

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Paddington, Metropolitan Borough of].

Contributors

Paddington (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.
Stewart, Alvaro Betancourt.

Publication/Creation

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Metropolitan Borough of Paddington

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948

A. B. STEWART, M.D., D.P.H.



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His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Metropolitan Borough of Paddington.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1948.

During the year there have been many changes in the structure of the Health Services. The introduction of the National Health Service has radically altered the administration of the curative services and transferred the personal health services to the County Council.

When the Public Health Act of 1848 was being passed, Macaulay had published in that year his "History of England." His confidence in the future was such that he wrote "It may well be in the twentieth century . . . that sanitary police and medical discoveries may have added several more years to the average length of human life." Macaulay was proved correct in his prophecy, but at the time of writing there does not appear to be an equivalent contemporary historian willing to write in similar terms concerning our future.

Many of the troubles which have followed the introduction of the National Health Service, and which have been widely publicised, are of a temporary nature and will disappear when supply and demand become adjusted. On the other hand, problems relating to staff and to new building are not to be easy to solve. In our health publicity we would do well to emphasise that the health services are worth paying for and that improvement and expansion cost money.

Readers of the statistical tables will note that both the birth and death rates have been reduced. The reduction in the birth rate was expected as the immediate post-war higher birth rate was bound to fall. The marriage rate has also been reduced. It is gratifying, however, to be able to record once again that the infant death rate is the lowest yet recorded in Paddington.

Although tuberculosis remains a great medical and social problem, it will be noted that the death rate has fallen almost to the 1938 level. The figures for the distribution of notified cases show a large increase in Hyde Park Ward, from 26 to 39. Although we have no ward population figures to guide us we think that there may be an increase in the population in the ward due to the increase of multi-occupation of premises, and probably also to an increase in the number of persons living in boarding houses in the area. An analysis of these cases shows that the increase has not occurred in Council requisitioned premises.

Parents have come to accept diphtheria immunisation as an accepted item of routine in the care of their children; as a result diphtheria is no longer the most dangerous infectious disease in children. Only ten cases were notified during the year but after correction only three were proved to be suffering from diphtheria. This is in striking contrast to the incidence of the disease in the past, e.g. in 1928 there were 302 cases and in 1938, 229. The infectious diseases which proved most troublesome to children during the year were measles and whooping cough. Although deaths were few, many children develop troublesome complications which may cause ill-health in later life.

The figures relating to environmental hygiene show signs that the war-time arrears of work are being overtaken, but the work of the sanitary inspectors remained heavy. In view of the smaller number of complaints received it was possible to pay greater attention to basements, and a survey of these premises, similar to the pre-war surveys, has been commenced. Another aspect of this work to which we were able to devote greater attention was the method of completing comprehensive repairs to premises which is possible under Section 9 of the Housing Act. This type of work is especially useful where there is danger of a general deterioration of property. It is work which benefits both tenant and owner, but during the year instances were met with of persons, owners of property in a small way, who found it exceedingly difficult to carry out the work owing to the high cost of repairs. It has been the experience of this department that the present cost of repairs bears little relationship to the value of many of the premises, or to the income from rent. In certain cases it is possible for the Council to carry out repair work and recover the cost from the rent.

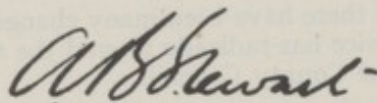
The supervision of food premises and food inspection work is carried out by this department in close collaboration with the local food office. The work of the food inspectors has resulted in considerable improvements to various food premises during the year. In particular, extensive alterations to ice-cream factories have been carried out.

In conclusion I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Members of the Council for their support in Public Health matters, also to my colleagues of other departments and to all members of the Public Health Department staff.

I have the honour to be—

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
15, PARK PLACE VILLAS,
PADDINGTON GREEN, W.2.

June 11th, 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS (on December 31st, 1948).—W.T. = Whole-time appointments. P.T. = Part-time appointments.

Medical Officer of Health, P.T.

A. B. Stewart, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Analyst., P.T.

Alan W. Stewart, D.Sc., A.I.C.

Clerical Staff—W.T.

S. W. Ruffey (Chief Clerk).

A. J. O. Sheppard.

R. I. Fisher.

H. J. Parker.

S. W. Wordingham.

A. G. L. E. Houghton.

J. T. G. Warby.

L. Allchin.

E. J. Cleaver.

D. J. Myers.

A. H. Lawrence.

B. W. Godden.

E. Craddock.

Miss D. Smeaton.

Miss P. Wheeler.

Mrs. M. J. P. Miller.

Miss E. Low.

G. A. Fraser.

V. A. Vickers.

C. Chesterman.

D. B. Hooper.

F. H. Free.

B. W. James.

R. Fowler.

N. E. Broom.

J. B. Jones.

Miss E. Z. Amor.

Mortuary Assistant—W.T.

C. C. Lewis.

Lady Sanitary Inspectors—W.T.

Miss D. M. Newhall.

Mortuary Superintendent—W.T.

L. W. J. Spears.

Rodent Officer—W.T.

W. A. Dunkley.

and 16 Disinfecting, Fumigation, Rodent Control and Porter Staff.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1948.

Throughout this Report figures shown in brackets relate to the year 1947, and are given for comparison.
Area of Borough : 1,356.1 acres, including waterways 20.0 acres.

Population : Registrar-General's estimate of Civilian Population at middle of year : 128,100 (127,450).

Inhabited Houses (end of year) according to Rate Books—22,041 (21,148).

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	1,050 (1,080)	997 (1,094)	2,047 (2,174)
Illegitimate	167 (173)	139 (173)	306 (346)
Totals	1,217 (1,253)	1,136 (1,267)	2,353 (2,520)

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 18.37 (19.77)

STILLBIRTHS :

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	18 (23)	21 (24)	39 (47)
Illegitimate	5 (7)	6 (3)	11 (10)
Totals	23 (30)	27 (27)	50 (57)
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	20.81 (22.12)

	Males	Females	Totals
DEATHS (all ages)	704 (813)	677 (754)	1,381 (1,567)
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	10.78 (12.29)

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :

Puerperal Sepsis ..	2 (-)	..	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	..	..	0.83 (0.00)
Other Puerperal Causes	1 (1)	..	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	..	..	0.42 (0.39)
Total ..	3 (1)	..	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	..	..	1.24 (0.39)

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE : ..								Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41 (47)	29 (50)	70 (97)
Illegitimate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 (7)	3 (5)	15 (12)
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53 (54)	32 (55)	85 (109)

Death Rates of Infants Under One Year of Age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36 (43)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34 (45)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49 (35)

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS :

Pulmonary (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69 (71)
Other forms (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 (12)

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 estimated civilian population .. 0.54 (0.56)

Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis per 1,000 estimated civilian population.. 0.63 (0.65)

RATEABLE VALUE £1,750,252 (£1,748,335)

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE £6,762 (£6,684)

GENERAL SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Reg. General's Estimate of Population.	LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR		MATERNAL DEATHS		TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS (ALL FORMS)	
		Number. •	Rate.	Number. •	Rate.	Number. •	Rate.	Number. •	Rate.	Number •	Rate.
1901	143,976	3359	23.29	2163	15.00	455	135	9	2.1	223	1.53
1911	142,541	2977	20.88	1885	13.22	388	129	10	3.3	212	1.48
1921	145,600	2859	19.63	1758	12.06	265	92	13	4.54	125	0.86
1931	140,300	2075	14.79	1831	13.05	182	87	10	4.63	138	0.98
1938	137,400	1888	13.74	1557	11.33	125	66	3	1.53	81	0.59
1939	135,300	1812	13.39	1608	12.74	106	60	8	4.38	95	0.75
1940	97,860	1556	15.90	1766	18.04	88	59	4	2.61	86	0.88
1941	77,640	1217	15.67	1418	18.26	64	60	4	3.62	97	1.25
1942	83,640	1397	16.70	1268	15.16	78	56	4	2.77	87	1.04
1943	90,580	1569	17.32	1390	15.32	107	68	2	1.86	79	0.87
1944	93,030	1639	17.62	1388	14.92	100	61	2	1.18	84	0.90
1945	99,790	1712	17.16	1367	13.69	104	61	7	3.97	68	0.68
1946	117,670	2386	20.28	1525	12.96	113	47	4	1.63	100	0.85
1947	127,450	2520	19.77	1567	12.29	109	43	1	0.39	83	0.65
1948	128,100	2353	18.37	1381	10.78	85	36	3	1.24	81	0.63

* Corrected figures after allowing for inward and outward transfers.

BIRTHS.—It is not now possible for detailed ward-analyses of births to be made, as we no longer receive particulars of individual births from the Registrars.

The high birth-rate of 1946 (20.28 per 1,000 civilian population) has not been maintained. The rate fell to 19.77 in 1947 and a further drop to 18.37 for 1948 is revealed. The birth-rate for the Administrative County of London for 1948 was 20.1, and for England and Wales 17.9. The latter rate is, however, based on total population, and not civilian only.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages solemnised in the Borough represented a rate of 28.2 per 1,000 of the population. This is a decrease of 143 marriages compared with 1947, when the rate was 30.6.

DEATHS.—The death-rate of 10.78 is the lowest so far recorded in Paddington, and compares well with the rate of 11.6 for the whole of London. The rate for England and Wales was 10.8, but this, again, is based on total population.

As will be seen from the classified table below, heart disease (332 deaths) and cancer (241 deaths) account between them for just over 41 per cent. of the total number of deaths recorded. Heart disease is largely a disease of old age, and 258 of the deaths from this cause are in the age-group 65 years and upwards. Analysis of the deaths from cancer, however, shows that nearly 50 per cent. were in lower age groups, viz. :—

Age Group	No. of Deaths
1-5 years	1
15-45 "	19
45-65 "	98
Over 65 "	123
	<hr/> 241 <hr/>

Deaths of Residents of the Borough, 1948. Sex-Age Distribution.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All Ages			Deaths at Ages											
				0—		1—		5—		15—		45—		65—	
	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	38	31	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	22	22	7	2	2
Other tuberculous diseases ...	8	4	12	—	1	—	1	2	—	6	1	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic diseases ...	7	7	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	4	3
Influenza ...	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males) ...	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	6	—
Cancer of uterus ...	—	16	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	5
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	12	18	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	7	16
Cancer of breast ...	—	25	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	12	—	10
Cancer of all other sites ...	94	66	160	—	—	1	—	—	—	8	6	42	24	43	36
Diabetes ...	4	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	46	79	125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	11	36	67
Heart disease ...	165	167	332	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	4	46	15	110	148
Other circulatory diseases ...	42	47	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	12	7	29	39
Bronchitis ...	53	34	87	4	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	5	5	40	27
Pneumonia ...	39	42	81	4	7	1	1	—	—	1	3	5	4	28	27
Other respiratory diseases ...	9	8	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	3	6	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	14	8	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	10	2	3	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	6	2	8	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Other digestive diseases ...	15	15	30	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	7	8	7
Nephritis ...	13	11	24	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	9	9
Puerperal sepsis ...	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Premature birth ...	11	7	18	11	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disease ...	23	8	31	22	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Suicide ...	14	15	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	4	3	8	2	3
Road traffic accidents ...	5	3	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	3	1	—
Other violent causes ...	25	20	45	4	4	—	—	—	1	5	4	4	2	12	9
All other causes ...	45	31	76	3	—	1	—	1	—	6	7	4	7	30	17
ALL CAUSES (TOTALS) ...	704	677	1,381	53	32	7	4	5	1	74	66	186	137	379	437

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The rate for infant deaths is falling year by year, and last year the low record of 36 was achieved in Paddington. At the same time it is still a little higher than the rate for the Administrative County of London, which records an infantile mortality rate of 31, the rate for England and Wales being 34.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The low rate of 0.39 per 1,000 live and still births recorded in 1947 would have been repeated in 1948 but for the fact that two of the three deaths recorded under this heading were due to illegally induced abortion.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The year may be regarded as a satisfactory one so far as the incidence of infectious disease was concerned, although measles and whooping cough remained at a fairly high level.

The consistent decline in the incidence of diphtheria is indisputable evidence of the benefit of immunisation, and for the second year in succession there has been no death from this disease.

The number of cases of infective enteritis dropped by nearly 50 per cent., but, although a welcome improvement, the position cannot yet be regarded as satisfactory.

Only six cases of infantile paralysis (acute polio-encephalitis or polio-myelitis) were notified, none of which was fatal.

Notifications.—Following is a table showing the numbers of cases of infectious disease notified in each year from 1940 to 1948 :—

Disease.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Acute Encephalitis lethargica ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
„ Influenzal pneumonia ...	22	8	11	29	11	9	20	18	8 (8)
„ Primary pneumonia ...	80	68	96	53	47	88	100	67	59 (59)
„ Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	— (—)
„ Polio-myelitis ...	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	21	6 (5)
„ Rheumatism ...	9	6	2	5	6	—	9	6	4 (4)
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	24	19	11	9	7	9	4	6	4 (2)
Continued fever ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Diphtheria ...	42	58	38	54	50	51	37	20	10 (3)
Dysentery ...	3	12	35	94	38	86	34	8	13 (11)
Erysipelas ...	43	29	28	29	33	31	23	27	29 (27)
Food poisoning or suspected food poisoning ...	6	4	6	10	3	4	11	17	16 (16)
Infective enteritis or summer diarrhoea ...	24	13	27	84	107	154	143	128	68 (57)
Malaria ...	4	—	3	—	5	2	9	2	3 (3)
Measles ...	253	301	707	592	174	1,046	690	960	1,027 (1,023)
Membranous Croup ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	— (—)
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	20	6	6	8	13	11	5	4	9 (9)
Puerperal fever ...	23	6	5	3	8	25	10	3	1 (1)
Puerperal pyrexia ...	17	25	38	23	24	37	24	16	20 (20)
Scabies (notifiable from 1st August, 1943) ...	—	—	—	246	644	804	726	344	196 (196)
Scarlet fever ...	56	61	110	312	137	126	228	129	147 (134)
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	— (—)
Typhoid or enteric fever ...	5	9	1	3	—	2	—	3	2 (2)
Whooping cough ...	24	170	235	142	156	54	155	227	254 (250)

The number of notifications received is not always indicative of the incidence of infectious disease, as in many cases diagnoses are subsequently varied. The actual number of cases, after such correction, is shown in brackets. It is interesting to note that the total number of cases of diphtheria notified during the year was thereby reduced from ten to three, which is even less than the weekly average in pre-immunisation days.

Bacteriological Examinations.—The number of examinations made in connection with infectious disease was 377, classified as follows :—

Disease	Examinations	Positive Results
Diphtheria	126 (141)	— (2)
Typhoid Fever	6 (—)	3 (—)
Scarlet Fever	31 (5)	13 (—)
Dysentery	9 (4)	2 (—)
Tuberculosis	205 (221)	32 (33)
	<u>377 (371)</u>	<u>50 (35)</u>

Visiting.—The Lady Sanitary Inspectors visit cases of infectious disease, with the exceptions given below, and following is a summary of their work in this connection.

Disease.	No. of Visits.
Acute Rheumatism	13 (63)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	8 (9)
Chickenpox	297 (232)
Diphtheria	40 (57)
Dysentery	29 (22)
Erysipelas	35 (36)
Lice	516 (473)
Malaria	3 (—)
Measles	1,449 (1,432)
Pneumonia	69 (97)
Scabies	833 (1,263)
Scarlet Fever	234 (272)
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	13 (9)
Whooping Cough	380 (405)
Visits to Schools	68 (80)
Miscellaneous	1,168 (1,266)

Typhus and smallpox cases are visited by the male Sanitary Inspectors, food poisoning or suspected food poisoning by the Food Inspectors, puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum and infective enteritis by the London County Council's Health Visitors, and tuberculosis by the Nurses at the Chest Clinic.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification Register.—Three hundred and six new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 23 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, being an increase of 33 pulmonary cases and 1 non-pulmonary case compared with the previous year. The numbers of cases notified in previous years are shown in the following table :

Year	Population	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total Cases	Incidence Rate (all forms) per 1,000 C. Pop.
1911	142,541	397	No record	397 pul.	2.8
1921	145,600	244	91	335	2.3
1931	140,300	213	87	300	2.1
1939	135,300	189	32	221	1.6
1940	97,860	168	37	205	2.1
1941	77,640	184	26	210	2.7
1942	83,640	195	40	235	2.8
1943	90,580	229	28	257	2.8
1944	93,030	233	26	259	2.8
1945	99,790	224	21	245	2.5
1946	117,670	261	24	285	2.4
1947	127,450	273	22	295	2.3
1948	128,100	303	23	329	2.6

The ward distribution of the cases notified during 1948 is as follows :—

WARD	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Queens Park	11 (8)	9 (6)	— (—)	1 (2)	21 (16)
Harrow Road	27 (23)	22 (17)	2 (2)	3 (1)	54 (43)
Maida Vale	28 (28)	29 (31)	— (2)	2 (2)	59 (63)
Westbourne	28 (34)	30 (26)	2 (2)	6 (5)	66 (67)
Church	18 (13)	12 (18)	— (—)	1 (1)	31 (32)
Town	5 (3)	3 (3)	— (—)	— (—)	8 (6)
Lancaster Gate, W.	15 (14)	12 (7)	— (2)	1 (2)	28 (25)
Lancaster Gate, E.	13 (8)	8 (8)	— (1)	2 (—)	23 (17)
Hyde Park	24 (19)	12 (7)	1 (—)	2 (—)	39 (26)
Borough	169 (150)	137 (123)	5 (9)	18 (13)	329 (295)

The following table shows the age distribution of the 329 cases :—

	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total All ages
Pulmonary-Male ..	- (-)	2 (1)	4 (7)	1 (8)	4 (4)	23 (15)	55 (48)	37 (20)	25 (25)	14 (15)	4 (7)	169 (150)
Pulmonary-Female ..	- (-)	- (6)	8 (2)	- (1)	15 (8)	32 (23)	45 (48)	25 (19)	3 (10)	7 (3)	2 (3)	137 (123)
Non-Pulmonary-Male	- (-)	2 (1)	- (2)	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)	2 (1)	1 (2)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)	5 (9)
Non-Pulmonary-Female	- (1)	2 (2)	- (2)	4 (-)	2 (-)	- (-)	5 (3)	3 (3)	- (1)	2 (1)	- (-)	18 (13)
Total	- (1)	6 (10)	12 (13)	5 (10)	21 (12)	55 (39)	107 (100)	66 (44)	28 (37)	23 (19)	6 (10)	329 (295)

The number of cases on the Notification Register at the end of the year was 1,075, against 1,058 at the end of 1947.

Deaths.—The numbers of deaths, and the death rates for each year from 1939 are set out in the following table :—

Year	NO. OF DEATHS FROM		Total Deaths	DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POP.	
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis	All Forms of Tuberculosis
1939	83	12	95	0·66	0·75
1940	72	14	86	0·73	0·88
1941	85	12	97	1·09	1·25
1942	70	17	87	0·83	1·04
1943	74	5	79	0·82	0·87
1944	76	8	84	0·82	0·90
1945	59	9	68	0·59	0·68
1946	95	5	100	0·80	0·85
1947	71	12	83	0·56	0·65
1948	69	12	81	0·54	0·63

Work Carried out at the Chest Clinic.—The following particulars relating to Paddington patients have been supplied by the Chest Clinic :—

No. of patients examined for first time (excluding contacts)	1,360	(1,037)
No. of above found tuberculous	247	(251)
No. of contacts examined	270	(293)
No. of contacts found tuberculous	2	(3)
No. of attendances at Chest Clinic	7,477	(7,965)
No. of visits by Tuberculosis Officers	131	(128)
No. of visits by Tuberculosis Nurses	1,685	(2,015)

VENEREAL DISEASES.—The Borough Council is not concerned with the treatment of venereal diseases, but we call attention to the dangers of the disease by the display of posters and distribution of leaflets. The Council also makes a contribution to the funds of The National Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease.

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY.—Arrangements were made by the London County Council for an X-ray Unit to be available to people working in the Borough, and also to residents, for a period of a fortnight during May. The Unit was installed at premises in Kensington, there being at the time no suitable place available in Paddington.

Employers were invited to allow their staffs to make use of the facilities, and consent was readily given, with the result that attendance from this source reached the satisfactory figure of 2,000. The attention of private residents was called to the opportunity for X-ray by means of posters, advertisements in local papers, and distribution of leaflets from various Council establishments. The result was, however, disappointing, only about 100 residents attending.

In the past certain general statistical data of the results has been furnished by the London County Council, but it is not anticipated that any information will be available in respect of this session, and with the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, control of Miniature Mass Radiography has been transferred to the Hospital Regional Board.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.—The Council is responsible for the administration of two sections of this Act the greater part of which came into force on the 5th July, 1948.

Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.—

This Section takes the place of Section 224 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and embodies the main provisions of that Section, there being only one or two alterations in administrative procedure.

No orders of the Court were applied for under either Act during the year. All the cases brought to the notice of the Department were dealt with informally, admission to hospital or institution being achieved by persuasion in some instances, the remaining cases being found on investigation not to come within the definition laid down, viz. :—
“Persons suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.”

The duties of visiting are assigned to the Lady Sanitary Inspectors, who made 411 calls during the year. It may be mentioned that all cases coming to our knowledge, whether or not coming within the scope of the Act, are periodically visited in case a change of circumstances should occur.

Section 50—Burial or cremation of the dead.—This Section places upon Sanitary Authorities the duty of arranging the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the local authority.

From the 5th July until the end of the year 66 burials had been arranged, there being no cremations.

MORTUARY.—382 bodies were taken to the Mortuary, a decrease of 34 over the number for 1947. Inquests were held in 169 cases, and Coroner's Certificates were issued in 197. The remaining 16 bodies were taken to the Mortuary to await burial.

WATER SUPPLY.—No complaints were received during the year as to the quality of the water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. The Board reported 9 cases of water being cut off owing to wastage or non-payment of rates, this being a legal requirement. In all cases the supplies were reinstated without undue delay following appropriate action by the Public Health Department.

The Medical Officer of Health and the several Sanitary Inspectors have been authorised, by resolution of the Council, to act for the purposes of Section 14 of the Water Act, 1945. This empowers the specified officers to enter any premises for the purpose of inspection to see that there is no waste of water, and generally to see that the provisions of Section 14 are being carried out.

FUMIGATION SERVICE AND CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS ROOMS.—Very good use continues to be made of the Fumigation Service, 740 rooms being fumigated and 729 sprayed at the request of owners. The use of the service is invariably offered informally before serving notice under Section 123 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936. The effect of this procedure is that the number of notices requiring to be served has been reduced to negligible proportions.

DISINFECTING STATION AND MEDICINAL BATHS.—Approximately 14 tons of bedding etc. were dealt with in the steam disinfector, and 312 rooms were disinfected with formalin after the occurrence of infectious disease. 328 library books were also disinfected.

It is pleasing to record a consistent fall in the incidence of scabies since the end of the war. In 1945, the number of scabies cases attending the Medicinal Baths had reached 1,188; the number for 1948 was only 307, of which 72 were children. The Defence Regulation giving power to enforce compulsory treatment for scabies was revoked at the end of the year.

The annual number of cases attending for treatment for vermin also declined steadily, as is shown by the following figures :—

1945	..	337
1946	..	370
1947	..	196
1948	..	137

In my last Annual Report disappointment was expressed that no progress had been made with the proposed new Disinfecting Station and Medicinal Baths at 186, Kensal Road. Another year has passed without the necessary consents being given to this project, and it seems unlikely that action can be expected in the near future.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Two complaints were received under this heading, and advice was given by the Sanitary Inspector as to means to be adopted to reduce the quantity and density of smoke to a minimum. Much depends, of course, on the quality of the fuel used for firing, and it is not always of the best. An offence against the Byelaws is deemed to have been committed when "black" smoke is omitted from an industrial chimney for an aggregate of two minutes in any period of thirty minutes.

FACTORIES.—Following is a table showing the work carried out during the year under the Factories Act, 1937.

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	121	31	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	556	293	17	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	679	324	20	—

Particulars of Defects	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	30	28	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	2	—	2	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	5	5	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	3	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	51	49	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	95	88	2	11	—

OUTWORKERS.—

	Section 110			Section 111	
No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
77	—	—	—	—	—

WORK OF THE DISTRICT INSPECTORS.—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1948.

(Figures for 1947 in brackets).

Complaints received	5,166	(6,240)
Inspections and reinspections of dwelling houses	36,951	(38,750)
Inspections of basements	147	(14)
Inspections for purposes of Housing Act	57	(207)
Visits in connection with re-housing applications	404	(452)
Visits in connection with infectious disease	70	(163)
Smoke observations	6	(2)
Written Intimation Notices	3,570	(4,478)
Statutory Notices	1,520	(1,735)
Bye-law Notices	977	(786)

Work Carried Out :—

New dustbins provided	545	(1,089)
Roofs repairs	1,509	(2,327)
Dampness remedied	2,409	(3,018)
Rooms cleansed	5,120	(5,158)
Rooms treated for vermin	250	(663)
Yard paving repaired	148	(104)
Water-closets repaired	622	(1,124)
Wall and ceiling plaster renewed	3,710	(5,267)
Flooring repaired	746	(672)
Accumulations of rubbish removed	244	(253)
Sundry repairs	4,332	(4,739)

Drainage :—

Entire re-drainage	14	(9)
Partial re-drainage	129	(109)
Drains examined	364	(465)
Drains tested	251	(239)
Drains repaired	220	(217)
Drains cleared	278	(322)
Drainage conversions	20	(19)
Soil and waste pipes repaired	460	(650)
Soil and waste pipes renewed	86	(98)
New water-closets provided	212	(251)
New sinks provided	297	(335)

Water Supply :— ..

Supplies reinstated	108	(222)
Cisterns cleansed	44	(29)
Cisterns renewed	9	(12)

Legal Proceedings :—

No. of cases referred for legal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	522	(620)
No. of summonses heard	..	..	..	..	..	..	264	(331)
Fines	..	..	..	..	..	£358 18s. 0d.	(£248 10s. 0d.)	
Costs	..	..	..	..	..	£427 7s. 0d.	(£378 18s. 6d.)	
Abatement/Prohibition Orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	(74)
Dismissed under Probation of Offenders Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	(85)
Adjourned sine die	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	(27)

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS.—Applications for disrepair certificates numbered 16, all of which were granted. Three clearance certificates were also applied for and issued to owners.

DRAINAGE RECONSTRUCTION PLANS.—During the year 163 plans were submitted for drainage work to be executed in existing buildings. 48 contraventions of the London County Council's Drainage Byelaws came to light, but in three cases only was it necessary to institute legal proceedings; in two instances a fine of £1 with £1 1s. 0d. costs was imposed. In the remaining case the summons was withdrawn, the work having been made to conform with the Byelaws.

VACANT SITES.—Bombed sites and the sites of static water tanks continue to be the source of many complaints. The creation of a byelaw making a punishable offence the dumping of rubbish on these sites may possibly act as a deterrent, but the only sure prevention of nuisance would appear to be the provision of adequate fencing. Meanwhile the Council arrange for the removal of offensive refuse, and spraying of the sites with insecticide to prevent breeding of flies or mosquitos.

CANAL BOATS.—The Canal Boats Inspector visited the Paddington Basin on 107 occasions, and inspected 84 boats. No serious defects or infringements were discovered, the minor matters requiring attention being disposed of without recourse to the service of notices. Four girls and seven boys of school age were found to be living on the boats coming into the Basin. There were no deaths or cases of infectious disease among the canal boat population.

A large number of Canal Boats are now in the ownership of the Inland Waterways Executive. It is pleasant to record that any contraventions of the Canal Boat Regulations which have been informally brought to their notice, have been remedied without question.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933, etc.—At the end of the year the Register contained the names of 97 persons entitled to sell the poisons scheduled in Part II of the Poisons List.

BAKEHOUSES.—The number of bakehouses in the Borough remained at 40 (15 level and 25 underground). 91 visits were made.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—43 visits were made by a Lady Sanitary Inspector to Cecil House, 179 Harrow Road. Periodical visits were also paid by a Male Sanitary Inspector to examine the boilers and fire escape arrangements.

RODENT CONTROL.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries now make a consolidated grant of 50 per cent. of the approved net expenditure on the cost of rodent control upon certain conditions, chief of which are maintenance of an organisation adequate for effective rodent control, and complying with the Ministry's requirements on the methods to be employed.

We have 4 Rodent Operatives, working under the control of a Rodent Officer, a senior Sanitary Inspector being generally in charge. The services of two Disinfectors are also utilised at times of pressure, and we have also found it necessary to borrow the services of two employees from the Paving Department at times, to assist in the block control schemes undertaken.

The methods adopted, and which meet with the Ministry's approval, are

- (a) dealing with individual complaints;
- (b) putting block systems in operation where several individual complaints suggest the possibility of a minor infestation;
- (c) treatment of the sewers every six months in co-operation with the Sewers Department.
- (d) treatment of refuse dumps, and vacant sites where observations indicate likelihood of rats.

Three hundred and ninety four complaints were received and dealt with; the sewers were treated in January and July; and several block schemes were carried out, mostly with satisfactory results. Admittedly there are one or two difficult areas in the Borough, but no effort is spared to keep the rat population down to a minimum. A word of thanks is due to the Rodent Officer and his men who have tackled their work with enthusiasm.

SHOPS ACTS.—Visits for the purposes of the Shops Acts are made by one of the Food Inspectors so far as "food" shops are concerned, and by one of the Lady Sanitary Inspectors as concerns all other shops in the Borough. This arrangement made possible the better supervision of shops, and 1,531 visits were made during the year, nearly a thousand more than in 1947. Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934 deals with the arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers, and places upon the Borough Council responsibility for ensuring

- (a) suitable and sufficient means of ventilation ;
- (b) suitable and sufficient means for maintaining a reasonable temperature ;
- (c) suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences, unless a certificate of exemption is granted.

This section of the Act makes the ensuring of the provision of suitable and sufficient lighting and washing facilities the responsibility of the London County Council, who are, of course, also responsible for applying the other parts of the Act relating to hours of employment, etc.

A Home Office Committee has been investigating the whole question of shops and it is possible that the recommendations of this Committee may form the basis of future legislation relating to shops. At the present time the administration of the Shops Act is shared in London by the County Council and the Borough Council; the Borough Council duties being those of a sanitary authority.

FOOD SUPERVISION.

Sampling.—600 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, 31 being formal samples and 569 informal. 205 of the samples were of milk, which were all up to standard. The following table shows the complete list of samples taken :—

	NUMBER EXAMINED		NUMBER ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Apple juice	—	1	—	—
Aspirins	—	3	—	—
Bacon	—	8	—	—
Baking powder	—	3	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	1	—	—
Biscuits	—	1	—	—
Bread and rolls	—	8	—	—
Bread crumbs	—	1	—	—
Butter	—	9	—	—
Cakes, buns, scones, etc.	—	18	—	—
Cake, pudding, sponge, etc. mixtures	—	18	—	—
Camphorated oil	—	2	—	—
Caraway seeds	—	2	—	—
Cereals, flaked	—	3	—	—
Cheese	—	8	—	—
Chocolates	—	1	—	—
Chopped liver, tinned	—	1	—	—
Cocoa	—	1	—	—
Coffee	—	5	—	—
Coffee and chicory essences	—	9	—	—
Coffee extract, dried	—	3	—	—
Cooking fat	—	10	—	1
Cough and lung mixture	—	3	—	—
Creamy sponge	—	1	—	—
Currant loaf	—	1	—	—
Dessert sauces and powders, etc.	—	2	—	—
Edible oils	—	7	—	—
Epsom salts	—	3	—	—
Essences, flavouring and colour	—	15	—	—
Fish cakes	—	5	—	—
Fish paste	—	14	—	—
Fish, tinned	—	9	—	—
Flour	—	6	—	—
Fruit, tinned	—	6	—	—
Gelatine and jelly powders	—	3	—	—
Gin	—	1	—	—
Glauber salts	—	1	—	—

	NUMBER EXAMINED		NUMBER ADULTERATED	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Glycerine, lemon and honey	—	1	—	—
Grape fruit, tinned	—	1	—	—
Herbs	—	4	—	—
Honey and artificial honey	—	2	—	—
Hydrogen peroxide	—	1	—	—
Ices	—	3	—	—
Iodine, tincture of	—	2	—	—
Jam and marmalade	—	6	—	—
Junket powder	—	2	—	—
Lemonade crystals	—	5	—	—
Macaroni	—	3	—	—
Malt-cup	—	1	—	—
Malto-bar	—	1	—	—
Margarine	—	8	—	—
Meats, etc., tinned	—	4	—	—
Meat extract	—	2	—	—
Meat paste	—	1	—	—
Meat pies	—	14	—	—
Meats, pressed	—	4	—	—
Meat and vegetable extract	—	1	—	—
Milk	30	175	—	—
Milk, condensed, full cream	—	1	—	—
Mustard	—	2	—	—
Ointment, sulphur	—	2	—	—
Ointment, zinc	—	1	—	—
Olives, bottled	—	2	—	—
Onions, bottled	—	1	—	—
Onions, dried	—	2	—	—
Orange, chocolate spread	—	6	—	—
Peppers	—	6	—	—
Pickles	—	7	—	—
Puddings, tinned	—	3	—	—
Rissoles	—	1	—	—
Salad dressing	—	2	—	—
Sandwich spread	—	1	—	—
Sauces	—	4	—	—
Sausages and sausage meat	1	11	1	1
Sausages, liver and luncheon	—	8	—	—
Sausages and spaghetti, tinned	—	1	—	—
Sausage roll's	—	2	—	—
Senna pods	—	1	—	—
Semolina	—	8	—	—
Soft drinks	—	7	—	—
Soup powder	—	2	—	—
Soup, tinned	—	5	—	—
Spaghetti	—	5	—	—
Spices	—	3	—	—
Stomach powder	—	1	—	—
Sugar	—	7	—	—
Sweets	—	2	—	—
Tomato juice	—	3	—	—
Tomato puree and ketchup	—	4	—	—
Tea	—	7	—	—
Vegetables, tinned	—	2	—	—
Vinegar	—	4	—	—
White and black puddings	—	9	—	—
Yeast extract and tablets	—	2	—	—
	31	569	1	2
	600		3	

Of the 600 samples, only 3 (0.50 per cent.) were "not genuine." and particulars of these, and the action taken are shown below :—

Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity	Action Taken
Sausages	Informal ..	34% deficient in meat	Formal sample taken
Sausages	Formal ..	14% deficient in meat	No proceedings taken in view of circumstances, but further samples to be taken periodically.
Cooking fat	Informal ..	100% soft paraffins in composition	No action, as further investigation revealed that the fat was used only for greasing bread tins.

Unsound Food.—Approximately 13 tons of diseased or unsound food were surrendered by tradesman for destruction, as against 28½ tons surrendered in 1947. There were no "seizures" of unsound food.

Food Poisoning.—12 cases of Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning were enquired into, but there was nothing of a serious nature calling for special report.

Inspections.—The visits paid by the Food Inspectors to food premises and stalls were as under :—

Bakers	46	(77)
Butchers	757	(737)
Confectioners	151	(154)
Dairies	458	(538)
Fish	347	(312)
Fried Fish	163	(84)
General	219	(280)
Greengrocers	265	(325)
Grocers	795	(900)
Ice Cream	333	(301)
Public Houses	109	(56)
Provisions	643	(735)
Restaurants	742	(709)
Street Traders	17	(68)

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.—Licences were issued as follows :—

Dealers' Principal Licences—

To sell—"Pasteurised" Milk	44
"Tuberculin-Tested" Milk	19

Dealers' Supplementary Licences—

To sell—"Pasteurised" Milk	3
"Tuberculin-Tested" Milk	3

Forty samples of "Pasteurised" milk were taken for bacteriological test, all of which complied with the prescribed conditions.

Ice Cream.—One hundred and forty-six premises in the Borough are registered pursuant to Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as follows :—

Manufacture, sale and storage	16
Sale only	130
	146

and 333 inspections were made. The vehicles of street vendors, on which have to appear the names and addresses of the vendors, were also kept under supervision.

Some of the premises registered manufacture or sell "Lollies" (water ices) only. On the whole, the standard of ice-cream has been good, and whilst the methylene blue test produced some "Grade IV" results, this does not mean that the ice-cream was unwholesome or of poor quality.

Following is a summary of the samples submitted to this test during the year :—

Number Submitted	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
19	6	7	2	4

The bacterial count ranged from 400,000 to 250 at 37° C.

As long ago as 1898 an exhaustive investigation into the method of manufacture and quality of ice cream was carried out in Paddington, and a few of the results of analyses then made are produced here for comparison. They show, very forcibly, that the supervision now possible over the manufacture of ice-cream has resulted in a much higher standard of cleanliness :—

Analyses of Ice-Cream Samples taken in 1898

General Description of Sample	Estimated No. of Bacteria in 1 c.c.	Bacillus Coli Communis	"Foreign" material found in sediment
Custard colour, frothy, faint putrid-factive smell	7,400,000	Very numerous ..	No obvious "added" dirt.
Light custard colour, faint indefinite smell	4,354,000	Very numerous ..	Large quantity of amorphous dirt, linen fibre, minute round worm.
Light custard colour, faint indefinite smell	1,509,000	Numerous ..	Human hair, linen fibre, coarse amorphous dirt.
"Strawberry Ice" colour, distinct "sour milk" smell	1,214,000	Numerous ..	Very little added dirt, a few animal epithelial cells, strawberry fruit debris.

During 1948 movements were on foot to obtain still further supervision and control over the manufacture and sale of ice-cream by (a) the removal of the exemption from registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, of clubs, hotels and restaurants, and (b) by amendment of the law so as to provide for registration of all street vendors of ice-cream in order that the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 could be more effectively administered.

There is still a shortage of cooling apparatus, and because of this the operative date of Regulation 3 (b) (iii) of the Regulations was altered from 1st May, 1948 to 1st May, 1949.

FILM SHOWS.—To enable the public to obtain a more intimate knowledge of the public health functions of the Council than can be achieved by posters and leaflets, a programme of suitable films was arranged by the Public Health Committee. The first of the series was shown at the Reading Room, Porchester Road Library, on the 3rd November, 1948; and a monthly series commencing on the 12th November was also arranged to be shown alternately at the Town Hall and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Harrow Road, to terminate on the 11th March, 1949. The attendance at the Porchester Road Library Reading Room was distinctly encouraging, but at the subsequent shows in November and December, however, the attendances dropped considerably. Whilst it is early yet to prophesy the reactions of the public to this new venture, nevertheless, it is hoped that future attendances will encourage the efforts of the Council in their endeavour to bring the local public health activities more closely to the attention of the people of Paddington.

HOLIDAY HOME FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.—The need for a holiday home for elderly people was considered by the members of the Public Health Committee, and it was eventually decided that such an establishment would be a suitable welfare service which the Council could render to elderly residents of the Borough. After exploring many properties situated both in the country and at the seaside, the selection fell on the suitable property of "Kincardine" Brassey Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, which, after allowing for a resident Manageress and Chambermaid/waitress, provided accommodation for 16 visitors.

It is a non-basement house of three floors, about 40-50 years old, facing east and within easy reach of the sea, the town's shopping centre and the railway station. The accommodation is well planned and consists of nine double bedrooms, one single bedroom, two bathrooms, lounge hall, three reception rooms, kitchen, etc. Negotiations are in progress to acquire this property either by agreement at an approved figure or compulsorily, and it is probable that the owner would be willing to sell the furniture, fittings, etc. In anticipation of its ultimate purchase, the following conditions have been approved by the Council :—

1. Women guests should be over 60 years ; men over 65 years (i.e. in general, of pensionable age).
2. A charge of 21s. per week should be made (to be reduced to 15s. for persons in receipt of supplementary pensions), the charge to be " spread over " as far as possible, but fully paid before the holiday commences.
3. For the first three or four months after the opening of the Home (probably early summer) each visitor should stay for one week. This arrangement would be reviewed before the expiration of this period.
4. That the Home should be closed for about two weeks each year for redecoration, staff holidays, etc.

The Council's powers for providing this desirable welfare service for the aged is contained in the Physical Training and Recreation Act, 1937, and in accordance with the provisions of this Act, this scheme will be administered in association with the Paddington Old People's Welfare Committee.

The Public Health Committee have appointed a Sub-Committee to maintain that close liaison with the Old People's Welfare Committee which will be necessary for the smooth running of a scheme of this nature.

It is intended to convey visitors to and from Bexhill by motor coach, and negotiations to that end are at present under way. Monday of each week is to be the " change over " date.

This service is not commonly provided by Local Authorities, but as it is for a section of the community which received little attention in the past it is to be hoped that it may prove to be a prelude to a considerable expansion of welfare work for the aged by the local authority.

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION.—

No. of basement rooms dealt with by closing orders	27
No. of upper parts of mews premises closed for human habitation	2
No. of houses dealt with by demolition orders or in respect of which undertakings were accepted	16
Ninety-seven persons were displaced as a result of the Council's operations, seventy-one being rehoused by the Paddington Borough Council and five by the London County Council. Fourteen secured accommodation through their own efforts and seven are awaiting suitable Council vacancies.	

Closing orders were determined or undertakings cancelled on four basements and the upper parts of three mews premises made fit for human habitation during the year.

COMPULSORY REPAIRS.—Five Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, were served during the year. One Notice was complied with, and works were in progress at three other premises. A further notice served prior to 1948, in respect of a block of 13 flats, was also complied with.

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	425
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	516
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	1,695 (Units)
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	290
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	369
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	1,485½ (Units)
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowded conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it desirable to report	—

The number of overcrowded dwellings on the Register of Overcrowding at the end of 1948 (425) shows a reduction on the figure for 1947 (504). This is due in the main to a survey undertaken during the year when it was ascertained that 220 families had secured alternative accommodation privately or that the overcrowding had been abated by other means.

Of the cases of overcrowding relieved during the year :—

- 32 were provided with accommodation by the Borough Council,
- 117 were rehoused by the London County Council,
- 175 secured accommodation privately, and
- 45 were relieved by a natural reduction in the size of the family or on obtaining additional accommodation.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION : PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.—Six families recommended for preferential consideration in the allocation of accommodation on medical grounds were rehoused by the Borough Council and fifteen by the London County Council.

FUMIGATION.—During the year Associated Fumigators, Limited, under an agreement with the Council, removed and treated the furniture etc. of forty-nine families with hydrogen cyanide gas. The cost of the work was £210.

NEW ACCOMMODATION.—The forty-eight flats at Fleming Court were completed during the year, and families selected from the Council's waiting list were housed therein.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—With the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Maternity and Child Welfare functions of the Council passed to the London County Council on the 5th July, 1948, and the following summary relates to the period prior to that date.

HEALTH VISITING.—Home visits paid by the Health Visitors :—

First visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,076
Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,891
											7,967
Visits to children aged 1-5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,922
First visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,018
Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	942
											1,960
Visits <i>re</i> Sickness (including Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Infantile Diarrhoea)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	205
Miscellaneous (including ineffective calls)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,997
											5,202

INFANT CONSULTATIONS.

No. of children attending	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,214
No. of attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,209

ANTE-AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

No. of expectant or recently confined mothers attending	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	943
No. of attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,713

FOOT CLINIC.

							Adults	Children.
No. of patients attending	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	3
No. of attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	13

	Adults.	Children.
..	97	130
..	286	1,401

..	5	93
..	18	49
..	19	—
..	80	35

..	14	1,090
..	137	465
..	138	—
..	164	316

Nursing and

Expectant Mothers.	Children.
99	39
420	4
—	—
28	—
—	—
5	—

..	..	33
..	..	107

Mary's Hospital 71

..	..	..	38
..	..	..	160

..	..	..	4
..	..	..	Nil.

..	..	..	126
..	..	..	Nil.
ments	..	..	1

..	..	..	10
..	..	..	10

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

No. of cases in which assistance was given to Moral Welfare Associations ..	1
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PREMATURE INFANTS.

(a) No. of Paddington babies whose weight at birth was 5½ lbs. or less ..	68
(b) No. of babies born prematurely in Paddington including non-residents	112
(i) No. born at home	13
(ii) No. born in institutions	99
(iii) Of those born at home :—	
No. nursed entirely at home	12
No. dying during first 24 hours	Nil
No. surviving at end of 1 month	12
(iv) Of those born in institutions :—	
No. dying during first 24 hours	7
No. surviving at end of 1 month	82