to comply with undertaking completed.

Table 27—*continued*

<i>Properties</i>	<i>Part of house</i>	<i>Present position</i>
50, Lee Park... ..	Four rooms in basement.	Order operative.
28, Ravensbourne Road.	Two rooms, scullery and water closet in basement.	Works in progress.
12, Manor Park ...	Three rooms and scullery in basement.	Order operative.
35, Burnt Ash Road	Two rooms and scullery in basement.	Notices served. Crown property. No further action possible.
35, Devonshire Road	Two rooms, scullery, watercloset and passage in semibasement.	Order operative.
45, Lee Park... ..	Two rooms and scullery in basement.	Order operative.
46, Gilmore Road ...	Two rooms and scullery in basement.	Works to comply with undertaking completed.
18, Sydenham Park...	Two rooms, scullery and passage in basement.	Works to comply with undertaking completed.
55, Belmont Park ...	Three rooms and scullery in basement.	Order operative.
59, Belmont Park ...	Two rooms and scullery in basement.	Order operative.
68, Malham Road ...	Two rooms, kitchen and scullery on ground floor.	Notices served.
2, Handen Road ...	Two rooms and scullery on second floor and two rooms on first floor.	Orders operative.
32, Manor Park ...	Three rooms, scullery and watercloset in semibasement.	Notices served.
265, Lee High Road...	Two rooms, kitchen and watercloset in basement.	Order operative.
193c, Perry Vale ...	Top floor flat... ..	Notices to be served.
38, Eltham Road ...	Two rooms, scullery and watercloset in basement.	Notices served.

In his report upon work under the Housing Acts, Mr. Craven, the group housing inspector, states :—

“ The survey of older properties in the borough, started during 1954, was completed early in the year. In cases where action was found to be necessary, a classification was made under the Housing Act, 1936 indicating that 667 properties required repair and 159 properties closure or demolition. From this survey, together with previous knowledge and records in the department, the programme required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under

the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was compiled and recommended for action in the five years 1956-60. Under this 12 properties were regarded as fit for demolition as individual units, and 147 properties as fit for demolition in 10 clearance areas.

"During the year all the remaining properties in the 1951-55 programme were inspected. This resulted in the representation under section 25 of 15 properties in two areas (which were dealt with by the borough council) and a larger area of 38 houses, which had been included in the outstanding programme and previously inspected and reported to the Council as suitable for action under section 25, and which it was arranged, should be dealt with by the London county council.

"Action under section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 was taken in respect of 63 properties and the Council approved the carrying out of work in default in eight cases.

"An increasing amount of interest in the improvement grant scheme was noted during the year. Many enquiries were received and dealt with and, following formal applications in respect of 31 properties, inspections were made, specifications for improvements and repairs approved, and estimates checked prior to submission to the Finance and Rating Committee. Out of this total, 14 applications were in respect of the improvement of single family houses, mainly for the provision of bathroom and internal water closet, while the remaining 17 were for the conversion of larger properties, which will result in the provision of a total of 45 self-contained flats or maisonettes, a net gain of 28 units of accommodation."

Table 28

PART A — CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES  
(Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

	<i>Dwelling-houses demolished</i>		<i>Persons displaced</i>
	<i>Unfit houses</i>	<i>Other houses</i>	
Land coloured "pink" ...	2	—	2
Land coloured "grey" ...	—	None	None

PART B — HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons displaced</i>
<b>DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS</b>		
1. Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under section 11 ... ..	None	None
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under section 11, and still in force	2	5
(c) Parts of buildings closed (section 12)	10	25

PART B — HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS — *continued*

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS <i>—continued</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons displaced</i>
2. Housing Act, 1949 :— Closing Orders made under section 3 (1) and 3 (2)... ..	None	None
3. Local Government (Miscellaneous Pro- visions) Act, 1953 :— Closing Orders made under sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ... ..	5	20
<b>REPAIRS</b>		<i>Number of houses*</i>
Informal Action :—		
4. Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing Acts ... ..		50
Action under statutory powers :—		
5. Public Health Acts :— Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
(a) by owners ... ..		None
(b) by local authority in default of owners ... ..		1
6. Housing Act, 1936 :— Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) :—		
(a) by owners ... ..		14
(b) by local authority in default of owners ... ..		4
7. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :— Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (section 5) ... ..		None

PART C — UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs  
and Rents Act, 1954)

	<i>Number of houses*</i>
Position at end of period :—	
8. (a) Houses retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under section 7 ... ..	None
(b) Separate dwellings contained in (a) above ... ..	None
(c) Houses licensed for temporary occupation (section 6)	None
<b>PART D — PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT</b>	
9. Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period ... ..	None

\*A defective house remedied more than once during the period is included once only.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act — certificates of disrepair

Applications for certificates of disrepair ... ..	140
Certificates issued ... ..	84
Applications for certificates withdrawn or certificates not granted ... ..	50
Applications outstanding at end of year... ..	6
Certificates issued in 1955 in respect of applications received during 1954 ... ..	27
Applications for revocation of certificates previously issued ... ..	87
Applications granted ... ..	79
Applications outstanding at end of year... ..	8
Applications for revocation of certificates previously issued, received during 1954 and issued during 1955	6

For standards under ss. 11 and 12 see appendix D.

General statistics

The following is a tabulated statement of various statistics extracted from a return to the London County Council covering the year 1955 :—

<i>Item</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of new dwellings completed by the Borough Council ... ..	464
No. of new dwellings completed by other persons ...	137
Total houses in the borough (separately assessed dwellings) at 1 April, 1955 ... ..	61,878
No. of dwelling-houses inspected on complaint ...	1,585
No. of dwelling-houses inspected house-to-house ...	3,403
No. of dwelling-houses inspected for any other reason	2,102
No. of dwelling-houses repaired, as a result of action under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	1,029
<b>Housing Act, 1936</b>	
Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under s.11... ..	—
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under s.11, and still in force... ..	2
Parts of buildings closed by closing orders (s. 12) :—	
Underground rooms ... ..	—
Other rooms ... ..	38
<b>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</b>	
Closing orders made under s.10(1) ... ..	5

## SECTION E — INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

At the end of the year there were 112 persons registered for the distribution of milk from premises within the borough and 22 registrations for the distribution of milk within the borough from premises in the area of another authority.

5 premises in the borough were registered as dairies.

## Milk (Special Designations) Licences

Licences, which remain in operation from January 1 to December 31, were issued during the year as follows :—

Table 29

	<i>Dealer's</i>	<i>Supplementary</i>	<i>Total</i>
Licences issued for :—			
sale of pasteurised milk ...	65	17	82
sale of tuberculin tested milk ...	62	17	79
sale of sterilised milk ...	75	17	92
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>253</b>

## Analysis of milk

During the year under review, 199 samples of milk were submitted for examination to the Public Analyst by the Council's inspectors.

6 of these samples were certified as adulterated or below standard. The average composition of the genuine samples is set out in the following table :—

Table 30

<i>Period</i>	<i>Samples</i>	<i>Average composition of samples examined</i>		
		<i>Milk fat</i>	<i>Solids not fat</i>	<i>Water</i>
First quarter ...	79	3.89	8.78	87.33
Second quarter ...	26	3.36	8.78	87.86
Third quarter ...	22	3.64	8.67	87.69
Fourth quarter ...	66	4.00	8.86	87.14
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>8.79</b>	<b>87.38</b>

The legal standard is 3.0 percent milk fat and 8.5 percent solids not fat.

### Examination of heat-treated milk

215 samples of pasteurised milk and 9 samples of sterilised milk were submitted for examination during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

### Icecream — composition

The Food Standards (Icecream) Order, 1953 restored the standard for icecream which was in force before 7 July, 1952. Icecream must, therefore, contain not less than 5 percent fat, 10 percent sugar and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  percent milk solids other than fat. There are provisos in respect of icecream containing any fruit, fruit pulp or fruit puree and kosher ice. The 67 samples submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis were found to have the composition shown in the appended table:—

Table 31

	Samples	Average percentage composition			
		Fat	Milk solids-not fat	Sucrose	Water
First quarter ...	9	12.5	12.0	14.1	61.4
Second quarter ...	24	11.1	11.8	13.5	63.6
Third quarter ...	15	11.8	11.4	13.7	63.1
Fourth quarter ...	19	11.8	11.9	13.8	62.5
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>67</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>62.9</b>

### Icecream — grading

Icecream is submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The icecream is graded according to the time taken to decolorise a dye, methylene blue. The test is a provisional one and because of the many factors which govern the hygienic quality of icecream it is recommended officially that judgment should be based on a series of samples and that too much attention should not be paid to the result of an individual sample. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, at least 50 percent of a vendor's samples should fall into grade 1, 80 percent into grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 percent into grade 3 and none into grade 4.

During the year 175 samples of icecream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

Table 32

Grading		Samples submitted	%
Grade I	... ..	138	78.9
Grade II	... ..	16	9.1
Grade III	... ..	15	8.5
Grade IV	... ..	6	3.5
TOTAL		175	100.0

In general grades I and II are satisfactory, while grades III and IV may indicate some defect in manufacture, handling or storage. Such cases are followed up and advice is given.

#### Unsound food

Approximately 6½ tons of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption. This was dealt with by the Council's food inspectors and consisted of meat, fruit pulp, fish, vegetables, etc.

#### Food poisoning

The following is the annual return of food poisoning notifications (corrected) furnished to the Ministry of Health :—

(1) Food poisoning notifications (corrected) returned to Registrar-General :—

First quarter	... ..	2
Second quarter	... ..	6
Third quarter	... ..	33
Fourth quarter	... ..	12

—

53

—

(2) Outbreaks due to identified agents :—

Total outbreaks	... ..	—	Total cases	... ..	—
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Outbreaks due to :—

(a) chemical poisons	... ..	—
(b) salmonella organisms	... ..	—
(c) staphylococci (including toxin)	... ..	—
(d) Cl. botulinum	... ..	—
(e) Other bacteria	... ..	—

(3) Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :—

Total outbreaks	... ..	2	Total cases	... ..	21
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(4) Single cases :—

Agent identified ... 13 ; Unknown ... 19 ; Total ... 32

### Registration of food premises

The following premises are registered in accordance with the requirements of section 14(1) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Icecream...	...	...	...	395
Fish fryers	...	...	...	41
Sausages...	...	...	...	108
Preserved meats...	...	...	...	154
Preserved fish	...	...	...	27
Other preserved foods	...	...	...	3

### Adulteration of food

The number of samples taken during the year under the Food and Drugs Act was 827, of which 123 were formal samples and 704 informal. After examination the public analyst reported that 8 of the formal samples and 7 of the informal samples were adulterated or below standard ; the percentage of adulteration amounted to 6.50 in the formal samples, 0.99 in the informal samples and 1.81 of all the samples submitted, compared with 3.07 in the previous year.

The following table gives the groupings and the results of the samples analysed :—

Table 33

ARTICLES	Examined			Adulterated		
	Informal	Formal	Total	Informal	Formal	Total
Bread and butter ...	1	8	9	—	1	1
Butter ... ..	9	—	9	—	—	—
Cereals, bread, baking powder ... ..	11	2	13	—	—	—
Cheese ... ..	5	—	5	—	—	—
Cocoa, coffee, tea ...	17	—	17	—	—	—
Confectionery (sweets)	26	—	26	—	—	—
Condiments and flavourers	127	1	128	—	—	—
Cream ... ..	7	—	7	—	—	—
Drugs ... ..	68	1	69	—	—	—
Fish, tinned ... ..	10	—	10	—	—	—
Flour ... ..	15	—	15	—	—	—
Fruit and vegetables ...	34	1	35	—	—	—
Icecream... ..	68	1	69	1	1	2
Lard and suet ... ..	17	—	17	—	—	—
Margarine ... ..	22	—	22	—	—	—
Meat, canned and pies ...	24	—	24	—	—	—
Milk ... ..	91	108	199	—	6	6
Milk, condensed ... ..	8	—	8	1	—	1
Paste, fish and meat ...	27	—	27	—	—	—
Sausages ... ..	85	—	85	5	—	5
Soft drinks ... ..	9	—	9	—	—	—
Spirits ... ..	5	—	5	—	—	—
Preserves ... ..	9	—	9	—	—	—
Other foods ... ..	9	1	10	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

## Adulterated samples

Table 34

Article	Formal or Informal	Adulteration or irregularity	Action taken
Sausages ...	Informal	370 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	Notice displayed at subsequent visit. Warning letter sent. Summons not served, owing to disappearance of defendant, who, it appears, gave a false address. Business changed hands.
Milk ... ..	Formal	Fat deficient 16%	
Bread and butter	Formal	Bread and margarine	
Hot milk ...	Formal	Extraneous water 14.2%	£3 3s. fine ; £1 1s. costs.
Milk ... ..	Formal	Extraneous water 13.5%	£3 3s. fine.
Hot milk ...	Formal	Extraneous water 10.5%	£1 1s. fine ; £1 1s. costs.
Hot milk ...	Formal	Extraneous water 10.8%	£1 1s. fine.
Hot milk ...	Formal	Extraneous water 8.3%	£1 1s. fine ; £1 1s. costs.
Condensed milk	Informal	Acidity 0.75%	Stock withdrawn from sale.
Sausages ...	Informal	240 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	
Icecream ...	Informal	Fat deficient 34%	} £5 0s. 0d. fine.
Icecream ...	Formal	Fat deficient 16%	
Sausages ...	Informal	345 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	
Sausages ...	Informal	365 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	} Notices displayed at subsequent visit.
Sausages ...	Informal	90 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	

## Other samples

In addition to samples submitted to the public analyst from routine sampling, the following were also submitted either to the public analyst or for bacteriological examination.

They were submitted for various reasons, but mainly because of complaints received, or as a result of enquiries made into cases of food poisoning :—

Sausages (2)	Icing sugar
Water (7)	Dirt from van (2)
River water (5)	Ice cubes
Corned beef	Dried milk
Meat (4)	Rice
Paste	Cakes
Lollies (19)	Frozen egg (2)
Sand	Egg albumen
Bread (3)	

### Shops Act, 1950 — section 38

Three certificates of exemption in respect of sanitary conveniences were issued during the year.

### Pharmacy and Poisons

The names of 17 persons were entered on the Council's list of persons entitled to sell poisons in Part II of the poisons list and the names of 193 persons previously registered were retained on the register. 207 visits were paid by the food inspectors in connection with the granting and renewal of these licences.

### Slaughterhouses and slaughtermen

There is one private slaughterhouse in the borough in respect of which the licence was renewed during the year, with the proviso that only pigs could be slaughtered. The premises were visited periodically by the food inspector. 342 pigs were slaughtered and the carcasses inspected during the year. 8 of these carcasses with a total weight of 1,260lbs. were condemned as tuberculous, and 395lbs. of heads and offals from 25 carcasses were also destroyed.

3 slaughtermen's licences were granted during the year.

### Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952

The sanitary inspectors are authorised for the purposes of inspection and testing of heating appliances under the Act.

10 inspections were made during the year, and no adverse comments were made.

### Offensive trades

There are no offensive trades carried on in the borough.

### Food work generally

Mr. Thomas, the group food inspector, in commenting on the fact that the amount of food condemned during the year fell by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons as compared with 1954 states that this is almost entirely because butchers have no longer to accept meat allocated to them but can themselves buy what they require and can see, at the same time, the quality and condition of the carcasses. Another factor has been the return to the practice of the wholesalers giving credit notes for blown tinned goods which are returned to them.

Amongst the samples taken during the year were a number of hot milks purchased in restaurants, and some of these were found to be adulterated with water. This adulteration is usually caused by the addition of hot steam to cold milk in order to produce a so-called "hot milk." The result is of course a mixture of milk and water which cannot legally be sold as "milk."

On the quality of sausages there is at the moment no legal standard for meat content, and any action taken is on the certificate of the Public Analyst which is itself based on the now repealed minimum standard of 65 percent for pork and 50 percent for beef sausages. It is obvious that a sausage containing 60 percent of prime quality pork is superior to one containing 65 percent of inferior pork — probably derived from an old boar or sow — and it would seem that price cannot be divorced from quality.

The composition of the icecream samples was well above the legal standard and the matter of the bacteriological examination of the samples can be regarded as satisfactory. A number of complaints were received from the public of foreign bodies in food and this is almost invariably due to carelessness. Difficulties with staff are usually put forward as an excuse but the fact remains that with normal care these complaints need never arise. In addition to the complaints which are brought to our notice there must be quite a number where the customer does not take any further action.

In conclusion, the group food inspector thinks it would be fair to say that progress has been made in the hygienic condition of food premises generally and that the food sold in the borough has been of a good standard.

## SECTION F — PREVALENCE OF and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### PRINCIPAL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The undermentioned diseases are notifiable by medical practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health :—

Anthrax	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Cholera	Plague
Continued fever	Pneumonia, acute influenzal
Diphtheria	Pneumonia, acute primary
Dysentery (bacillary or amoebic)	Poliomyelitis, acute
Encephalitis, acute	Puerperal pyrexia
Enteric fever	Relapsing fever
Erysipelas	Scabies
Food poisoning	Scarlet fever
Glanders	Smallpox
Hydrophobia	Tuberculosis, all forms
Malaria	Typhoid fever, including paratyphoid
Measles	Typhus fever
Membranous croup	Whooping cough
Meningococcal infection	

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Number of notified cases** (corrected for revised diagnosis) during the year 1955 with comparative figures for the previous six years.

Table 35

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Cases notified</i>						
	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Anthrax ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Dysentery... ..	92	394	84	169	365	63	9
Encephalitis (acute) ... ..	—	—	3	—	5	1	—
Enteric or typhoid fever ... ..	1	1	2	—	4	1	3
Erysipelas ... ..	26	24	18	19	24	41	35
Food poisoning ... ..	48	110	32	33	26	38	50
Malaria ... ..	1	3	2	1	1	2	1
Measles ... ..	3905	521	2082	2183	2546	2084	1940
Meningococcal infection... ..	4	6	10	5	6	7	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum ... ..	4	2	3	4	3	3	6
Pneumonia ... ..	121	77	189	89	173	108	84
Poliomyelitis (acute) ... ..	63	16	52	15	11	38	35
Puerperal pyrexia ... ..	92	59	57	88	63	29	27
Scabies ... ..	18	14	5	18	21	22	29
Scarlet fever ... ..	158	331	283	379	215	358	521
Tuberculosis ... ..	271	256	341	307	299	406	371
Whooping cough... ..	412	449	574	512	819	813	363
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>5217</b>	<b>2263</b>	<b>3738</b>	<b>3822</b>	<b>5581</b>	<b>3608</b>	<b>3109</b>

Notifications of infectious diseases in 1955 showing sex and age groups

Table 36

Diseases	Under 1		1-		3-		5-		10-		15-		25-		45-		65 plus		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	4	10	11	7	6	11	12	1	4	1	2	3	12	—	7	—	1	33	59
Enteric and Paratyphoid fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	4	8	5	4	11	15
Food poisoning ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	16	2	10	3	7	—	1	9	39
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	56	44	422	366	500	474	952	1026	17	17	10	4	5	11	—	1	—	—	1962	1943
Meningococcal infection	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia ...	3	1	2	1	3	2	8	7	—	3	6	5	13	12	20	11	10	14	65	56
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	1	1	3	1	2	1	11	8	1	1	2	3	4	3	1	—	—	—	25	18
Poliomyelitis (nonparalytic)	3	1	1	—	2	1	3	—	4	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	16	4
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	55	—	1	—	—	—	92
Scabies ...	—	1	1	2	1	—	4	1	1	2	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	8	10
Scarlet fever ...	—	—	8	7	18	16	46	49	4	7	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	77	81
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	3	1	3	24	52	44	48	39	15	20	1	133	122
Tuberculosis (nonrespiratory)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	1	5	3	2	—	—	5	11
Whooping cough ...	23	17	38	42	38	66	71	87	6	13	—	1	1	7	—	2	—	—	177	235
Totals ...	90	73	489	432	574	566	1108	1197	36	52	48	124	76	169	70	57	35	21	2526	2691

## Analysis of certain diseases in table 36 into divisional areas—

Table 37

Disease	Div. areas	Under 1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Total
Dysentery ...	W	2	5	2	5	2	1	2	2	-	21
	N	1	9	4	3	2	1	1	-	1	22
	S	1	7	7	15	1	1	12	5	-	49
	Total	4	21	13	23	5	3	15	7	1	92
Measles ...	W	27	290	365	639	12	3	8	-	-	1,344
	N	30	222	256	598	10	5	2	1	-	1,124
	S	43	276	353	741	12	6	6	-	-	1,437
	Total	100	788	974	1,978	34	14	16	1	-	3,905
Pneumonia ...	W	1	-	2	1	-	5	9	4	5	27
	N	2	2	2	8	-	1	8	9	11	43
	S	1	1	1	6	3	5	8	18	8	51
	Total	4	3	5	15	3	11	25	31	24	121
Poliomyelitis ...	W	2	-	2	10	3	3	3	1	-	24
	N	2	2	4	10	1	2	3	-	-	24
	S	2	3	-	2	3	2	3	-	-	15
	Total	6	5	6	22	7	7	9	1	-	63
Scarlet fever ...	W	-	7	18	27	3	-	1	1	-	57
	N	-	1	6	17	3	-	-	-	-	27
	S	-	7	10	51	5	1	-	-	-	74
	Total	-	15	34	95	11	1	1	1	-	158
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	W	-	4	-	-	-	25	35	13	6	83
	N	-	-	1	1	1	21	31	21	9	85
	S	-	-	-	2	3	30	26	20	6	87
	Total	-	4	1	3	4	76	92	54	21	255
Whooping cough	W	9	28	27	46	5	-	-	-	-	115
	N	5	21	31	31	5	-	1	-	-	94
	S	26	31	46	81	9	1	7	2	-	203
	Total	40	80	104	158	19	1	8	2	-	412

## Infectious disease visiting

The Council employs two infectious disease visitors whose duty it is to visit the homes of persons who are stated to be suffering from a notifiable infectious disease. Both infectious disease visitors are state registered nurses, and also registered fever nurses. The work they do is in addition to visits paid by the food inspectors to cases of food poisoning and by the district sanitary inspectors on certain other occasions.

The work of the infectious disease visitors as agents of the medical officer of health includes the investigation of home conditions, the giving of advice to patients and contacts, particularly where the patient is left at home, and in general the taking of such measures as may be necessary to combat the spread of infection.

The following is a summary of the work in visiting infectious diseases carried out during the year which is in addition to the visits paid by the sanitary inspectors referred to in table 20:—

Table 38

	W	N	S	Total
Visits ... ..	462	355	641	1458
Futile visits ...	380	379	568	1327
Revisits ... ..	256	210	265	731
Total ... ..	1098	944	1474	3516

### Poliomyelitis

1955 had the highest incidence of poliomyelitis since the epidemic of 1947. 63 cases were confirmed and of these 43 were paralytic and 20 non-paralytic. They were fairly well distributed over the borough, 24 being in the west, 24 in the north, and 15 in the south divisions. 41 were males and 22 females. Table 39 gives figures for this borough over the last 9 years, the time during which the incidence has been high.

Table 39

Year (a)	Intimated to Dept. (b)	Removed to hospital (c)	Confirmed (d)	(d) as % age of (b) (e)
1947	176	172	76	43
8	26	25	9	35
9	83	79	41	49
1950	93	90	38	41
1	33	33	11	33
2	30	30	15	50
3	83	79	52	63
4	33	32	16	48
5	103	100	63	61
TOTAL	660	640	321	49

Altogether it will be seen that there have been over 300 confirmed cases of poliomyelitis in the borough beginning with the year 1947. The next table gives various comparisons between each of these last nine years.

Table 40

Year	Confirmed cases	Division			No. of weeks with 3 or more cases	Type		Sex		Age groups							Result*				
		W	N	S		Para-lytic	N-P	M	F	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Died	Compl. recov.	Paralysed		Un-known
																			Severe	Mild	
1947 %	76	26 34	24 32	26 34	10	47 62	29 38	43 57	33 43	2 3	23 30	27 35	11 15	12 16	1 1	- 0	7 10	22 32	20 29	19 28	8 -
1948 %	9	3 33	4 45	2 22	1	5 56	4 44	4 44	5 56	- 0	2 22	3 34	2 22	2 22	- 0	- 0	- 0	5 63	1 12	2 25	1 -
1949 %	41	13 32	13 32	15 36	5	29 71	12 29	25 61	16 39	5 12	14 34	13 32	5 12	4 10	- 0	- 0	3 8	14 38	10 27	10 27	4 -
1950 %	38	13 34	10 26	15 40	6	26 68	12 32	19 50	19 50	1 3	11 29	11 29	9 23	6 16	- 0	- 0	- 0	14 40	12 34	9 26	3 -
1951 %	11	3 27	3 27	5 46	Nil	2 18	9 82	8 73	3 27	- 0	5 46	1 9	1 9	4 36	- 0	- 0	- 0	8 89	- 0	1 11	2 -
1952 %	15	3 20	4 27	8 53	Nil	8 53	7 47	8 53	7 47	- 0	4 27	8 53	1 7	2 13	- 0	- 0	- 0	8 53	4 27	3 20	- -
1953 %	52	25 48	14 27	13 25	10	35 67	17 33	22 42	30 58	3 6	13 25	21 40	10 19	5 10	- 0	- 0	2 4	22 44	13 26	13 26	2 -
1954 %	16	3 19	8 50	5 31	Nil	4 25	12 75	8 50	8 50	1 6	6 38	6 38	2 12	1 6	- 0	- 0	- 0	15 93	- 0	1 7	- -
1955 %	63	24 38	24 38	15 24]	10	43 68	20 32	38 60	25 40	5 8	12 19	28 44	8 13	9 14	1 2	- 0	2 3	32 53	8 13	19 31	2 -
Total %	321	113 36	104 32	104 32	-	199 62	122 38	173 55	146 45	17 5	90 28	118 37	49 15	45 14	2 1	- 0	14 5	140 46	68 23	77 26	22 -

\*The percentages in these columns relate to the traced cases.

The following points of interest may be noted: the rough similarity of the three divisions of the borough in the number of cases; the fairly constant ratio of paralytic to non-paralytic cases (except to some extent in non-epidemic years); the variations from year to year in the sexes (but giving a small preponderance of boys over the total period); the fact that only two persons over 45 years of age were affected in the whole nine years, while approximately one-third were under 5 and one-third were of school age; and the total result that about one in twenty dies, five in twenty have severe paralysis, five in twenty have a mild paralysis and nine in twenty recover completely. These figures are from statistics collected to some extent this year; some of the cases could not be traced, as indicated in the table.

### Measles, dysentery, whooping cough

Notes on the incidence of these diseases are included in the introduction to this report.

### Tuberculosis

The age distribution of the new cases of tuberculosis notified by formal notifications and the deaths from tuberculosis during the year are shown in the following table:—

Table 41

Age periods	New cases notified						Deaths					
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	3	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	11	32	-	2	11	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	13	20	1	1	14	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	28	28	1	1	29	29	1	2	-	1	1	3
35-	16	20	-	4	16	24	5	1	-	2	5	3
45-	19	12	2	2	21	14	6	1	1	-	7	1
55-	20	3	1	-	21	3	3	3	-	-	3	3
65-	19	1	-	-	19	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
75+	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	133	122	5	11	138	133	15	7	1	3	16	10

Analysis of new cases of tuberculosis into divisional areas :—

Table 42

Division		Sex	0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
West	Respiratory ...	M	-	2	2	-	-	4	6	8	8	6	5	5	-	46
		F	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	13	6	2	-	1	-	37
	Non-respiratory ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
	Total ...	M	-	2	2	-	-	4	7	9	8	6	5	5	-	48
		F	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	13	7	3	-	1	-	39
North	Respiratory ...	M	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	10	7	10	6	8	1	49
		F	-	-	-	1	-	6	10	5	9	4	1	-	-	36
	Non-respiratory ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	4
	Total ...	M	-	-	1	-	1	2	3	10	7	10	6	8	1	49
		F	-	-	-	1	-	6	11	6	11	4	1	-	-	40
South	Respiratory ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	10	1	3	9	6	-	38
		F	-	-	-	2	3	16	5	10	5	6	2	-	-	49
	Non-respiratory ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
		F	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	5
	Total ...	M	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	10	1	5	10	6	-	41
		F	-	-	-	3	3	18	5	10	6	7	2	-	-	54

Points to be noted in the above table are : (1) the relatively high number of cases in the age group 15-20, where there were 43 cases of respiratory tuberculosis of which 32 were female ; and (2) the total female to male preponderance in respiratory tuberculosis in the South division. Since 1952 the proportion of female to male cases there has been 88 percent, 78 percent, 80 percent, and, last year, 129 percent. This difference may be due to chance, or to selective mass x-ray, or to some other cause.

## Summary of statistics as to tuberculosis for the last ten years

Table 43

Year	Population	New cases notified (all forms) (excluding in- ward transfers)	Notif. rate per thousand pop.	Deaths		Death rate from resp. tuberculosis per thousand pop.	
				All forms	Respiratory	Lewisham	County of London
1946	207,410	437	2.11	126	110	0.53	0.59
1947	221,170	426	1.93	134	121	0.55	0.60
1948	226,100	502	2.22	119	109	0.48	0.56
1949	227,700	371	1.63	107	92	0.40	0.47
1950	228,300	406	1.78	72	66	0.29	0.36
1951	227,200	299	1.32	68	60	0.26	0.34
1952	227,100	307	1.35	42	35	0.15	0.28
1953	225,800	341	1.51	48	44	0.19	0.21
1954	224,200	256	1.14	38	36	0.16	0.18
1955	223,400	271	1.21	26	22	0.10	0.16

General comments on tuberculosis are made in the introduction of this report (*page 4*).

## Tuberculosis — environmental conditions

Case papers of patients attending the Lewisham Chest Clinic in 1955 have been analysed in 349 cases with the following results:—

					<i>Cases</i>	<i>%*</i>
Males	...	...	...	...	181	52
Females	...	...	...	...	168	48
Social classification:—						
Class I	...	...	...	...	1	1
Class II	...	...	...	...	29	9
Class III	...	...	...	...	227	69
Class IV	...	...	...	...	34	11
Class V	...	...	...	...	32	10
Not classifiable	...	...	...	...	26	—
Rooms occupied:—						
2 or more rooms per person	...	...	...	...	43	12
1-2 rooms per person	...	...	...	...	212	61
Less than 1 room per person	...	...	...	...	92	27
No information	...	...	...	...	2	—
Accommodation:—						
Separate bed	...	...	...	...	143	41
Separate bedroom	...	...	...	...	108	31
Condition of premises occupied:—						
Good...	...	...	...	...	246	72
Fair	...	...	...	...	80	23
Poor	...	...	...	...	16	5
No information	...	...	...	...	7	—

*\*Excluding cases not classified*

### Mass radiography unit

I am indebted to the Director of the Unit for information of work done in the borough during 1955 on which the following table is based. The Unit during the course of the year was stationed at nine different locations in the borough, the time spent varying from two days to six weeks.

Table 44

<i>Patients</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
General analysis			
X-rayed ... ..	6,153	6,176	12,329
Previously x-rayed ... ..	4,056	3,310	7,366
Recalled for large film ... ..	220	200	420
Normal on large film ... ..	80	91	171
Abnormal on large film ... ..	140	108	248
Not yet re-attended... ..	—	1	1
Analysis of abnormal large films :—			
Cases considered tuberculous :—			
(a) no further action required ...	—	1	1
(b) occasional supervision only ...	12	7	19
(c) requiring treatment... ..	21	18	39
(d) still under investigation ...	1	1	2
Non-tuberculous cases :—			
(a) investigated ... ..	16	11	27
(b) still under investigation ...	1	—	1
Cardio-vascular lesions ... ..	9	12	21
Previously known tuberculous cases	5	9	14
No action required ... ..	75	49	124

All surveys included in the above summary were open to the general public.

### Immunisation against infectious disease

The publicity campaign sponsored by the Ministry of Health in connection with diphtheria prophylaxis was continued. In a circular issued by the Ministry it is shown that since 1945 notifications had fallen from over 18,000 in that year to a new low figure of 161 (provisional) for 1955. The Minister expresses the hope that authorities will continue the campaign with renewed vigour during 1956 and that particular efforts will be made in areas where there is a low percentage of immunised children under five.

The number of children immunised throughout the country under local authority arrangements (including those immunised by family doctors) from the beginning of 1940 to 30 June, 1955, was 11,685,523. During the first half of 1955, 278,875 children were immunised, of whom 125,673 were under one year of age. The objective of the campaign is still to secure immunisation of not less than 75 percent of babies before their first birthday, the objective for 1956 being 486,000 children under one year. In 1951, only 28 percent of the number of babies reaching the age of one year were immunised; in 1952 the

figure rose to 31 percent, slightly declining to 30.4 percent in 1953, and rising to 36 percent in 1954. In the first half of 1955 it rose to 38.4 percent. The Minister points out that elimination of diphtheria is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation and that if parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, particularly among the 0-4 age group where the fatality ratio is still high in comparison with other age groups.

Although the provision of an immunisation service for diphtheria, whooping cough, smallpox or other diseases, is the responsibility of the London county council, the Lewisham borough council is always willing to assist the county council in the dissemination of propaganda and in any other way which will secure the immunisation of the maximum number of children.

I am indebted to the Divisional Medical Officer of the London county council for the information on which the following table is based :—

Immunisation against diphtheria ; whooping cough ; smallpox

Table 45

Age at December 31, 1955	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Born in year ... ..	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950-46	1945-41	
(i) Diphtheria and combined diphtheria and whooping cough :—								
immunised during year	329	1,883	160	74	66	208	7	2,727
immunised at end of year	329	2,201	2,660	2,155	2,812	14,578	14,947	39,682
Estimated mid-year population ... ..	16,000					32,200		48,200
(ii) Whooping cough (including combined)—								
Immunised during year (age at date of immunisation) ... ..	1,537	574	158	86	56	62	3	2,476

(iii) Vaccination.

Vaccinated during the year (age at date of vaccination)	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Primary :—					
at clinics ... ..	897	67	17	20	1,001
by General Practitioners	718	132	54	97	1,001
Revaccination :—					
at clinics and day nurseries	—	10	20	103	133
by General Practitioners	1	6	23	259	289

## APPENDIX A

Acts of Parliament, Statutory Instruments and Circular Letters issued by Government Departments with regard to the public health services, during the year 1955 :—

## Statutes

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

## Statutory Instruments

No. 554	The Transfer of Functions (Ministry of Food) Order, 1955.
828	The Food Standards (Table Jellies) (Amendment) Order, 1955.
917	Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.
959	The Transfer of Functions (Food and Drugs) Order, 1955.
1134	The Poisons List Order, 1955.
1135	The Poisons Rules, 1955.
1898	The Food and Drugs Act, 1954 (Appointed Day) Order, 1955.
1899	The Food Standards (Butter and Margarine) Regulations, 1955.
1900	The Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.
1901	Mineral Oil in Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.
1906	The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

## Ministry of Health

*Circulars.*

No. 5	Diphtheria prophylaxis — publicity campaign.
17	Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1955.

## Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

*Circulars.*

No. 1	Myxomatosis in rabbits and hares.
4	Standard for table jellies.
5	Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.
6	The Transfer of Functions (Food and Drugs) Order, 1955.
8	Milk and Dairies Regulations — approved oxidising and preservative agents.
10	Approved Oxidising and Preservative Agents Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.
11	Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1955 : Food Standards (Butter and Margarine) Regulations, 1955.
13	Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
14	Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

## Ministry of Housing and Local Government

*Circulars.*

No. 59	Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Part II Return of certificates of disrepair.
73	Slum clearance compensation.

## General Register Office

*Circulars.*

No. 2	Infectious and other notifiable diseases — quarterly return.
3	Annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, 1954 — vital statistics.

## APPENDIX B

## Legal Proceedings in 1955

The following are details of legal proceedings instituted during the year :—

## PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936

<i>Nature of summons</i>	<i>No. of summonses</i>	<i>Total fines</i>	<i>Total costs</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Failure to comply with requirements of nuisance notices.	55	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. 31 7 6	In 31 cases abatement orders were made. In the remaining cases the summonses were adjourned, withdrawn or not served.
Failure to comply with requirements of an abatement order in connection with nuisance notices.	2	5 0 0	2 0 0	—
Authority to exercise powers to enter premises under section 274.	1	—	—	Warrant granted.
Failure to comply with requirements of notice served under section 122 (cleansing or destruction of filthy or verminous articles).	1	—	—	Abatement order made.
Failure to comply with requirements of an abatement order in connection with section 122.	1	2 2 0	—	—
Failure to comply with notices requiring the provision of dustbins.	2	—	—	Withdrawn. Dustbins provided.
Contraventions of byelaws 6(4)(a) and 12 of the drainage byelaws made by LCC.	2	5 0 0	2 0 0	—
Continuing offence against byelaw 12.	1	—	—	Withdrawn. Work completed.
Contravention of byelaw (1) made by the LCC (bones and meat in state of putrefaction removed by road during prohibited hours.)	1	2 2 0	1 1 0	—
Contravention of byelaw (1) made by the LCC (failing to remove offensive matter in suitable carriage).	1	2 2 0	—	—

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) ACTS

<i>Nature of summons</i>	<i>No. of summonses</i>	<i>Total fines</i>	<i>Total costs</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Delivery of toys to children by rag and bone dealer contrary to section 26 of the Act of 1952.	1	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. —	Absolute discharge.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 and 1948

Nature of summons	No. of summonses	Total fines			Total costs			Remarks
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Failing to cause inside of meat van to be kept clean.	1	—	—	—	5	5	0	Absolute discharge.
Ditto ditto	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Summonses dismissed.
Failing to cause meat to be adequately covered when conveyed in vehicle.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Summons dismissed.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Nature of summons	No. of summonses	Total fines			Total costs			Remarks
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
<i>Contraventions of section 3</i>								
Sale of pork pie containing hair.	1	5	0	0	—	—	—	—
Milk containing glass ...	1	8	0	0	1	1	0	—
Banbury cake containing piece of glass.	1	5	0	0	1	1	0	—
Bread containing fragments of insect.	1	10	0	0	5	5	0	—
Sausages containing glass ...	1	5	0	0	1	1	0	—
Bread containing tooth ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Withdrawn.
Hot milk containing extraneous water.	5	9	9	0	3	3	0	—
Cake containing nail ...	1	3	3	0	1	1	0	—
Mince pie containing piece of metal.	1	10	10	0	1	1	0	—
Bread containing piece of string.	2	8	8	0	2	2	0	—
Icecream deficient in fat ...	1	5	0	0	—	—	—	—
<i>Contravention of section 14(6)</i>								
Failure to notify Local Authority that as new occupier of premises, defendant wished to continue sale of icecream.	1	—	—	—	7	6	—	Summons withdrawn. Registration effected.
<i>Contraventions of section 13</i>								
Subs. 1 (c) (d) (h) ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Summonses not served owing to disappearance of defendant.
Subs. 1 ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	0	Absolute discharge.
<i>Contravention of section 9</i>								
Sale of bread and butter said to be bread and margarine.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Summons not served owing to disappearance of defendant.

## APPEALS

<i>Nature of Appeal</i>	<i>Result</i>
By owner against notice served requiring him to provide dustbin for use of tenant.	Appeal upheld. Tenant ordered to provide dustbin.
By applicant against refusal by Council to register premises for sale and storage of icecream under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Appeal allowed.
By owner against notice served requiring him to provide dustbin for use of tenant.	Appeal dismissed.
Against conviction for failing to cause inside of van used for conveyance of meat to be kept clean.	Appeal dismissed. £15 15s. 0d. costs awarded.

## APPENDIX C

List of special reports submitted to the Health Committee by the Medical Officer of Health during 1955 :—

January 11	Work generally under ss. 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936.
January 11	Report of the committee on air pollution.
March 8	Workrooms for the elderly.
March 8	Student sanitary inspectors.
April 19	Workrooms for the elderly.
July 5	Omission of natural lighting and ventilation to waterclosets.
July 5	Housing: repairs and clearance.
October 4	Houses in multiple occupation (See appendix D).

## APPENDIX D

## HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 allow the Borough Council to serve notices (a) requiring adequate provision of various amenities and facilities in houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family and (b) specifying in relation to any room on the premises the maximum number of persons by whom it is suitable to be occupied for sleeping purposes. The person in control of the house must, on receipt of a notice, and if he is unable to carry out the works required, take such steps as are reasonably open to him (including if necessary the taking of legal proceedings) for securing a reduction in the number of persons or households accommodated.

To help owners and agents the Committee adopted certain standards which can be used as guides, though it is stressed that each house coming into review is treated entirely on its individual merits. Nevertheless it was thought that these guides might be of great use to agents and owners. They are as under.

## STANDARDS

## (1) Natural lighting

- (a) Provision and maintenance in every habitable room of a window or windows opening directly to the external air and having a glass area equal to one-tenth of the floor area and an openable area equal to one-twentieth of the floor area.
- (b) Provision and maintenance, wherever practicable, of adequate means of natural light to a common staircase.

## (2) Ventilation

Provision and maintenance of adequate means of ventilation for every passage, room, water closet apartment and staircase.

## (3) Water supply

- (a) Provision of one tap per floor and if more than one letting one tap per letting, from the rising main if practicable. In addition, provision of a sink of suitable size and pattern and efficient means for the carrying off of any waste water from the tap.
- (b) Provision in every hostel, boarding house, guest house, and boarding school of a water supply reasonably accessible to the occupants of each sleeping room.

## (4) Sanitary conveniences

- (a) Provision and maintenance of one readily accessible water closet for every four habitable rooms, or one readily accessible water closet for every eight persons irrespective of age, whichever standard is higher.
- (b) Provision for single room lettings of one water closet for every four lettings, such water closet to be not more than one floor distant.

## (5) Facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food

Provision of separate kitchen facilities for every family. Such facilities to comprise a sink with piped water supply over, a proper waste pipe, and a food cupboard ventilated to the external air of dimensions of not less than:—

for a one room letting ...	...	...	...	3 cu. ft.
for a two room letting ...	...	...	...	4 cu. ft.
for a three room letting ...	...	...	...	6 cu. ft.
for a dwelling comprising more than three rooms ...	...	...	...	8 cu. ft.

NOTE (a) Kitchen facilities can be provided in a living room providing the room is of adequate size, or alternatively they can be provided on a landing so long as the landing is sufficiently large, ventilated and separate for the use of one family.

NOTE (b) Where a room is let to one person and no meals are provided, a kitchenette is to be available for each individual room, or one equipped kitchen provided on every floor.

## (6) Sleeping accommodation

- (a) A bedroom under 70 square feet is to be regarded as suitable for one person.  
 A bedroom 70–90 square feet is to be regarded as suitable for a maximum of two persons.  
 A bedroom 90–110 square feet is to be regarded as suitable for a maximum of three persons.  
 A bedroom over 110 square feet is to be assessed by the committee.  
 Underground rooms are not permitted to be used for sleeping purposes.

NOTE :—A person is an individual over one year of age.

- (b) The provision in hostels and boarding schools of a minimum floor space of 60 square feet for each individual.

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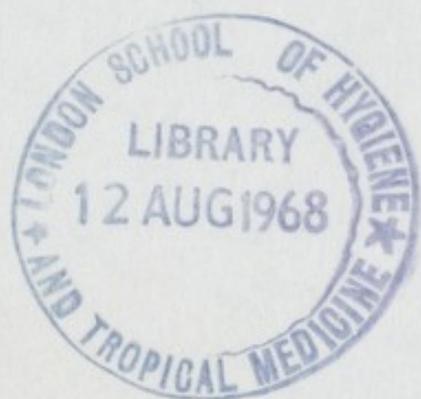
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