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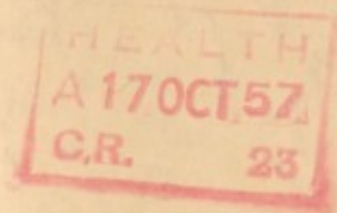
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Metropolitan Borough of Poplar



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1956



Ans

Metropolitan Borough of Poplar

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ANNUAL REPORT

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THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS
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A.I.B. W.P.D., S.E., D.M. HENRY D. W.

Councillor A. J. ATKINS, J.P., Mayor (ex-officio)
ASSISTANT VICE-CHAIRMAN

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF POPLAR

PUBLIC HEALTH & BATHS COMMITTEE, 1956 - 1957

Councillor A. L. ATKINS, J.P., Mayor (*ex-officio*)

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VICE-CHAIRMAN:

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" W. T. Tuson

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Council's representatives on the London County Council
(Division 5) Health Committee:

Councillor Mrs. N. F. Cressall

" Mrs. E. Sims

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

W. C. TURNER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., D.I.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

C. A. Grabham (a) (d)

SANITARY INSPECTORS:

G. L. Belshaw (c) (d)

F. S. Jolliffe (c) (d)

N. L. Brown (c) (d)

H. W. Luke (c) (d)

G. W. East (c) (d)

J. E. G. Steeden (c)

I. M. G. Farries (c)

C. S. Westbrook (a) (d)

CHIEF CLERK:

A. A. Hamilton (c)

CLERKS:

A. M. Cannon

T. E. Oldfield

(from 10.12.56)

W. J. Crone

G. R. Williamson

DISINFECTORS:

R. DESMOND (Chief Disinfector)

PUBLIC ANALYSTS (Part-time):

Albert E. Parkes, F.I.C., F.C.S.

H. A. Parkes, B.Sc., F.I.C.

(a) Cert. S.I.E. Board. (b) Cert. R.S.I. (c) Cert. R.S.I. &
S.I.E.J.B. (d) Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF POPLAR

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough during the year 1956.

The general standard of health of the inhabitants of the Borough has remained satisfactory but some distress is still being caused by the continued housing shortage.

Efforts have been made over the years to secure improvements in the home living conditions but in Poplar the age of so many of the houses with serious inherent defects makes it inevitable that such improvements depend largely on the provision of new and better houses. Another aspect of the housing shortage has been the uncontrolled trespass by dwellers in tents, vans and sheds on land cleared as a result of war and housing activities, still vacant owing to delays in developing the sites. This has created an unexpected problem and a serious source of nuisance.

The Food and Drugs Act 1955 came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. It is a consolidating Act and brings together all the previous legislation on food and drugs without introducing any new law.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, made under the new Act also came into operation on 1st January, 1956. They replace and extend the powers contained in

Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 which were principally used in the past.

The principal extensions to the previous law are expressly designed to improve food handling hygiene in an endeavour to lessen the number of cases of food poisoning. The provisions are very necessary and important as, owing to changes in eating habits more meals are eaten away from home and over the past five years the number of cases of food poisoning has shown a marked progressive increase.

The new law includes:-

- Specific requirements designed to prevent the contamination of food;
- provision of sinks and other facilities for washing food and equipment;
- the provision of a constant supply of hot water for sinks, wash-basins, etc., in the food premises and of a supply of hot water on stalls and vehicles;
- restrictions on the preparation and packing of food in or about domestic premises;
- the temperatures and conditions under which certain foods that provide a particularly favourable medium for food poisoning organisms are to be kept in food premises;
- a requirement to provide vehicles used for the transport of meat with duck-boards and separate receptacles for offal, and, where the vehicles are not enclosed, a covering supported by a frame or poles;

the circumstances in which persons carrying meat are required to wear overalls and head covering;

the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, was enacted during the year and, except for certain sections, came into operation on the 31st December, 1956.

The Act is one of considerable social importance, more especially in Poplar where there are many dwellings adjacent to areas of the Borough zoned for industrial purposes. It is well known that many of the industries carried on in the area are smoke producers.

Last year mention was made that it had been proved without doubt that smoking habits are in part responsible for the increase in the number of cases of cancer of the lung. Further work has confirmed this relationship and it is regretted that figures for deaths from cancer of the lung continue to rise. It is absolutely essential that young people should be prevented from acquiring the habit or dissuaded from smoking as there is a delay of up to twenty years before the effects of this habit manifest themselves. From a purely medical point of view there would appear to be every justification for discontinuing the importation and sale of tobacco in its present form.

I desire to express my thanks to Dr. R. Duncan Dewar under whose control the

statistics were compiled until he relinquished his appointment in April, 1956.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Baths Committee for their help and encouragement to the Chief Officers of the Council and their staffs for their co-operation, and finally to Mr. C. A. Grabham, the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. A. A. Hamilton, Chief Clerk and all the other members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their assistance and loyal support at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

During the year births registered exceeded deaths registered by 467 but through rehousing and other reasons some 2,100 residents moved from the Borough to other areas and the home population estimated by the Registrar General to number 68,620 at the middle of the year shows a decrease of 1,640 compared with the estimate for the previous year.

The birth rate was 17.5 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 16.6 for 1955. To enable a fair comparison to be made with other areas and the country as a whole, area comparability factors which take into consideration the age and sex distribution of the population are provided by the Registrar General. Factors are supplied both for births and deaths. Using the comparability factor the adjusted birth rate would be 16.1 as compared with 15.7 for England and Wales.

The death rate in 1956 was 10.7 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 10.9 for 1955. Again using the comparability factor the adjusted death rate would be 12.6 as compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. Comparative rates for the previous year were 12.4 and 11.7 respectively.

The infant mortality rate, being the number of deaths of infants under one

year of age per 1,000 births, was 24.9 as compared with 29.2 for the previous year. The figures for England and Wales are 23.8 and 24.9 respectively.

The causes of death are shown in Table 1 in accordance with the classification used by the Registrar General. Deaths from neoplasms of the lung have for the last decade shown a steady but progressive increase and during this year show an increase of approximately 25 per cent. It is felt that this increase can only be related to environmental factors which include smoking habits and atmospheric pollution. Deaths from other diseases show no significant change from the numbers recorded in 1955.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (excluding water)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,136 acres
Area (including water)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,331 acres
Population, estimated mid-year	..	..	..	..	..	..	68,620
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate books)	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,145
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,069,527
General Rate (1955-1956)	..	..	..	..	..	..	15/0d. in £
Sum represented by a penny rate (1955-1956)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£4,180

DEATHS

1213

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

						Males	Females	TOTAL
Live Births:	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	570	564	1,134
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	36	33	69
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:								17.5
Stillbirths:	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	14	7	21
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:					..			19.6
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	386	350	736
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:								10.7
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:								
	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	9	15	24
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	4	6
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:								
	All infants per 1,000 live births:							24.9
	Legitimate infants per 1,000							
	legitimate live births:	..	..					21.2
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000							
	illegitimate live births:	..	..					86.9

S E C T I O N B

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The domestic water supply for every dwelling in the Borough is taken from the Metropolitan Water Board. Samples of the water are subjected to regular routine chemical and bacteriological examination at the Board's laboratories and the results of these examinations are made available to the local authority. The results were uniformly satisfactory throughout the year.

Water supply certificates were granted in accordance with Section 95 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 in 358 cases.

There are 11 private wells in the Borough some of which are used for industrial purposes. In no case is the water used for drinking purposes but by arrangement with the owners of the wells, the Metropolitan Water Board takes samples periodically for examination so as to have some record of the probable suitability of the water for drinking should this become necessary in the unlikely event of a major breakdown in the normal supply or in case of war.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The District Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the investigation of all complaints in connection with premises within their areas whether these be used as dwellings or for commercial or industrial purposes. The greater portion of the work concerns dwellings as can be seen from the summary of work done which follows.

INSPECTIONS, INSANITARY CONDITIONS THEN EXISTING
AND RE-INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1956

(continued)

TABLE II (continued)

	<u>Nuisances, etc.,</u> <u>found</u>	<u>Works</u> <u>completed</u>
Dampness: (Not due to defects shown elsewhere) ..	539	552
Water: supply cut off	41	28
Dust receptacles: Insufficient or defective ..	83	60
Miscellaneous:		
Rooms, etc., dirty and/ or verminous	284	467
Cases of overcrowding	5	3
Yards, etc., not properly paved or drained ..	57	64
Roofs defective	631	711
Rainwater pipes and gutters defective	225	227
Public House urinals requiring cleansing ..	-	-
Other nuisances or defects	2,391	2,645
Defects, etc., found in Factories:		
Sanitary defects	-	-
W.C. accommodation insufficient or unsuitable	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-
Stables:		
Accumulations found	1	1
Manure receptacles defective	1	1

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year 55 plans of drainage work to new and existing buildings were submitted and approved.

Common Lodging Houses.

There was one licensed Common Lodging House, with accommodation for 295 males, in the Borough. 39 inspections were made during the year.

Seamen's Lodging Houses.

There were two licensed Seamen's Lodging Houses, providing accommodation for 187 and 26 males respectively, in the Borough.

Inspections made during the year totalled 28.

Personal Cleansing.

Owing to the very small number of cases requiring personal cleansing an arrangement was made with the Stepney Borough Council to carry out cleansing where necessary at the Stepney Cleansing Station at Branch Road.

The Poplar Cleansing Station, which is in Yeo Street adjoining the Disinfecting Station, is maintained in proper order and can be re-opened at any time should this be necessary.

The number of persons cleansed during 1956 was as follows:-

					<u>Verminous</u>	<u>Scabies</u>	<u>Total</u>
Adults	..	..	..	..	30	16	46
Children	..	..	..	..	6	11	17
					<u>36</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>63</u>

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The Council maintains a disinfecting station at Yeo Street and a summary of the work carried out is given below:-

(a) Disinfection:-

			<u>Premises</u> <u>Disinfected</u>	<u>Articles</u> <u>Disinfected</u>
Infectious Disease	..	..	203	1,687
Tuberculosis	..	..	63	629
Verminous	..	..	-	-
Miscellaneous	..	..	229	2,445
Disinfection for manufacturing firms	..	..	-	42,708
			<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	..		495	47,469
			<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition, 365 tons of waste paper were disinfected.

(b) Disinfestation:-

Inspections:-

Number of visits	..	..	1,103
Premises requiring treatment	..	..	766
Furniture requiring treatment	..	..	217
Re-inspections after disinfestation	..	..	64
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	..	..	95

Disinfestation carried out:-

Rooms (in 763 premises)	..	..	1,729
Beds, bedding, etc. articles	..	..	1,879
Furniture articles	..	..	2,116

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Rodent Control measures throughout the Borough have been carried out under the supervision of the Rodent Officer and a staff of six operatives.

Work of the section may be divided into three main categories:-

(a) Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

(b) Business premises - routine inspection for rodent control.

(c) Dwelling houses - complaints from occupiers.

Sewer Maintenance.

Treatments have been carried out at six-monthly intervals with the co-operation of the Borough Engineer & Surveyor's Department under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to synchronise with treatments in the neighbouring Authorities' Areas.

Business Premises.

The Council's Contributory Scheme of Rodent Control in business premises has again continued to function well. The income derived from this Scheme is now £3,200 per annum and the charges made to individual contributors are calculated in units of £5 to £200 dependent on the size of the premises and the storage of rat and mice attractive materials. It must be appreciated that the Borough has extensive river and canal frontages and an immense volume of goods of all description is carried by ship and barge. The Rodent Control staff carry out considerable routine work of inspection and treatment of premises where goods are landed. It is extremely difficult entirely to eliminate the menace of rats, but

by constant supervision and treatment, rats and mice in these areas have been reduced and maintained at a minimum which emphasises the general benefits of the Council's Contributory Rodent Scheme.

Dwelling Houses.

During the year under review 461 complaints have been received, many of mice infestation. Each complaint has been investigated and treatment or treatments are carried out as may be necessary. Where rat infestation of dwelling houses has been discovered it has usually been found to be due to defects in the drain or sewer and suitable repairs have been effected.

This service is carried out by the Council's Staff and no charges are made to occupiers of dwelling houses.

	T Y P E O F P R O P E R T Y			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses including Council houses	All Other (including Business Premises)	TOTAL
Number of properties in Borough ..	39	17,107	3,042	20,188
Number of properties inspected as a result of -				
(a) Notification	-	300	97	397
(b) Survey under the Act ..	-	132	153	285
Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections ..	6	1,495	6,128	7,629
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by: -				
(a) Rats (Major	-	37	29	66
(Minor	5	203	362	570
(b) Mice (Major	-	25	27	52
(Minor	-	221	214	435
No. of infested properties treated ..	12	459	499	970
Total treatments carried out	13	1,283	2,458	3,754
Number of Block control schemes carried out	7	-	220	227

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (TABLES III, IV & V)

T A B L E I I I

INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

P r e m i s e s	Number on Register	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	64	3	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	649	78	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	4	-	-
TOTAL	732	85	-	-

TABLE IV

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

P a r t i c u l a r s	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	R e f e r r e d		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	4	-	4	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	1	-	1	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	1	-	1	-
TOTAL	-	7	-	7	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (TABLES III, IV & V)

TABLE V

OUTWORKERS

NATURE OF WORK	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (3)	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
Making, etc. ..	124	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing apparel { Cleaning and washing ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous . . .	67	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	191	-	-	-	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

TABLE IA

Offensive Trades.

One Dresser of Furskins is established in the Borough. Two inspections were carried out.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year 12 complaints of nuisance from smoke were received. 24 smoke observations were carried out.

Shops Act, 1950.

Under the provisions of this Act 8 visits were made.

No exemption certificates under the Act were issued during the year.

Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933.

A list of persons who sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List is maintained under the provisions of the Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933.

The number of persons on the list at the end of 1956 was 92.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act requires the registration of premises upon which a business is carried on involving the use of filling materials. The number of premises registered is 10.

The Act also requires the licensing of premises for the storage of rag flock, and 2 licences have been issued.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Licences have been issued in respect of eight premises within the Borough.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

During the year two persons and one premises were registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954, bringing the total on the register at the end of the year to 49 persons and 44 premises.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

A number of cases of aged people came to the notice of the Public Health Department, but with the co-operation of the Home Help Service of the London County Council and with the assistance of the District Nurses, the Voluntary Services and friends and neighbours it was possible to provide proper care in their own homes but where necessary they were persuaded voluntarily to enter hospital or other suitable establishments.

Care of the Aged.

Help, advice and assistance for old people through the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations associated in welfare work continued throughout the year and the old people have benefited greatly from the services provided.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50.

Burials carried out under the provisions of this Act totalled 6 (4 adults: 2 children).

The total cost was £50 1s. 6d., of which £31 15s. 2d. was recovered.

Mortuary and Coroner's Court.

The Poplar Mortuary is situated in Poplar High Street adjoining the Coroner's Court. It is fitted with modern refrigerating plant which will hold fifteen bodies and it has a well equipped post-mortem room. In addition there is a viewing room, a waiting room and accommodation for the use of the pathologists and clerks.

In consequence of the reconstitution of Coroners' districts by the London County Council arrangements for the joint use of Poplar Mortuary by the three boroughs of Bethnal Green, Poplar and Shoreditch, which had been in operation since August, 1954, ceased to have effect.

The total number of bodies received during 1956 was 627. (Residents 250, non-residents 377). Post-mortem examinations were made in 518 cases and inquests were held in 109 cases.

Swimming Baths and Wash-houses.

The following bathing establishments are maintained by the Council under the supervision of the Chief Baths Superintendent:-

Poplar Baths	..	Vapour, Foam and Slipper baths, Swimming Pools
Bow Baths	..	Slipper Baths and Laundry
Island Baths	..	Slipper Baths and Laundry
Wick Lane Baths	..	Slipper Baths and Laundry
Watts Grove Baths	.	Slipper Baths and Laundry
Sophia Street Baths		Laundry only

Public Cleansing.

The arrangements for collection, removal and disposal of refuse are under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, who has supplied the following information:-

Refuse. During the year 23,485 tons of house, trade, street, gully, market and kitchen refuse were collected and disposed of at the controlled tip. In addition 15,131 tons of refuse from a neighbouring borough were also dealt with at the Council's Refuse Disposal Depot.

Street Cleansing. Two mechanical sweeper-collector machines work in conjunction with the manual sweepers, and as required 3 watering machines are used for street watering.

Gully Cleansing. Three gully emptying machines have carried out 5,941 cleansings of the gullies during the year.

SECTION C

HOUSING

Details of new housing accommodation completed in the Borough during 1956 are as follows:-

Poplar Borough Council	262 dwellings
London County Council - Devons Estate	96 dwellings

The number of families living in property owned or managed by the Borough Council at 31st December, 1956, was as follows:-

<u>Type of dwelling</u>	<u>No. of Lettings</u>
Pre-war Council houses and flats	1,066
Post-war Council houses and flats	1,416
Temporary bungalows	517
Old properties in Compulsory Purchase Areas ..	22
Requisitioned Properties	814
Temporary hutments	3
	<hr/>
TOTAL PROPERTIES . ..	<u>3,838</u>

Certificates of Disrepair

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

	No. of applications for certificates	Number granted	Number refused	No. of applications for revocation of certificates	Number granted	Number refused
(a) Dwelling houses which have been the subject of a notice of repairs increase of rent under Part II of the 1954 Act	20	17	3	42	54	3
(b) Dwelling houses which have not been the subject of a notice of repairs increase of rent under the 1954 Act but in respect of which permitted increases of rent are recoverable under Section 2(1)(c) and (d) of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920 ..	14	10	3	7	5	2

Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936).

Particulars of overcrowding and abatement of cases of overcrowding in the Borough during the year are as follows:-

Number of cases reported during the year	5
--	---

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year:-

Rehoused by London County Council	1
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Rehoused by Poplar Borough Council	18
------------------------------------	----

Number of persons concerned in cases rehoused	97
---	----

Closing Orders (Public Health (London) Act, 1936).

No Closing Orders were made under this Act during the year but two which had been made previously were revoked by the Magistrate.

Closing Orders (Housing Act, 1936).

Closing Orders in respect of 15 underground rooms were made under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, during 1956.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2,373
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	9,474
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	526
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	613
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,772

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1,099
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3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(a)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	673
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
(a)	By owners	600
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(b)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	15
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	2
(e)	Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses included in Clearance Areas ..	39
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure	39
4.	Miscellaneous visits and inspections (not included above) made by the Housing Inspector during the year	376

SECTION D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

In June of this year a small outbreak of food poisoning involving sixteen persons was traced to the factory of a manufacturer of meat products within the Borough. Immediately on the receipt of the information nose, throat and stool specimens were taken from the staff engaged in the handling of the food, samples of the suspected product were taken from stock, the manufacture of the article was suspended and stocks withdrawn from retailers. In addition, information regarding the outbreak and the suspected staphylococcus organism was passed to the laboratory.

The organism (*Staphylococcus aureus* coagulase positive) was isolated from the stool specimen of the cook at the factory and was also found in the samples of food taken from stock. It was found the commodity concerned, pressed brisket beef, received excessive handling after cooking; a study of the production methods at the factory enabled us to advise an entirely new and safer procedure.

To those engaged in investigating outbreaks of food poisoning there may be little that is sensational in this story. In fact it may be fairly commonplace. But one important point does emerge and that is in connection with the time factor. Most of the patients concerned lived outside the Borough and information regarding them was received from five different local authorities and the Public Health Laboratory Service. In each case the information was telephoned pending official confirmation in writing. Had it not been for this prompt co-operation it is quite

likely that the number of persons affected would have been considerably larger since the manufacturers distribute their goods over a very wide area. The factory proprietors were as anxious as the authorities to bring the outbreak under control and acted promptly on our advice.

This incident adequately illustrates the importance of prompt notification being passed to the authority concerned. If food poisoning is to be kept under control it is essential that there should be the closest co-operation between local authorities, laboratory services, medical practitioners and the food trader.

Delay creates problems which are often insurmountable. No specimens of food remain; dates, times and order of symptoms are confused if not forgotten by the patient and few people can remember precisely the food eaten say, six or seven days previously.

Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows: -

Manufacturing premises 40

(Confectionery 6; Flour millers 3; Edible oils 1; Ice cream 2; Wine blenders 2; Nut roasters 3; Grocery 3; Pickles 3; Spice grinders 1; Milk pasteurising 1; Food Dehydration 1; Meat products 6; Mineral waters 1; Sugar refiners 2; Bakers 3; Essences 1; Sausage Rusk 1).

This list does not include places where food is manufactured principally for retail sale on the premises.

Wharves 28.

Cold stores 1.

Wholesale premises 25

(Grocers 16; Banana ripeners 4; Confectioners 5).

Retail premises 988

(Grocers 179; Confectioners 111; Restaurants 128; Industrial canteens 98;

Non-industrial canteens 31; School meals centres 25; Public houses 171;

Off-licences 25; Bakers 33; Fishmongers 35; Herbalists 1; Greengrocers 62;

Butchers 60; Chemists 15; Miscellaneous 14).

Street market stalls 130.

Slaughterhouses 2.

Registered premises.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

(a) Ice cream; Manufacture and sale ..	15
Sale and storage	166
Storage only	2

(Note - in addition to the premises referred to above ice cream is also sold from 37 premises exempt from registration, i.e., Restaurants, Cinemas, etc.).

(b) Sausages and preserved, etc., foods ..	53
--	----

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949.

Dairies	2
Milk Distributors: Inside the Borough ..	137
Outside the Borough ..	29

Inspection of Food Premises.

The following is a detailed summary showing the types of premises inspected during the year:-

	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Bakers	48
Dairies	73
Milk Distributors	134
Restaurants	260
Industrial catering establishments	94
Other catering establishments	44
Fish shops, fryers and curers	37
Stalls and itinerant vendors	35
Market inspections	60
Ice cream premises	188
Wharves	87
Butchers	126
Registered food manufacturers	94
Other food premises	557
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	<u>1,837</u>

Unsatisfactory conditions, warranting formal action, were found at 2 premises.

TABLE VI

Sample No.	ARTICLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION
5 *	Flaky Pastry	Not properly labelled. The ingredients were not stated on the label.	Letter to Manufacturers.
30 *	Potted Meat	Contained added starch. Should consist entirely of meat.	Formal sample to be purchased.
56 *	Margarine	Contained 0.4 per cent. of water in excess of the legal limit.	Formal sample taken, No. 68
68	Margarine	Contained 0.2 per cent. of water in excess of the legal limit.	Letter to Manufacturer.
221	Cream Buns	The buns contained a filling which was not dairy cream.	Letter to retailer.
239 *	Frozen Beef	The article, which was pre-packed, did not show on the label either the name and address of the packer or a Registered Trade Mark.	Letter to packers. Label later corrected.
262 *	Citroze Glucose Drink	Contained 50 parts per million of benzoic acid preservative in excess of the amount permitted.	See formal sample No. 286
286	Citroze Glucose Drink	Contained 60 parts per million of benzoic acid preservative in excess of the amount permitted.	Letter to Manufacturer.
369 *	Beef Sausages	Contained sulphur dioxide preservative the presence of which was not disclosed on the label.	Notice displayed in shop, but too small. New notice displayed.
370 *	Lyons' Puff Pastry Mix	Contained a rancid fat.	Letter to Manufacturer.
379 *	Birds' Complete Cake Mix	Contained a rancid fat.	Letter to Manufacturer.
393 *	Orange Juice	Fermenting and unfit for human consumption.	Taken from 34 casks imported.
394 *	Orange juice	Fermenting and unfit for human consumption.	All surrendered and destroyed.
395 *	Orange Juice	Fermenting and unfit for human consumption.	ditto
398	Cake Mix	Contained a rancid fat.	Letter to Manufacturer.
448 *	Complete Cake Mix	Contained a rancid fat.	Formal sample taken - No. 472.
468 *	Acetic Acid	Bottle incorrectly labelled. As it contained Acetic Acid of 19.8 per cent. strength it should have been labelled "Concentrated Solution of Acetic Acid" and should have carried a warning "Dangerous - not to be used unless diluted".	Letter to retailer.
472	Complete Cake Mix	Contained a rancid fat.	Letter to Manufacturer.
499 *	Mulligatawny Soup	Contained an excessive amount of tin, namely, 458 parts per million.	Balance of stock destroyed.
507 *	Mixed Pickles in Mustard.	Sold in an unlabelled container.	Letter to retailer.
508	White Cake Mix	Contained a rancid fat.	Letter to Manufacturer.

* Informal sample.

Food Sampling.

A total of 754 samples of food were procured during the year by the Council's Food Inspector. Of these, 550 were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination, the remaining 204 being sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service for biochemical or bacteriological report.

Samples examined by the Public Analyst included a comprehensive variety of food. 62 samples were acquired formally and 488 informally. A total of 21 samples (3.8 per cent) were found to be adulterated. Details of the unsatisfactory samples and the action taken are shown in Table VI, on pages 38 and 39.

During the year twenty-one samples of sausages were purchased mostly from different manufacturers, including local butchers. The meat content of pork sausages varied from 54.4 to 70.6 per cent., with an average of 63.4 per cent. Prices varied from 2/4d. to 2/10d. per lb. with an average of 2/7d. per lb. In the case of beef sausages the meat content varied from 44.5 to 79.9 per cent. with an average of 57.5 per cent. Prices were from 1/4d. to 2/4d. per lb. with an average of 1/10d. per lb.

Sample No.	ARTICLE
5	White Peas
10	Peas
15	Margarine
20	Butter
25	White Peas
30	White Peas
35	White Peas
40	White Peas
45	White Peas
50	White Peas
55	White Peas
60	White Peas
65	White Peas
70	White Peas
75	White Peas
80	White Peas
85	White Peas
90	White Peas
95	White Peas
100	White Peas
105	White Peas
110	White Peas
115	White Peas
120	White Peas
125	White Peas
130	White Peas
135	White Peas
140	White Peas
145	White Peas
150	White Peas
155	White Peas
160	White Peas
165	White Peas
170	White Peas
175	White Peas
180	White Peas
185	White Peas
190	White Peas
195	White Peas
200	White Peas
205	White Peas
210	White Peas
215	White Peas
220	White Peas
225	White Peas
230	White Peas
235	White Peas
240	White Peas
245	White Peas
250	White Peas
255	White Peas
260	White Peas
265	White Peas
270	White Peas
275	White Peas
280	White Peas
285	White Peas
290	White Peas
295	White Peas
300	White Peas
305	White Peas
310	White Peas
315	White Peas
320	White Peas
325	White Peas
330	White Peas
335	White Peas
340	White Peas
345	White Peas
350	White Peas
355	White Peas
360	White Peas
365	White Peas
370	White Peas
375	White Peas
380	White Peas
385	White Peas
390	White Peas
395	White Peas
400	White Peas
405	White Peas
410	White Peas
415	White Peas
420	White Peas
425	White Peas
430	White Peas
435	White Peas
440	White Peas
445	White Peas
450	White Peas
455	White Peas
460	White Peas
465	White Peas
470	White Peas
475	White Peas
480	White Peas
485	White Peas
490	White Peas
495	White Peas
500	White Peas
505	White Peas
510	White Peas
515	White Peas
520	White Peas
525	White Peas
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535	White Peas
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665	White Peas
670	White Peas
675	White Peas
680	White Peas
685	White Peas
690	White Peas
695	White Peas
700	White Peas
705	White Peas
710	White Peas
715	White Peas
720	White Peas
725	White Peas
730	White Peas
735	White Peas
740	White Peas
745	White Peas
750	White Peas
755	White Peas
760	White Peas
765	White Peas
770	White Peas
775	White Peas
780	White Peas
785	White Peas
790	White Peas
795	White Peas
800	White Peas
805	White Peas
810	White Peas
815	White Peas
820	White Peas
825	White Peas
830	White Peas
835	White Peas
840	White Peas
845	White Peas
850	White Peas
855	White Peas
860	White Peas
865	White Peas
870	White Peas
875	White Peas
880	White Peas
885	White Peas
890	White Peas
895	White Peas
900	White Peas
905	White Peas
910	White Peas
915	White Peas
920	White Peas
925	White Peas
930	White Peas
935	White Peas
940	White Peas
945	White Peas
950	White Peas
955	White Peas
960	White Peas
965	White Peas
970	White Peas
975	White Peas
980	White Peas
985	White Peas
990	White Peas
995	White Peas

Unsound food.

The Council's Food Inspector is called upon to pass judgment of fitness on great quantities of food. Frequently large and valuable stocks are involved. Among special lots of food examined during the year were the following:-

Miscellaneous Foods (Damaged by a fire).	..	4 cwts.	..	Condemned and destroyed.
Dutch Potatoes (Stock at Wharf)	.. ..	200 tins	..	Condemned and destroyed.
Sugar (Stock at Wharf)	.. ..	37 cwts.	..	Condemned and destroyed.
Dutch Potatoes (Stock at Wharf)	.. ..	90 tins	..	Condemned and destroyed.
Canned Pineapple (P.H. (Imported Food) Regs.)	.. ..	500 cases detained	..	25 cases condemned and destroyed.
Concentrated Orange Juice (P.H. (Imported Food) Regs.)	..	34 casks 136 cwts.	..	Condemned and destroyed.
Italian Peeled Tomatoes (P.H. (Imported Food) Regs.)	..	1,000 cases inspected. 662 cases .. each 24 tins detained.		1,262 tins condemned and destroyed.
Italian Peeled Tomatoes (P.H. (Imported Food) Regs.)	..	1,000 cases inspected, each 48 tins		1,450 tins condemned and destroyed.

The following is a summary of foods condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

				<u>Fresh foods</u>	<u>Canned foods</u>
Meat and offal	..	..	..	1,259 lbs.	426 lbs.
Meat products	..	..	..	90 lbs.	523 lbs.
Ham ..	..	..	..	8 lbs.	1,231 lbs.
Poultry	..	..	..	250 lbs.	-
Cheese	..	..	..	606 lbs.	7 lbs.
Fish ..	..	..	..	43 lbs.	134 lbs.
Milk ..	..	..	..	-	448 lbs.
Fruit juice ..	..	..	..	15,232 lbs.	4,733 lbs.
Fruit (Dried)	..	..	..	110 lbs.	-
Sugar ..	..	..	..	4,144 lbs.	-
Vegetables ..	..	..	..	649,608 lbs.	856 lbs.
Fruit ..	..	..	..	-	18,717 lbs.
Other foods ..	..	..	..	105 lbs.	123 lbs.

This summary differentiates only between canned food and others; foods preserved by salt, sugar, dehydration, etc., being included under the heading "Fresh Foods".

Disposal of Unsound Food.

The bulk of the food condemned as being unfit for human consumption is removed from the premises concerned by the Borough Engineer's refuse disposal service as trade refuse and the cost of removal is charged to the owners in accordance with the Council's fixed scale of charges.

In special cases, where large quantities of food are condemned, arrangements may be made under suitable guarantees from the owners, for the foods to be utilised for animal feeding or non-edible industrial purposes such as soap, starch, or manure making.

Milk Supply.

All domestic supplies of milk are sold in sealed bottles or cartons bearing a designation. Except for very small quantities of raw Tuberculin Tested milk from Attested herds, all milk is heat treated.

Although a large number of shop keepers are registered to sell milk, the greater proportion of milk supplied to domestic consumers is delivered to the door through twenty of the registered distributors.

The London fresh milk depot of one of the leading wholesale milk concerns is situated within the Borough. Here, over 9,000,000 gallons of milk are pasteurised annually and distributed over some thirty to forty districts in the Greater London area. The Council is responsible for licensing and supervising the pasteurising process.

Samples of milk have been taken from dairies, shops and deliverymen for the purpose of checking quality, purity and bacteriological cleanliness. Samples were also taken on delivery from supplies to schools.

During the year 207 inspections were made of dairies and other premises from which milk is distributed. Conditions on the whole were found to be satisfactory.

Registration and Licensing. For details of registration of dairies and distributors see page 37.

Licenses issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949:-

		<u>Sterilised</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Tuberculin tested</u>
Dealers .. ..	..	145	67	22
Supplementary ..	..	28	24	23
Pasteurisers . .	..	-	1	-

Milk sampling. A total of 46 samples of milk (43 formal, 3 informal) were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. All samples were satisfactory. For average solids in all samples, excluding Channel Islands milk, the figures were: Fat 3.44; Non-fatty solids 8.64.

The Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956, introduced on 13th June, fixed a minimum standard of 4 per cent fat in connection with milk sold under the Description Channel Islands, Jersey, Guernsey and South Devon. 9 samples of Channel Islands milk were taken and reports showed fat figures from 4.3 to 4.7 with an average of 4.45. Average figure for non-fatty solids was 9.04.

Of the 68 samples of designated milk (52 pasteurised; 11 tuberculin tested pasteurised; 2 tuberculin tested; and 3 sterilised) submitted to the Phosphatase, Methylene Blue and Turbidity tests as appropriate, 1 sample of tuberculin tested pasteurised milk failed the Phosphatase test. Since the milk was produced outside the Borough, the appropriate Licensing Authority was informed. All other samples were satisfactory.

Milk delivered to Schools and other London County Council Establishments. Of the 20 samples of milk taken on delivery at London County Council Establishments, 10 were submitted for chemical and 10 for bacteriological examination. All samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Oxidising Agents. The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, provide for the use of certain cleansing agents for milk containers and plant. All these products are required to contain a small percentage of sodium chlorate to act as a detector of the efficiency of subsequent rinsing. Three samples were tested for the presence of chlorates and were found to be free.

Ice Cream.

Close supervision is exercised in connection with the manufacture, sale and storage of ice cream. Premises, plant and refrigerators were kept under constant observation. Full and free consultation has taken place between manufacturers and the Council's Food Inspector on problems of production.

Inspections are made of the vehicles used by itinerant vendors; vehicles have been stopped, stocks inspected, temperature of containers checked and samples taken.

A total of 101 samples were taken during the year. Of these 79 were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue test. The samples were graded as follows:-

<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
28	21	17	13

Most of the samples falling into the lower grades were taken from local manufacturers. Premises and plant are generally satisfactory and there appears to be no reason why, with reasonable care, a high standard of hygiene should not be reached. In most cases where disappointing results are investigated it is found

that the issue requiring the greatest emphasis is the fundamental difference between cleaning plant and equipment and subjecting it to thorough and efficient sterilisation.

The remaining 22 samples were examined by the Public Analyst under the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951. All samples were reported to be satisfactory, the quality in general being much higher than the standards prescribed in the regulations.

Imported Food.

The Council is a specially appointed Authority under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. Inspections are made of direct landings of imported foodstuffs at the Sufferance Wharves in the Borough. No prohibited meat may be imported into the country for sale for human consumption and no meat or meat products may be imported without an official certificate of inspection issued by the Country of Origin, and approved by the British Government.

Detention notices were served under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations on 3 occasions, two in respect of food found to be unfit for human consumption and one in connection with a meat product without official certificates.

Foods for Export.

In order to satisfy the Authorities of importing countries overseas it is necessary for the exporter to obtain a certificate of purity signed by the Medical Officer of Health for the district from which the food is shipped. During the

period covered by this report 38 inspections were made of foods exported from the district; 62 certificates of purity were issued.

Food Poisoning.

Twenty-four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Six of these cases occurred in connection with an outbreak associated with the consumption of pressed beef in which coagulase positive staphylococci, phage type 6/47/53, had been isolated, the cooked meat being prepared and sold by a firm in the borough. Investigations failed to establish a specific cause in the remaining eighteen cases.

S E C T I O N E

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of corrected notifications of infectious disease during 1956 was 882 which was considerably less than the figure for the previous year and mainly due to the decrease in the number of cases of measles which were notified.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to report that no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year but it must be emphasised that this has been achieved by a vigorous policy of immunisation and if diphtheria is not to re-appear as a killing disease constant vigilance is required and there must be no apathy on the part of the public in availing themselves of immunisation facilities as this degree of freedom from this serious disease will only be maintained if at least 80 percent of the susceptible population are immunised and an alarming feature is that owing to the virtual disappearance of this disease there is a tendency to disregard its seriousness and the percentage of immunisation is barely being maintained at a satisfactory level in spite of vigorous propaganda campaigns.

Poliomyelitis.

During the year 12 cases of poliomyelitis (7 paralytic: 5 non-paralytic) were notified but diagnosis was confirmed in only 11 cases (7 paralytic: 4 non-paralytic). There were no deaths from this disease.

Measles.

The number of cases of measles notified during the year was 392 as compared with 1,559 in 1955 and 40 in 1954. This shows a slight deviation from the pattern of measles epidemics which prior to the war showed a fairly clearly marked two-year cycle in which a high peak was reached in alternate years, the intervening years being marked by relative freedom from the disease.

Whooping Cough.

There were 174 cases of whooping cough notified during the year as compared with 192 the previous year. 58% occurred in children below 5 years of age and 13% in children below 1 year. This disease shows little variation over the years and in view of the age group attacked, predominantly in children below 5 years, it must still be regarded as one of the most serious diseases of childhood because of the possibility of sequelae.

Tuberculosis.

Notifications show little change from last year but when it is realised that every case arises from a previous case which is in an active phase of the disease it is apparent that in spite of modern therapeutic aids and improved diagnostic facilities this disease is only being held in check and is a long way from eradication.

The following table shows the age and sex incidence of the cases notified.

TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS - PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS

	0- yrs.	1- yrs.	2- yrs.	5- yrs.	10- yrs.	15- yrs.	20- yrs.	25- yrs.	35- yrs.	45- yrs.	55- yrs.	65- yrs.	75- yrs.	TOTAL
Respiratory males ..	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	5	8	8	6	5	12	40
Respiratory females ..	-	2	-	1	-	3	2	7	2	1	-	-	-	18
Non-respiratory males ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-respiratory females ..	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	6

In addition, 36 other cases were added to the register as a result of information received from the following sources:-

Local death returns 1

Transfers from other areas .. 35

During the year 9 deaths were certified as being due to tuberculosis, as compared with 16 the previous year.

The number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December, 1956, after adjustment in respect of deaths and transfers, was as follows:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Males ..	417	63	480
Females ..	277	62	339
TOTAL ..	<u>694</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>819</u>

Mass Radiography.

During the year a Mass Radiography Survey was carried out in the borough by the Mass Radiography Unit 6B of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The Unit was established at Poplar Baths from 5th to 26th March and St. Clement's Hospital from 27th March to 16th April. Information relating to the Survey, a summary of which is given below, has been furnished by Dr. A. J. Lawless, O.B.E., Medical Director of the Unit.

A total of 7,516 persons (4,113 males and 3,403 females), was examined and the results were as follows:-

	Poplar Baths			St. Clement's Hospital		
	Males	Females	TOTAL	Males	Females	TOTAL
No. of attendances for Miniature X-ray	2,010	1,360	3,370	2,103	2,043	4,146
No. recalled for Large Film examination	126	96	222	92	60	152
Tuberculous lesions ..						
Active tuberculosis	9	5	14	10	2	12
Rate per 1,000 examined ..	4.48	3.68	4.15	4.75	2.0	2.89
Inactive tuberculosis . .	-	-	61	-	-	81
Rate per 1,000 examined ..	-	-	18.1	-	-	19.54
Other abnormalities revealed						
Cancer of lung	-	-	3	-	-	5
Miscellaneous	-	-	130	-	-	119

T A B L E V I I I
I N F E C T I O U S D I S E A S E

D I S E A S E	C o r r e c t e d N o t i f i c a t i o n s									Removed to Hospital
	0- yrs.	1- yrs.	3- yrs.	5- yrs.	15- yrs.	25- yrs.	45- yrs.	65- yrs.	TOTAL	
Dysentery 	6	23	17	24	8	14	3	-	95	26
Erysipelas 	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	1
Measles 	19	80	116	177	-	-	-	-	392	7
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	5	5
Opthalmia Neonatorum . ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Paratyphoid 'B' 	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	3
Pneumonia 	-	1	2	8	2	10	14	10	47	6
Poliomyelitis, Ac.:Paralytic	-	2	2	2	-	1	-	-	7	7
Poliomyelitis, Ac.: Non- Paralytic 	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	4	4
Puerperal Pyrexia 	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	5	5
Scabies 	-	-	2	5	1	3	2	2	15	-
Scarlet Fever	-	2	9	19	3	-	-	-	33	2
Whooping Cough 	23	38	40	72	1	-	-	-	174	13
Zymotic Enteritis 	13	12	8	-	-	-	-	-	33	4
Tuberculosis, pulmonary ..	-	2	-	2	10	22	15	7	58	-
Tuberculosis, Meninges & C.N.S. 	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other forms ..	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	6	-
TOTALS 	64	161	199	314	30	58	36	20	882	84

SECTION F

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory facilities.

During the year all bacteriological examinations for the Public Health Department were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Laboratories at the County Hall, S.E.1. The service is also utilised by the general practitioners in the borough.

Hospitals.

There are three hospitals in the Borough - St. Andrew's, St. Clement's and Poplar Hospital.

These hospitals, together with the Poplar Chest Clinic, Wellington Way, E. 3, which continued to operate during the year, are under the control of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Facilities.

The provision of ambulance transport within the administrative County of London is the responsibility of the London County Council and is available, free of charge, in the following circumstances:-

- (a) Accidents (wherever occurring) and sudden illness
(in the streets, public places or places of
employment)

- (b) *Very urgent illness at home*

Telephone WATERloo 6000
 NEW Cross 2645
 RELiance 3622
 CENTral 6301
 REGent 4000

- (c) *Maternity cases*

Where no previous arrangements have been made, however, the London Ambulance Service cannot accept direct applications for removal to hospital except in the case of emergencies occurring in the street or other public place, when the procedure as in (a) above should be made by a doctor or midwife to the Emergency Bed Service.

Telephone HOP 7181

- (d) Other illness

Telephone WAT 3311

Further particulars may be had on application to the Officer-in-Charge, London Ambulance Service, County Hall, S.E.1. Telephone enquiries relating to the ordering of ambulances to WATERloo 3311; general enquiries to WATERloo 5000, Ext. 6950.

Legislation.

The undermentioned new legislation affecting the Public Health Department came into operation during the year:-

Acts and Statutory Instruments.

Poultry Premises and Vehicles (Disinfection) Order, 1956.

Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment) Order, 1956.

Rent Restriction Regulations, 1956.

Food Hygiene (Amendment) (No. 1) Regulations, 1956.

Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands & South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956.

Food Standards (Curry Powder) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956.

Food Standards (Tomato Ketchup) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956.

London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1956.

Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956.

Housing (Form of Orders and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations, 1956.

Flour (Composition) Regulations, 1956.

Clean Air Act (Appointed Day) Order, 1956.

Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations, 1956.

Food Hygiene (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1956.

Circulars.

Ministry of Health.

Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, Diphtheria Immunisation Publicity Campaign, Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Ministry of Food.

Official Certificates under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations in respect of Falkland Islands, Iceland and New Zealand; - Approved Oxydising and Preservative Agents; Model Byelaws for Slaughterhouses.

Personal Health Services.

The following information and statistics relating to the operation of the Personal Health Services in this Borough during the year have been kindly furnished by the Divisional Medical Officer (Dr. G. O. Mitchell), Division 5, London County Council, 273, Bancroft Road, E. 1.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Ruston Street, E. 3.	54, West Ferry Road, E. 14.
Wellington Way, E. 3.	69, East India Dock Road, E. 14.
Will Crook's Centre, 1-3, Wigram House, Poplar High Street, E. 14.	Newmill House, Coventry Cross, E. 3.

Statistics.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Total number of children who first attended during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were:-

Under 1 year of age	.. ..	1,061
1 - 5 years of age	.. ..	179

Total number of children who attended during the year and who were born in:

1956	.. ..	1,001
1955	.. ..	991
1954-51	.. ..	1,635

Total attendances by children:-

Under 1 year of age	.. ..	15,476
1 - 5 years of age	.. ..	9,964

Ante Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

Ante Natal consultations:

Number of women who attended during the year	..	..	..	495
Number of new cases included above	..	..	..	441
Total attendances	3,212

Post Natal consultations: Number of women who attended	155
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Health Visitors.

Number of children visited during the year	6,313
Number of infants under 1 year of age visited for first time	1,242
Total visits to infants under 1 year of age	..	..	..	7,781
Total visits to children aged 1 year but under 2 years	..	..	..	5,212
Total visits to children aged 2 years but under 5 years	..	..	..	14,106
Number of expectant mothers visited	..	..	..	553
Total visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	1,637

Infant Life Protection.

Number on register at 1st January, 1956:	Foster mothers	..	17
	Foster children	..	9
Number on register at 31st December, 1956:	Foster mothers	..	15
	Foster children	..	8

Child Minders (Daily Guardians).

Number of Daily Guardians:	Statutory	..	..	..	-
	Voluntary	..	..	..	73
Number of children minded:	Statutory	..	..	..	-
	Voluntary	..	..	..	46

Care of premature infants.

Number of premature live births during the year	..	..	..	89
Number of deaths under 1 month	..	..	..	14

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation, and who at the date of the final injection were:

Under 5 years of age	1,609
5 - 14 years of age	210

Number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection

1,824

Vaccination.

Number of children successfully vaccinated or revaccinated

493

Domestic Help Service.

Domestic Help was provided as follows:

Maternity cases	24
T.B. cases	18
Aged and chronic sick cases	896
Other	21