

## **[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Poplar, Metropolitan Borough].**

### **Contributors**

Poplar (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.  
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Public Health Department,  
Poplar Town Hall, Bow Road, E.3.

15th July, 1948.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Metropolitan Borough of Poplar.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1947, which, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 170/47 is prepared on the lines of that for 1946 and is an Abridged Interim Report.

**POPULATION.** The Registrar-General's estimate of the civil population is 73,490, an increase over the previous year's figure (69,010).

**BIRTHS.** There was an increase in the number of live births and the birth rate (26.7) is the highest recorded for the Borough since 1921.

**STILL BIRTHS.** The number of still births shows a slight increase over that for 1946, the rate per 1,000 total births being 24.8 as compared with 23.1 in 1946.

**DEATHS.** The number of deaths at all ages was 994, and the death rate 13.5 as compared with 13.1 for 1946. The death rate for London as a whole was 12.8.

Since 1946 approximately one-sixth of the Poplar deaths were of persons over 80 years of age.

Six deaths occurred from Whooping Cough; 2 from Diphtheria (in neither of these had the child been immunised) and 2 from Measles. All these deaths were of children under 5 years of age.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.** Only one maternal death was recorded during the year.

**INFANT MORTALITY.** After the record figure of 30 in 1946 (the lowest ever recorded in the Borough) it is disappointing to find the figure for 1947 as high as 40. This is just below the figure of 41 for England and Wales, but is higher than the London rate of 37. Factors in this increased rate of 40 were a higher proportion of deaths due to prematurity (27% in 1947 as compared with 17% in 1946) and an increase in deaths from non-tuberculous respiratory diseases (29.5% in 1947 as compared with 20.7% in 1946). The proportion of infantile deaths due to congenital malformations, etc., fell from 28.3% in 1946 to 20.5% in 1947.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** The most noticeable thing is the increase during the year of the number of cases of Whooping Cough which totalled some 406 over the number for the previous year. There was, however, a considerable drop in the number of cases of Measles and the Scabies cases were 253 as compared with 484 in the previous year. Only 10 cases of Diphtheria occurred in the year, 9 of them being in non-immunised children.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** The figures for Tuberculosis are not very different from those of 1946 and the deaths from both respiratory and non-respiratory forms remain much the same.

**INFANTILE PARALYSIS.** The Borough escaped relatively lightly during the epidemic of infantile paralysis and only nine definite cases were confirmed; one death occurred, but was assigned to causes other than poliomyelitis.



STAFF.

Sanitary Inspectors. It is interesting to note that the work of the Sanitary Inspectors is now comparable with their work before the War. The work carried out in 1947 exceeded the 1938 level.

Staff Changes.

Mrs. D. McConney, Female Sanitary Inspector, resigned in November. The duties she had carried out were distributed among the remaining Sanitary Inspectors and the Establishment Committee decided not to fill the vacancy caused by her resignation.

Miss I. Farrelly, Health Visitor, who commenced duty in January 1947 resigned in the following December.

Some changes in the staff of the Council's Day Nursery inevitably occurred during the year.

Other changes were:-

Resignations:

Mr. A. Begg, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant.  
Mr. C. Whitelock, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant.  
Mr. G. Geach, Non-Resident Porter Ruston Street Clinic.  
Mr. J. Cannon, Porter Day Nursery, on account of ill-health.  
Dr. E. M. Layman, Clinic Medical Officer.

Appointments:

Mr. K. L. Dolling, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant (Later resigned).  
Mr. W. J. Crone, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant.  
Mr. W. Hicks, Non-Resident Porter Ruston Street Clinic.  
Miss E. A. Kite, Home Help (full-time).  
Mrs. E. Clayton, Home Help (part-time).  
Dr. G. Montgomery, Clinic Medical Officer.

National Health Service Act.

I write this shortly after the appointed day for the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, which the Borough Council has administered for so many years, have now been transferred to the London County Council, while the Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary has gone to the Regional Hospital Board. We have been particularly fortunate in Poplar in having in our midst the Royal College of St. Katharine, which has been responsible for the Maternity and Child Welfare services over roughly a third of the Borough. The Royal College has carried out pioneer work in these services, and the association between the College and the Borough has at all times been most cordial and happy. Before the advent of the new Act, the Royal College had decided to relinquish Maternity and Child Welfare work and to explore other fields of Social Service, but agreed to carry on in Poplar until the appointed day. I wish the Royal College all success in whatever venture it may undertake in the future, and I hope that the link with Poplar will remain unbroken. With regard to the transferred services, it is hoped that the new regime will lead to their steady development and expansion. The Borough Council has handed over a going concern of which it can be justly proud.

In conclusion, I am grateful to members of the Council for their continued support and to the staff of the department for their loyal co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

G. O. MITCHELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

Summary for 1947.

AREA: 2136 acres.

POPULATION: At Census 1931 ... 155,089.

Registrar-General's  
estimated civil population  
1947 ... 73,490.

BIRTH RATES:	Poplar.	London.	Eng. & Wales.	Poplar. 1946.
Live births	26.7	22.7	20.5	25.7
Still births	0.68	0.49	0.50	0.61
DEATH RATES: All causes	13.5	12.8	12.0	13.1
Tuberculosis: of respiratory system	0.87	?	0.47	0.88
other forms	0.07	?	0.08	0.09
all forms	0.94	?	0.55	0.97
INFANT MORTALITY: Rates per 1,000 live births	40	37	41	30
MATERNAL MORTALITY: Rates per 1,000 total births	0.50	?	1.17	Nil

Total Males Females				
LIVE BIRTHS:				
Legitimate	1895	1018	877	) Birth rate per 1,000 population 26.7
Illegitimate	70	40	30	
	<u>1965</u>	<u>1058</u>	<u>907</u>	
STILL BIRTHS:	50	23	27	Rate per 1,000 total births 24.8
DEATHS - all ages	994	532	412	Rate per 1,000 population 13.5
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:				
Puerperal sepsis	-	-	-	) Rate per 1,000
Other maternal causes	1	1	1	) total births 0.50
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES:				
All infants per 1,000 live births			40	50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births			39	29
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births			57	38



CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES. The 994 deaths at all ages were classified by the Registrar-General as follows :-

	Age groups:						Totals:			1946.
	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65 & over	M.	F.	P.	Totals.
Typhoid & paratyphoid fevers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cerebrospinal fever	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.
Scarlet fever	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Whooping cough	4	2	.	.	.	.	2	4	6	2
Diphtheria	.	.	2	.	.	.	2	.	2	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	.	.	.	32	24	8	42	22	64	61
Other forms of tuberculosis	.	3	.	.	1	1	1	4	5	6
Syphilitic disease	.	.	.	.	5	2	2	5	7	6
Influenza	.	.	1	.	2	5	6	2	8	13
Measles	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Acute infective encephalitis	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	1	.
Cancer of:										
(a) buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	.	.	.	.	2	6	8	.	8	9
(b) uterus (F)	.	.	.	1	3	3	.	7	7	5
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	.	.	.	.	9	11	10	10	20	24
Cancer of breast	.	.	.	7	5	9	1	20	21	8
Cancer of all other sites	.	.	1	12	27	55	55	40	95	87
Diabetes	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	1	3	6
Intracranial vascular lesions	.	.	.	1	8	58	39	28	67	78
Heart disease	.	.	1	11	35	173	119	106	225	261
Other diseases of the circulatory system	.	.	.	.	12	49	43	18	61	33
Bronchitis	6	.	.	4	38	95	99	44	143	98
Pneumonia	17	3	.	3	9	21	35	18	53	38
Other respiratory diseases	.	.	.	1	2	3	4	2	6	12
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	.	.	.	.	6	8	9	5	14	10
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	4	6
Appendicitis	.	.	.	1	.	1	2	.	2	3
Other digestive diseases	1	.	1	4	4	6	11	5	16	12
Nephritis	1	.	.	3	5	6	8	7	15	10
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other maternal causes	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	.
Premature birth	21	.	.	.	.	.	9	12	21	9
Congenital malformations, birth injury, etc.	16	.	.	3	2	.	13	8	21	18
Suicide	.	.	.	1	2	1	2	2	4	6
Road traffic accidents	.	2	2	2	2	5	5	8	13	9
Other violent causes	6	.	4	5	6	15	21	15	36	16
All other causes	1	.	1	10	13	17	27	15	42	54
ALL CAUSES	Males						582			553
	Females						412			353
	Persons						994			906

INFANTILE DEATHS. It will be seen from the above table that there were 78 deaths of children under one year of age, and it should be noted that of the 78 no fewer than 37 were due to premature birth, congenital malformations and birth injury, etc. while a further 23 were due to respiratory diseases.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

NURSING IN THE HOME. Grants were made to two Nursing Societies. The number of visits paid by Nurses from these societies was 1506.

WELFARE CENTRES.

a. Tuberculosis Dispensary - see page 14.

b. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics at 31st December, 1947.

1. Borough Council.

Ruston Street	Infant Consultation.	Thursdays 10.30-12.30 and 2-4.
	Ante-natal	Tuesdays 10.30-12.30 and Wednesdays 2-4.
Wellington Way	Ante-natal	Mondays & Fridays 2-4.
	Infant Consultation	Wednesdays 2-4.
	Dental	Tuesdays 2-4. Wednesdays 10-12.
	Sunlight	Tuesdays & 9.30-12.30 and Thursdays 2-4. Saturdays 9.30-11.30.
154 Poplar High	Infant Consultation	Mondays 2-4.
	Ante-Natal	Tuesdays 2-4.
	Sunlight	Mondays & 9.30-12.30. Wednesdays Fridays 9.30-11.30.
	Sewing and Mothercraft	Thursdays 2-4.
54 West Ferry Road	Infant Consultation	Wednesdays 10.30-12.30 and 2-4.
	Ante-natal	Mondays 10.30-12.30 and Fridays 2-4.

2. Royal College of St. Katharine.

All Hallows Hall	Infant Consultation	Tuesdays 2-4.
St. Michael's Hall	Infant Consultation	Mondays 2-4.
Trinity Hall	Infant Consultation	Wednesdays 10.30-12.30.

The numbers of attendances at the Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics were :-

Borough Council.	Royal College of St. Katharine.	Total.	1946.
28,358	10,602	38,960	31,992.



VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS. The numbers of visits paid by the Health Visitors were :-

Borough Council.	Royal College of St. Katharine.	Total.	1946.
19,759	26,886	46,645	48,040.

#### CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

167 premature babies were born during 1947 - 18 at home and 149 in hospital. 110.

17 of those born at home survived at the end of one month, and of those born in hospital 9 died during the first 24 hours and 138 survived at the end of one month. 10.  
7.  
87.

The arrangements for the care of premature infants, outlined in previous reports, continue to operate.

Equipment loaned during 1947 to mothers of premature infants included:

4 treasure cots with detachable linings	4
4 hot water bottles	3
3 weighing scales	2

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN. Upon the recommendation of the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee the Council continued their contribution of £64 per annum to the scheme formulated by the Standing Joint Committee.

#### CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

Visits to mothers and foster children	15	9
Foster mothers under supervision during 1947	2	2
" children " " " "	1	1

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICE. During the year this service was called upon for three cases, the fee of £5. 5s. per case being paid by the Borough Council. 2

Two of the patients were removed to hospital.

OBSTETRIC CONSULTANT. It was not necessary to call in a Consultant to any case during the year. -

STERILE MATERNITY OUTFITS. One outfit was sold during the year. 7

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT. 25 cases were sent away during the year through the agency of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, an increase of 4 on last year's number. 21

The grant to the Invalid Children's Aid Association was increased to £1.10s. per week for four weeks for each child, such grant to be extended to six weeks if at the end of four weeks a medical report is received from the Convalescent Home stating the child needs at least another two weeks convalescent treatment.

Several cases referred by Poplar Hospital have been dealt with on the same terms.

The attention of the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee was drawn to the difficulty of obtaining convalescent treatment for children under 5 and also for nursing mothers and their babies. As a result of this a reply was received from the Minister of Health intimating that the provision of such convalescence would no doubt be considered by the Regional Hospital Boards under the National Health Service Act.

PROVISION OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS BY THE INVALID CHILDREN'S AID ASSOCIATION. Splints were supplied by the Association to one child.

SUPPLY OF SHEETS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS. The arrangements made in 1944 for the issue of priority docketts to expectant mothers continued in operation and 498 docketts were issued. 1946.  
479.

MILK SCHEME (Maternity and Child Welfare). One application for free milk was received and was granted. In addition 544 packets of dried milk were sold at the special reduced prices. -  
292.

DISTRIBUTION OF COD LIVER OIL AND FRUIT JUICES. The arrangements made in 1941 with the Local Deputy Food Officer continued to operate.

DAY NURSERY. The Day Nursery in Tidey Street continued to function throughout the year. The highest attendance on any one day was 47 and the number on the register at the end of the year was 53. 41.  
41.

Throughout the year there has been a long list of children awaiting admission.

No outbreak of illness which would necessitate the temporary closure of the Nursery occurred during the year.

Additional Day Nursery Accommodation. The need for an additional Day Nursery was discussed with the London County Council in view of the passing of the maternity and child welfare work to that authority in 1948. At the suggestion of the London County Council efforts were made to find a site in the Poplar area.

Representations were made to the Ministry of Health who stated that even if the need were established it was unlikely the Minister would approve the erection of a Day Nursery for a considerable time owing to the position of controlled materials.

The London County Council's Education programme includes the establishment of Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes in various parts of the Borough but this does not help to solve the immediate problem.

HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SCHEME. The scheme continued in operation during the year and the staff was increased to two full-time and two part-time helpers.

31 cases were dealt with: 27 Home Help and 4 Domestic Help.

PROVISION OF INSULIN FOR DIABETICS. Under the Council's Scheme liability for the cost of providing insulin was accepted for one new case. 2.

At the end of the year two cases were receiving this assistance.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

REPAIR OF HOUSES AND ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES. A special report was submitted to the Public Health and the Housing and Town Planning Committees detailing the difficulties which were being encountered in securing the abatement of nuisances under the Public Health (London) Act. Notices served regarding occupied properties which had been classified "Total loss" by the War Damage Commission created further difficulties through the abandonment of properties by the owners and in one instance by a Magistrate making a Closing Order at the request of the owner.

The attention of the Minister of Health was drawn to these difficulties but no immediate solution has been found.



1946.

DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK. The total number of inspections and reinspections carried out by the District Sanitary Inspectors was 31,087.

29,055.

Number of:

Inspections	10,659	
Reinspections	20,428	
	<u>31,087</u>	
Intimations served	4,489	3,618.
Notices served	2,378	1,861.
Final notices served	784	621.
Nuisances abated	5,146	3,650.
Legal Proceedings taken	70	23.
Abatement Orders made (including 1 Closing Order)	29	9.
Work done after issue of Summons	41	10.

The volume of work performed by the Inspectors exceeded the 1938 level.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS, SEAMEN'S AND COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number of inspections:

Houses-let-in-lodgings	727	802.
Seamen's lodging-houses	100 (including 6 nightly inspections)	238.
Common Lodging-houses	185 (including 10 nightly inspections).	
Other visits	44	
Visits re Scabies and verminous conditions	116	
Informal notices served	63	28
Notices served	17	10
Final notices served	14	9
Nuisances abated	59	21
Legal proceedings taken	3	

HOUSING INSPECTOR.

Number of:

Rehousing enquiries (P.B.C.547;L.C.C.798;Others 59)	1404
Complaints of overcrowding	11
Inspections, etc. of underground rooms and individual unfit houses	97
Inspections of P.B.C.hutments	70
Miscellaneous visits	663
	<u>2245</u>

CLOSURE OF BASEMENT ROOMS.

During the year Closing Orders were made in respect of basement rooms at 8 properties.

LIBRARY

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF POPLAR.

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ABRIDGED INTERIM REPORT

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on the

health of the Borough

during 1947

by

G. O. MITCHELL,

M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE

PLACE IN THE RECORD

DATE



DATE

DATE

DATE

MEMORANDUM

# DISINFESTATION INSPECTOR.

Total number of inspections, etc.	2,229	1946. 1,997
Number of rooms disinfested	1,353	1,115
Number of articles disinfested	5,932	2,474

The treatment of Scabies is referred to on a later page.

REHOUSING AND DISINFESTATION. The practice of inspecting present accommodation, bedding and furniture of prospective tenants of temporary dwellings and new permanent houses continued throughout the year.

Disinfestation prior to removal was found to be necessary in 24 instances.

12.

DESTRUCTION OF MOTHS. The arrangement to assist members of the public in the destruction of moths by offering the use of the Council's disinfecting plant continued. Advantage of this was taken in one instance, no charge being made.

2.

WATER SUPPLY. Generally, this service is provided and maintained by the Metropolitan Water Board direct from the mains. Examinations of the water are made by the Board. No complaints were received during the year.

Following upon the flooding of the Lee Bridge Works of the Metropolitan Water Board early on Saturday, 15th March, pumping was immediately stopped and alternative arrangements were made by the Board for a supply of water to the areas affected. The Town Clerk was informed of the position soon after noon. During the week-end repeated warnings regarding boiling of water were broadcast, and police loud-speaker cars toured the Borough.

As an additional precaution a letter was sent on 17th March to all food manufacturers, caterers, ice cream makers and public houses in the Borough, and the Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors were instructed to impress on members of the public the importance of boiling the water.

Leaflets were also printed for distribution from clinics, libraries, schools, the Rates Department, etc.

Fortunately it did not prove necessary to supplement the water supply in Poplar by the use of tankers.

Daily sampling was carried out by the Water Board at many scattered points in the areas affected.

On 29th March it was announced there would be no further necessity for boiling drinking water.

No case of illness which could be attributed to infected water was notified in the Borough.

LONDON UNDERGROUND WATER - Wells and Borings. In a letter dated August, 1947, the Minister of Health drew attention to the possibility of pollution from disused wells or borings of water obtained from the chalk under London and suggested that a survey of the position might usefully be undertaken at that time.

A comprehensive report dealing with (i) private wells in Poplar which are now disused, (ii) private wells in Poplar in use for commercial purposes only, and (iii) private wells in Poplar used for drinking, and including details



of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of water from wells in use was prepared and after submission to the Public Health Committee was forwarded to the Minister of Health.

From the investigations there was nothing to indicate any pollution of water from the chalk in this area.

# WATER CERTIFICATES (Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

1946.

Certificates were issued in respect of 421 new dwellings (217 Borough Council; 201 London County Council; and Lee Conservancy Board 3).

285.

RENT, etc. RESTRICTION ACTS. Certificates under these Acts were issued as follows:-

to Tenants	212	198.
to Owners	56	57.

RODENT CONTROL. The Council's Contributory Scheme has continued to operate during the year; work at dwelling-houses has continued, and the routine treatment of sewers has been carried out.

The establishment of 6 ratcatchers was maintained throughout the year. Allocation of working time was as follows:-

55½	man/weeks	to dwelling house complaints.
16	"	" sewer treatments.
4½	"	lost in sickness.
224	"	to contributory scheme work.

In 1946, one man's time was accounted for by treatments in dwelling-houses for which no charge was made; this year this work has consumed an extra 5½ man/weeks.

## (A) Contributory Scheme.

At the end of the year there were 152 contributors, compared with 124 at December 1946.

Treatments carried out :

1274 treatments applied to 165 premises of 160 contributors.	1,035.
5 treatments applied to 2 P.B.C. premises.	10.
976 rats and 189 mice have been found dead.	2,563 rats/ 305 mice.
Estimated kill per M.O.F. formula is 4715 rats.	31,326.
96,643 prebait and 12,001 poison baits have been laid at 32,007 baiting points.	229,076/16,040. 42,807.
3654 visits and inspections have been made by the Rodent Officers.	3,976.
6998 visits to apply treatments have been made by the Ratcatchers.	7,599.

## Infestation Analysis.

	Jan. Intake	Dec.	Dec. 1946.
	1947.	1947.	1947.
Reservoir infestation (exceeds 50 rats)	.	.	.
Major " (20-50 rats)	6	17	5
Minor " (0-20 " )	5	19	40
Slight "	67	.	115

Premises classed as slight infestations are those which have been cleared of rats but are liable to reinvasion owing to their situation or the nature of the business carried on.

(B) Dwelling Houses.

607 complaints relating to 490 premises were investigated.	1946. 502/454.
27 complaints relating to 24 premises were outstanding at the end of the year.	21/25.
1389 inspections were made by the Rodent Officers.	1,271.
3090 visits to apply treatments were made by the Ratcatchers.	2,769.
117 rats and 149 mice were found dead.	280rats/67mice.

Premises treated:

470 dwelling-houses.	359.
3 small shops.	38.
12 business premises of which 10 entered Contributory Scheme.	42.
5 licensed premises.	5.
	10 P.B.C.and L.C.C.

Cause of complaints:

101 related to rats of unknown origin.	140.
63 attributable to defective drains.	69.
11 " " sewer works in progress.	2.
194 were found to be mice only.	120.
23 " " " birds.	22.
1 was " " moths.	1.
42 related to war debris removal.	22.
1 " " rats from P.L.A. area.	13.
49 were found to be without foundation.	64.

(C) Rodents found dead in 1947.

			Rats.	Mice.
Contributory Scheme premises	976 rats, 189 mice.		2,563	305
Dwelling-houses	117 " 149 "		280	67
Sewers	14 " "		248	.
Total	1107 " 338 "		250	. open spaces
			3,341	372

(D) Materials used (all premises and sewers):

55 cwts. Sausage rusks.	68 lb. Zinc phosphide.
12 " Wheat.	10½ " Arsenious oxide.
5 " Rolled oats.	4 " Red squill.
1½ " Middlings.	2 " Barium carbonate.
150 lb. Flour.	4 " Antu.

(E) Sewer Treatments:

The 6th, 7th and 8th sewer maintenance treatments were carried out in January, June and December in conjunction with the Works Department and the Ministry of Food (Infestation Division) with the results shown :-

Treat- ment No.	When treated.	No. of man- holes.	No take.	Small take.	Good take.	Complete take.	%take.
1st.	Dec. 1943	1566	856	229	334	147	45
2nd.	Jany. 1944	1720	1508	149	56	7	12
3rd.	May 1944	1665	1281	129	151	104	24
4th.	Jany. 1946	1181	354	171	184	472	70
5th.	June 1946	1452	824	291	175	162	44
6th.	Jany. 1947	1500	1013	137	170	180	32½
7th.	June 1947	1680	1399	116	113	52	17
8th.	Dec. 1947	1701	1269	105	125	202	25



FACTORIES ACT, 1937. During the year 1403 inspections were made and defects or nuisances were found at 79. Of these 70 were remedied.

1946.  
702.  
150.  
131.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. The Meat and Food Inspectors made 3,786 inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold.

4,173.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1947.

These Regulations came into operation from 1st May, 1947, except for the requirements relating to thermometers which will not come into operation until a date to be appointed by the Minister.

A leaflet giving a brief resume of the Regulations was sent to all persons registered for the sale and manufacture of ice cream and to restaurants and cinemas.

42 samples of ice cream were examined;  
Grade 1 - 4; Grade 2 - 11;  
Grade 3 - 16; Grade 4 - 11.

Of the unsatisfactory samples 11 were reported to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health and letters were sent to the manufacturers. The remainder were followed up by our own Inspectors.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYSTS. The number of samples examined was 707 and the number found to be adulterated was 35 or 4.9 per cent.

722.  
37, 5.1%.

During the ten years 1938-47 the average number examined was 699 and the percentage adulterated was 4.1.

708.  
3.7%

The Public Analysts commented in their report "This is the third consecutive year in which no milk adulteration has been found".

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The numbers of cases notified (corrected for "altered diagnosis" cases) and the deaths were :-

	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	145 (35)	.	151	.
Diphtheria	10 (10)	2	9	1
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	.	.	1	.
Erysipelas	23 (11)	.	21	1
Puerperal fever	3 (2)	.	1	.
Puerperal pyrexia	17 (16)	1c	15	.
Cerebrospinal fever	6 (6)	1b	5	.
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3 (2)	.	1	.
Measles	712 (59)	2	871	.
Whooping cough	590 (38)	6	184	2
Primary pneumonia	91 (19)	14c	93	10c
Influenzal pneumonia	18 (5)	2c	24	1c
Dysentery	13 (10)	.	10	.
Zymotic enteritis	46 (42)	4	15	6
Malaria	2 (2)	.	1	.
Acute poliomyelitis	9 (9)	1	.	.
Acute encephalitis lethargica	.	1d	.	.
	1688 (266)		1402	
Scabies(excluding 1 non-civn.)	253 (11)		484	
Totals	1941 (277)		1886	

The numbers in brackets are the numbers treated in hospital during the year.

1946.

- Notes: a. Cause of death: Obstruction of bronchus.  
Lymphosarcoma. P.M.  
b. Not notified - reported by Coroner  
after p.m.  
c. Notified cases only.  
d. Chronic case. Cause of death: Post-  
encephalitic Parkinsonism.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. The Borough escaped relatively lightly during the epidemic of Acute Poliomyelitis which reached its peak in August.

18 cases were notified, but in only 9 cases was the diagnosis confirmed. Nil.

One patient died, the cause being certified as "Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. Uraemia. Chronic nephritis" and the death has been assigned to Chronic Nephritis by the Registrar-General. Nil.

As a precautionary measure swimming galas arranged for 11th, 23rd, and 26th September were cancelled.

SMALLPOX. On 11th March information was received from the Medical Officer of Health, Stepney, that a case of Smallpox had been removed from Mile End Hospital on 9th March. The patient had been employed at the Empire Memorial Sailors' Hostel, Commercial Road, E. He was taken ill on the 3rd March, removed to Mile End Hospital on 5th March. A diagnosis of Smallpox was made on 9th March and the patient was transferred to a special hospital.

Between 30 and 40 contacts were followed up in this Borough. These contacts included (a) Staff and visitors to the Hostel; (b) patients from and visitors to Mile End Hospital; and (c) persons who had travelled in the ambulance which removed the patient to Mile End Hospital. Particular attention was paid to inmates of Lodging Houses.

A letter was sent to all doctors practising in the Borough calling their attention to the case and requesting their co-operation in dealing with suspected cases.

The Sanitary Inspectors, Health Visitors, Disinfecting Staff and some of the Office Staff were revaccinated as a precautionary measure.

Except for a second case in the affected ward at Mile End Hospital on 21st March no further cases occurred.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS. The immunisation clinics at the Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at 54, West Ferry Road, and the Infant Consultation Clinics held by the Royal College of St. Katharine functioned throughout the year, as also did the arrangements with local practitioners.

#### Summary of immunisations :-

a. at Borough Council and Royal College of St. Katharine Clinics	1,318	1,118
b. at London County Council centres	279	346
c. by Private practitioners	90	72
	<u>1,687</u>	<u>1,536</u>



# TUBERCULOSIS.

1946.

Dispensary Clinics: Mondays 6 p.m.  
 Tuesdays 2 p.m.  
 Thursdays 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
 Fridays 10 a.m.

Number of attendances at the Dispensary	3,776	3,540.
Number of new cases examined 394; contacts 257	651	709.
(Tuberculous 91; non-tuberculous 535; diagnosis incomplete 25)		111; 527. 71.
Number of visits to homes by Health Visitors	3,227	4,402.
Number of sputum specimens examined	469	506.
Number of X-ray examinations at St. Andrew's Hosp.	843	800.

Additional statistics. In addition to the 3,227 visits paid by the Health Visitors for Dispensary purposes 71 non-Dispensary visits were paid under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930. 101.

Reports to Chairmen of Medical Boards	12	19.
Patients sent away for institutional treatment	171	183.
Patients in receipt of extra nourishment from the Dispensary during the year	57	68.
Patients in receipt of extra nourishment from the Dispensary at 31st December	33	28.
Reports on child contacts sent to Divisional School Medical Officers	29	29.
Letters to General Practitioners concerning patients	398	420.
Reports to General Practitioners on official forms	39	52.
Progress reports from General Practitioners	1	.
Clinical reports from London County Council	76	111.
Reports to Ministry of Pensions	45	12.
Shelters on loan during the year	.	.
Shelters on loan 31st December	.	.
Beds and bedding on loan during the year	10	5.
2 beds and bedding on loan at 31st December	9	2.

During the year 19 new cases and 31 old cases have attended Brompton, Colindale, London Chest and St. Andrew's Hospitals for 711 artificial pneumo-thorax refills. 21; 27.  
723.

During the year 8 children were boarded out under the London County Council contact scheme. 6.

DENTAL TREATMENT AT ST. ANDREW'S HOSPITAL. Two patients were referred to St. Andrew's Hospital for treatment (one patient, extraction; one patient, 2 scalings). 1.

TUBERCULOSIS ALLOWANCES. The Government Scheme for the provision of allowances for persons giving up work to undergo treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis has continued to operate as part of the Dispensary service.

Sessions held by Tuberculosis Assessment Officer	50	51.
Adjudications made	537	544.
New applications	61	66.
Cases reviewed	476	478.
Patients in receipt of allowances on 31/12/47	53	54

The Ministry of Health approved the continued payment of Tuberculosis Allowances for an extended period in one case.

NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS. The numbers of new cases reported and deaths during the year were :-

	<u>New cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Death rate</u> <u>per 1,000</u> <u>population.</u>	
Pulmonary	158	64	0.87	0.88
Other forms	<u>24</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.09</u>
	<u>182</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>0.94</u>	<u>0.97.</u>

The percentage of non-notified cases to total deaths was 11.6 7.5.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December was 601. 598.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Dispensary Register at 31st December was :-

Definitely tuberculous	498 (T.b.plus 244)	502 (215)
Diagnosis not completed	<u>40</u>	<u>85</u>
	<u>538</u>	<u>587</u>

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY. The employees of the larger firms in the Borough and officers and employees of the Borough Council were given an opportunity of attending the London County Council Mass Miniature Radiography Unit at the Bethnal Green Hospital. The results were as follows :-

826 persons were examined (585 men; 241 women)  
21 were referred for large films.  
9 (1.1% of the total) were referred to their  
own Doctors as being probably Tuberculous.

SCABIES. 254 cases of Scabies were notified during the year. 484.

The number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors was 374. 773.

1,122 treatments were given at the Council's Cleansing Stn. 2,180.  
Of these 105 were given at 51 evening sessions. 98.

Adults	291 (151 males; 140 females)	568.
Children	831 (402 " ; 429 " )	1,612.

3 premises and 17,244 articles were disinfested. 25: 30,294.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS AND CHILDREN. The total number of cleansings carried out at the Council's Cleansing Station was 990 :- 1,048.

Adults	61 (42 males; 19 females)	56.
Children	929 (296 " ; 633 " )	992.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH. 255 lectures were given at 17 centres, the attendances numbering approximately 23,073. 233.  
18,801.

VENEREAL DISEASE. As in previous years the Council approved the display of posters at the various establishments controlled by the Council.