

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

### **Contributors**

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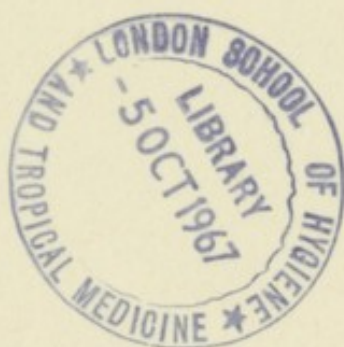
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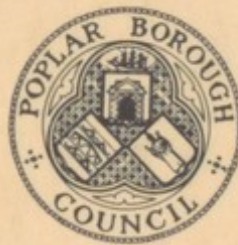




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**Metropolitan Borough of Poplar**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF**

**The Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1959**



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**Metropolitan Borough of Poplar**

Public Health Committee

Staff

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Causes of Death

Sanitary Circumstances

Housing

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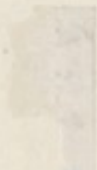
**FOR THE YEAR**

**1959**

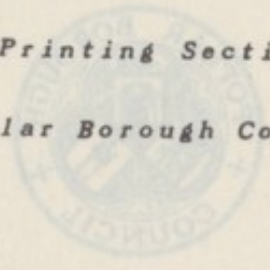
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Metropolitan Borough of Poplar



Printing Section



Poplar Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
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FOR THE YEAR

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**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF POPLAR**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959 - 1960**

Councillor P. CONNOLLY, J.P.  
Mayor (*ex-officio*)

**CHAIRMAN:**

Councillor J. W. VICAT

**VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

Councillor A. L. ATKINS

Alderman	T. E. PHILLIPS,
"	E. H. SMITH, G.M.
Councillor	A. E. ALLEN
"	W. J. ANDREWS
"	Mrs. H. COLLIER
"	A. W. DOWNES
"	T. H. MITCHELL
"	W. O'DELL
"	Mrs. H. F. SMITH
"	A. W. TIMSON
"	J. T. TUCKER
"	W. T. TUSON
"	S. F. WEBSTER

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

Councillor Mrs. N. F. CRESSALL  
" Mrs. F. 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 P. H. INSPECTOR:

H. W. LUKE (a) (b)

### P. H. INSPECTORS:

G.W. East (a) (b)

D.H. Smith (a) (b) (From 16.7.1959)

S.F. Everitt (a) (b) (From 8.6.1959)

J.E.G. Steeden (a)

F.S. Jolliffe (a) (b)

C. Whitelock (a) (b) (From 13.7.1959)

L.J. Windsor (a) (b) (c) (From 23.6.1959)

### WOMAN WELFARE OFFICER:

Miss O. R. Parsons, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N.  
(From 2.11.1959) and

Mrs. C. F. Lamb (4.5.1959 to 14.8.1959)

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TRAINEES:

G. M. L. Wimbourne

D. C. Young (To 16.10.1959)

### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTOR'S ASSISTANT:

J. P. Branagan

### CHIEF CLERK:

A. A. Hamilton (a)  
(To 6.3.1959)

G. R. Williamson  
(From 1.4.1959)

### SENIOR CLERK:

A. M. Cannon (From 1.4.1959)

### CLERKS:

W. J. Crone

R. W. Scanes

T. E. Oldfield

Mrs. M. Wren

Miss M. E. Waller (From 28.9.1959)

### DISINFECTION/DISINFESTATION

R. Desmond (Chief Disinfector) and  
5 Assistants

J. W. Crawford (Rodent Officer) and  
6 Rodent Operatives

### MORTUARY KEEPER:

G. T. Pacey

### PUBLIC ANALYST (Part Time)

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

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

(c) Smoke Insp. Certificate.



Public Health Department,  
Poplar Town Hall,  
Bow Road, E. 3.  
Telephone No. ADV. 4414.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough during the year 1959.

The general standard of health of the inhabitants of the Borough is satisfactory and it is pleasing to note that infant mortality which in 1958 showed the abnormally high figure of 37 has fallen this year to 21, which compares favourably with other London Boroughs.

Infectious Disease notifications for the year showed a considerable increase but this was due almost entirely to the large numbers of measles cases which were notified. This follows the normal pattern of measles epidemics which shows a fairly marked two year cycle in which a high peak is reached in alternate years, the intervening years being marked by relative freedom from the disease. On two occasions outbreaks of dysentery occurred in schools in the Borough but I am happy to say that efforts made to contain these outbreaks were successful.

It was found impracticable to carry out complete surveys of all areas involved in the Council's Clean Air Zones because of lack of staff but the appointment of a Clean Air Inspector and two trainee Public Health Inspectors in the early part of 1960 will enable the department to carry out its functions in relation to this very important Act.



The trespass by caravan dwellers on cleared sites in the Borough provided a serious nuisance during the year and gave rise to a large number of complaints from local residents. Every endeavour was made to clear these sites, and with the co-operation of the L.C.C. in relation to trespass on sites owned by that authority, very satisfactory results were obtained in removing this nuisance. However at the end of the year there were still several small pockets of land occupied by caravan dwellers.

The attention of the department was drawn on several occasions to the existence in the Borough of the so called 'stink-weed' or American Thorn Apple (*Datura-stramonium*). This is a weed producing substances of powerful medicinal activity and is comparable with the deadly night shade type of plant. Although it is poisonous it is unlikely that anyone would interfere with this plant because of the strong characteristic smell. Complaints were also received concerning other strange plants and it would appear that these were specimens of Indian Hemp (*Cannabis Indica*) also a plant with strong medicinal properties. Experiments were carried out with regard to the eradication of these weeds from cleared sites and allotments.

The appointment of four Public Health Inspectors and Woman Welfare Officer during the second half of the year enabled an extension of services to the Public and increased activities in all sections especially of Housing Surveys, Food Hygiene Regulations, domestic dwelling complaints, smoke nuisances, and the establishment of a Welfare section for the Aged and infirm.

I have to report with regret the death of Mr. A.A. Hamilton, Chief Clerk, in the early part of the year; he gave sterling service to the Council and Public

Health Department for over 30 years.

I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and in particular to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement.

My thanks are also due to the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their assistance and co-operation at all times and to my own staff for their loyal support.

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 383 but through rehousing and other reasons some 1,600 residents moved from the Borough to other areas and the home population estimated by the Registrar General to number 63,540 at the middle of the year shows a decrease of 1,240 compared with the estimate for the previous year.

The birth rate was 17.7 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 17.1 for 1958. 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 17.0 as compared with 16.5 for England and Wales.

The death rate in 1959 was 11.7 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.2 for 1958. Again using the comparability factor the adjusted death rate would be 12.9 as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. Comparative rates for the previous year were 12.6 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 18.5 as compared with 33.2 for the previous year. The figures for England and Wales are 22.0 and 22.6 respectively.

The causes of death are shown in Table I in accordance with the classification used by the Registrar General. Deaths from neoplasms of the lung, show a decrease on last year's figures.

No significant change in deaths from other diseases was recorded.

# STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (excluding water)	..	..	2,136 acres
Area (including water)	..	..	2,331 acres
Population, estimated mid-year	..	..	63,540
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate books)	..	..	16,618
Rateable Value	..	..	£1,247,206
General Rate (1958-1959)	..	..	19/0 in £
Sum represented by a penny rate (1958-1959)	..	..	£4,800



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Live Births: Legitimate	..	..	..	..	557	501	1,058
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	41	31	72
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population							17.78
Stillbirths: Legitimate	..	..	..	..	14	13	27
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	6	7
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..							29.20
Total live and still births ..	..	..	..	..			1,164
Deaths ..	..	..	..	..	417	330	747
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population							11.75
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:							
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	8	12	20
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:							
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	..	..	..	..			18.58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..							18.90
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..							13.88
Neo-natal mortality rate (under 4 weeks) per 1,000 live births ..							11.50
Illegitimate Live births per cent. of total live births ..							6.37
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (under 1 week) per 1,000 live births ..							9.73
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 live and still births ..	..	..	..	..			38.65
Maternal deaths (including abortion) ..	..	..	..	..			-
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births							-

TABLE I

## DEATHS

CAUSES OF DEATHS	SEX	ALL AGES	AGE GROUPS								
			0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75	
ALL CAUSES .. ..	M	417	9	5	3	4	22	138	126	110	
	F	330	12	2	1	1	12	62	91	149	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	M	8	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3. Syphilitic disease .	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
4. Diphtheria ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5. Whooping Cough ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6. Meningococcal infection ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7. Acute poliomyelitis ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8. Measles ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach ..	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	3	
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	3	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	31	-	-	-	-	1	18	10	2	
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	14	-	-	-	-	2	5	4	3	
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	43	-	-	-	-	2	16	14	11	
	F	32	-	-	-	-	2	9	17	4	
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
16. Diabetes ..	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	23	-	-	-	1	-	5	7	10	
	F	45	-	-	-	-	1	7	11	26	
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	M	75	-	-	-	-	5	33	23	14	
	F	34	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	20	
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	2	
20. Other heart disease ..	M	24	-	-	-	1	1	9	6	7	
	F	33	-	-	-	-	2	4	5	22	
21. Other circulatory disease ..	M	13	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	6	
	F	16	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	10	
22. Influenza ..	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	
	F	9	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	
23. Pneumonia ..	M	36	1	1	-	-	1	9	9	15	
	F	31	2	1	-	-	-	4	6	18	
24. Bronchitis ..	M	62	-	-	-	-	1	18	23	20	
	F	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	13	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M	11	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	4	
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	5	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ..	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. .	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
31. Congenital malformations ..	M	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases ..	M	25	4	1	1	1	3	3	6	6	
	F	33	6	-	-	-	2	8	7	10	
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	M	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
34. All other accidents ..	M	10	-	1	-	-	2	3	2	2	
	F	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	
35. Suicide ..	M	5	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	



## 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 308 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 Public Health 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.

Number of

## Defects,

145  
(continued)



TABLE II (continued)

	Nuisances, etc., found	Works completed
Dampness: (Not due to defects shown elsewhere) ..	400	348
Water: supply cut off .. .. .	24	22
Dust receptacles: Insufficient or defective ..	48	55
Miscellaneous:		
Rooms, etc., dirty and/or verminous ..	287	213
Cases of overcrowding .. .. .	17	5
Yards, etc., not properly paved or drained ..	70	60
Roofs defective .. .. .	634	689
Rainwater pipes and gutters defective ..	235	223
Public House urinals requiring cleansing ..	-	-
Other nuisances or defects .. .. .	2,179	2,140
Defects, etc., found in Factories:		
Sanitary defects .. .. .	21	21
W.C. accommodation insufficient or unsuitable	11	11
Overcrowding .. .. .	-	-
Stables:		
Accumulations found .. .. .	-	-
Manure receptacles defective .. .. .	-	-

### Legal Proceedings.

The institution of legal proceedings under the Public Health (London) Act 1936, was necessary in the following instances. Table III showing details and results is set out on the following page.



# TABLE III

Address	Nature of Complaint	Result
816, Old Ford Road	Failure to comply with Nuisance Order	Fine £10.0s. Costs £4.4s.
818, Old Ford Road	-do-	Fine £10.0s. Costs £4.4s.
820, Old Ford Road	-do-	Fine £10.0s. Costs £4.4s.
822, Old Ford Road	-do-	Fine £10.0s. Costs £4.4s.
824, Old Ford Road	-do-	Fine £10.0s. Costs £4.4s.
3, Landseer Terrace	Main roof defective, first floor front room ceiling damp	Work done Costs £3.9s.
5, Landseer Terrace	Main roof defective, first floor front room and first floor back room ceilings damp	Work done Costs £3.9s.
75, Cadogan Terrace	First floor front room wet walls and ceiling, sashcords broken. First floor back room damp walls and ceiling	Work done Costs £3.9s.
34, Morville Street	Failure to comply with Nuisance Order	Costs £4.4s.
197, Malmesbury Road	Ground floor front room bay defective and various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
24, Tomlins Grove	Top floor back room sashes broken (one completely missing). Top floor landing walls and ceiling damp	Work done Costs £3.9s.
4, Arrow Road	Rear yard W.C. - broken water waste preventer	Work done Costs £1.1s.
54, Wansbeck Road	First floor W.C. defective water waste preventer and various defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
56, Wansbeck Road	Ground floor passage defective wallplaster and various defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
101, Morville Street	Roof Leaks. First floor front room ceiling plaster damp and defective. Various other defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
103, Morville Street	Main and back addition roofs leaking and defective, various other defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
105, Morville Street	Back Addition roof gutters defective. Main roof defective, various defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
3, Lacey Street	Roof Leaks, sashcords defective. Various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.



Address	Nature of Complaint	Result
45, Mostyn Grove	W.C. roof not weather proof - defective ceiling. Various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
52, McCullum Road	Basement - defective flooring Various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
299, Old Ford Road	First floor front room defective ceiling. Various defects	Work Done Costs £3.9s.
11, Lyal Road	Ground floor back addition scullery defective flooring. Various defects	Work done Costs Nil
30, Appian Road	Ground floor kitchen damp perished wallplaster. Various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
32, Appian Road	Defective main roof, various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
138, Campbell Road	Main roof defective. First floor front room ceiling damp. First floor back room ceiling damp	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
136, Campbell Road	W.C. cistern out of order. First floor back room sashcords broken Scullery wallplaster under sink defective	Work done Costs £3.9s.
26, Morville Street	Defective condition of main roof Various defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
4, Morville Street	Defective main roof causing dampness	Work done Costs £3.9s.
4, Mostyn Grove	Rising dampness to walls of ground floor middle room, passage and kitchen rooms	Work done No Costs
14, Appian Road	Passage and ground floor front room defective condition of flooring and various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
11, Cardigan Road	External W.C. damp perished wall-plaster; External - defective condition of rainwater pipe	Work done Costs £3.9s.
47, Mostyn Grove	W.C. defective cone joint and various defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.
13, Morville Street	Ground floor scullery - damp perished brickwork to walls damp ceiling and various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
25, Comboss Road	First floor back room defective upper sash, broken sashcords and various defects.	Work done Costs £3.9s.
1a, Lefevre Terrace	Ground floor front room walls damp and various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
119, Lefevre Road	Defective main roof and various defects	Work done Costs £3.9s.
149, Usher Road	Ground floor living-room rising dampness to walls and various defects	28 days Order Costs £3.9s.



## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

During the year 48 plans of drainage work to new and existing buildings were submitted and approved.

## **River Pollution.**

Various complaints were received regarding wide spread offensive smells on the Isle of Dogs. On investigation it was found that the smells emanated from the River Thames and that they were strongest at high tide. The River Thames has a fairly high sulphate content from the head waters with further additions from estuarine sources and also an almost saturated effluent from two flue gas washing plants at Battersea and Bankside which result in a very high sulphate level.

In the middle reaches which are largely anaerobic due to an excessive number of bacteria from sewage and other polluting sources the high sulphate content encourages and supports the growth of 'sulphate reducing' organisms which cause the smell and blackness and other effects by producing hydrogen sulphide.

## **Flooding.**

As a result of extensive rainfall on Friday 21st August and Saturday the 22nd a considerable amount of flooding took place in various parts of the Borough. In some properties over 3 ft. of water was experienced. As a result of the chaos caused, members of the department were fully occupied with dealing with this situation until late at night.

Requests for assistance in drying of bedding were received from eight families and some hundred and fifty articles were put through the disinfecting machines including eleven mattresses.



### Common Lodging Houses.

There was one licensed Common Lodging House, with accommodation for 244 males, in the Borough. 12 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 5.

### Personal Cleansing.

As in recent years the arrangement was continued with Stepney Borough Council whereby persons requiring personal cleansing were treated 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 1959 was as follows:-

		Verminous	Scabies	Total
Adults	..	49	4	53
Children	..	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>
TOTAL		<u>61</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>66</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>Articles</u>
	<u>Disinfected</u>	<u>Disinfected</u>
Infectious Disease ... ..	151	1,066
Tuberculosis ... ..	74	559
Scabies ... ..	6	74
Miscellaneous ... ..	524	3,381
Disinfection for manufacturing firms	-	35,608
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>40,688</b>

In addition, 1,142 tons 1 cwt. of waste paper, and 30 tons of Sterilised Rags were disinfected.

### (b) Disinfestation:-

#### Inspections:-

Number of visits .....	1,069
Premises requiring treatment	1,048
Furniture requiring treatment	367
Re-inspections after disin-	
festation ... ..	164
Miscellaneous visits and	
revisits ... ..	178

#### Disinfestation carried out:-

Rooms (in 1,048 premises)	2,564
Beds, bedding, etc. articles	6,225
Furniture articles ...	7,004



## **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The work of Rodent Control is carried out by skilled and experienced operatives with supervision by the Council's Officers and all repression work is carried out by methods approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Great care is taken to ensure that baits are protected from domestic animals and non responsible persons.

The work of the section is divided into three main categories:-

- (a) Sewer Maintenance Treatment.
- (b) Business premises.
- (c) Dwelling houses - complaints from occupiers.

### **Sewer Maintenance.**

Two treatments were carried out during the year in April and October to coincide with treatments in the neighbouring Authorities' areas. On both occasions Prepared Warfarin was used on the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Once again the results obtained have been highly satisfactory. Consideration is being given to the advisability of increasing the number of sewer treatments from two to four.

### **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 £3,523 per annum and the charges made to individual contributors are calculated in units of £5 to £200. The charge is based on the estimated number of visits, their length, the amount of labour involved and the materials used with an addition for overheads.



### Dwelling Houses.

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. The number of complaints received during the year totalled 498.

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)	T O T A L
Number of properties in Borough ..	38	16,618	3,161	19,817
Number of properties inspected as a result of:-				
(a) Notification .. ..	12	498	1,493	2,003
(b) Survey under the Act ..	1	49	29	79
(c) Otherwise .. ..	6	-	-	6
Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections .. ..	60	1,581	11,005	12,646
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-				
(a) Rats				
( Major .. ..	-	3	81	84
( Minor .. ..	8	45	294	347
(b) Mice				
( Major .. ..	-	109	267	376
( Minor .. ..	7	226	743	976
No. of infested properties treated .	12	383	1,385	1,780
Total treatments carried out ..	31	1,461	2,115	3,607
Number of Blockcontrol schemes carried out .. ..	-	-	240	240

### Nuisance from Stray Pigeons.

From time to time complaints are made concerning nuisance from pigeons and it appears this pest is multiplying in several areas in the Borough particularly those associated with grain wharves. Many of them are diseased and are known to be carriers of food poisoning organisms and it is important that their number should be kept at a low level. At the moment this nuisance is dealt with by the Council's Official Pigeon Catcher.

# Factories Act, 1937 & 1959 (Tables IV, V, & VI)

## TABLE IV

INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	63	21	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	641	69	2	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	55	12	-	-
TOTAL .. .. .	759	102	2	-



**TABLE V**

**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 .. ..	12	12	-	9	-
Overcrowding .. ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature .. ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation .. ..	1	1	-	1	-
Ineffective drainage to floors .. ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	10	10	-	8	-
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork). .. ..	8	8	-	8	-
T O T A L .. ..	32	32	-	27	-



TABLE VI  
OUTWORKERS

NATURE OF WORK	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sec.110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making, etc.	63	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing apparel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ..	56	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	119	-	-	-	-	-

## **Offensive Trades.**

One dresser of Furskins is established in the Borough

## **Smoke Abatement under the Clean Air Act.**

During the year 65 complaints of nuisance from smoke were received. 87 smoke observations were carried out.

### **"SMOKE CONTROL AREAS".**

The staff situation did not improve sufficiently to make any progress in this section in developing further Smoke Control areas, owing to delays while awaiting information concerning the number of flats, the number of appliances, and the estimated fuel consumption in the premises proposed to be re-developed by the London County Council on the sites, none of the Orders made in 1957 and formally submitted to the Minister have, in fact, yet been confirmed.

**Dock and River craft.** From time to time nuisance is created by craft in the river or in the docks and these cases are referred to the appropriate Authority.

## **Atmospheric Pollution recording.**

A recording apparatus for the measurement of deposited matter and sulphur dioxide (by the lead peroxide method), is installed on the roof of the Town Hall and details of the monthly results of recordings are shown in Table VII.

It is important when assessing figures shown in the tables to take into consideration the nature of the area which is mixed industrial, commercial and domestic property. Assuming that the industrial contribution to smoke in the atmosphere is fairly constant throughout the year then the considerable increase in deposited material and estimated sulphur occurring during the months of November,



December, January and February when compared with that for the months of June, July and August gives some idea of the amount of pollution from domestic sources which, although responsible for more than one half the total smoke in the air are producing practically no smoke at all during the summer months.

Taking the average readings for sulphur for the summer three months as 1.89 compared with the four winter months when the average was 5.18, this shows a nearly threefold increase during the winter, the cause of which must be apportioned almost entirely to domestic smoke.

Most industrial plants are capable of careful control, use and adjustment, and of burning smokelessly and as a result of co-operation with industrial users a fair degree of smokelessness has been achieved. Industrial smoke is of a different nature from domestic smoke. In industrial furnaces the temperature of combustion is so much higher under the controlled conditions of burning that all the volatile constituents of the coal are distilled readily in a relatively short time. If there is sufficient secondary air admitted with sufficient turbulence to mix intimately with the "green" gas distilled off it will be completely oxidised and it will all burn off without smoke. If, however, turbulence is lacking or the quantity of secondary air is inadequate some of the gases will not be oxidised but will be "cracked" this is converted by reduction at the high temperature to molecular carbon the presence of which gives rise to the characteristic dark quality of industrial smoke in badly fired furnaces normally never seen emitted from the normal domestic chimney.



Domestic smoke differs in this respect, the volume of fuel being so much smaller, the associated temperature in the region of combustion is much lower with the result that there is a progressive distillation of the volatile constituents of bituminous fuel which come off one after another as the appropriate temperature is reached. In most old-fashioned grates the volume of air passing over the fire and up the flue is so vast compared with that necessary to burn the fuel that it cools and condenses these gases as soon as they are produced. They therefore become entrained in the flue gases and are emitted into the atmosphere. These domestic smoke particles are extremely small and behave as aerosols and are of an extremely complex nature. They are tarry and hygroscopic and vary in their chemical content, depending on the temperature of production and whether or not the temperature in the region of combustion was sufficient to oxidise them and destroy them. It is known that at least one of the components of coal distillation is a carcinogen (3 - 4 benz-pyrene) and there are others. Because of the small size of smoke particles they tend to disperse very widely in the lower atmosphere and because of their physical property of absorbing moisture the particle size can increase considerably with the rapid production of haze when meteorological conditions are suitable.

Whereas the industrial chimney with this occasional black smoke is usually emitting gases at very high temperature and at very considerable height from a relatively few sources, the domestic chimney is emitting gases already cooled and is producing its very considerable filthy atmospheric pollution from numerous sources relatively close to the ground. During the worst period of the year when



Domestic smoke differs in this respect the volume of fuel being so much cold and humid conditions prevail the gases are cooled to such a degree that they are prevented from rising and dispersing, and on occasion so much smoke is trapped the result that there is a progressive distillation of the volatile constituents that a smoke fog is produced before true wet fog conditions exist.

The importance of controlling the emanations from domestic chimneys in securing clean air becomes abundantly clear and every endeavour should be made by householders who would enjoy the improved conditions, to co-operate with the local authorities in demanding clean air in their area as soon as possible, and if the terrible toll of incapacity sickness, and death from respiratory conditions is to be prevented every endeavour should be made for the whole borough to be covered by Smoke Control Orders as soon as possible.

### **Approval of Furnaces.**

Eight applications were received during the year for prior approval for the installation of new furnaces under the provisions of Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

In each case plans and specifications were submitted for plants which were capable of functioning without emitting smoke when burning fuel of a type for which they were designed.

All applications were formally approved.



T A B L E V I I

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RECORDING TABLE

Constituents	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
	15.27 mm. rain	0.60 in. rain	3.49 mm. rain	0.14 in. rain	24.54 mm. rain	0.97 in. rain	36.45 mm. rain	1.44 in. rain	19.21 mm. rain	0.76 in. rain	6.45 mm. rain	0.25 in. rain
W A T E R	Grams per 100 sq. metres	Tons per square mile	Grams per 100 sq. metres	Tons per square mile	Grams per 100 sq. metres	Tons per square mile	Grams per 100 sq. metres	Tons per square mile	Grams per 100 sq. metres	Tons per square mile	Grams per 100 sq. metres	Tons per square mile
TOTAL WATER - INSOLUBLE MATTER ..	321	8.19	651	16.61	938	23.93	829	21.14	288	7.35	241	6.14
Soluble in CS <sub>2</sub> ..	5	0.13	12	0.30	17	0.44	5	0.13	3	0.07	3	0.07
Ash .. ..	261	6.64	483	12.32	808	20.61	733	18.69	220	5.60	203	5.17
Other Combustible matter .. ..	56	1.41	157	3.99	113	2.89	91	2.32	66	1.68	36	0.91
TOTAL WATER - SOLUBLE MATTER ..	397	10.14	415	10.57	271	6.91	329	8.39	174	4.43	111	2.82
Ca <sup>++</sup> .. ..	34	0.87	58	1.48	42	1.07	55	1.41	32	0.81	20	0.50
Cl <sup>-</sup> .. ..	36	0.91	42	1.07	76	1.95	29	0.74	20	0.50	11	0.27
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>==</sup> .. ..	50	1.27	153	3.89	118	3.02	117	2.99	63	1.61	38	0.97
TOTAL SOLIDS ..	719	18.32	1066	27.18	1209	30.84	1158	29.53	462	11.78	351	8.96
Wt. of SO <sub>3</sub> collected estimated on mg/100 sq. cm./day. (PbO <sub>2</sub> cylinder) ..	6.09		5.79		3.37		3.52		2.35		2.02	

TABLE VII (Contd.)

Constituents	JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
W A T E R	24.69 mm. rain Grams per 100 sq. metres	0.97 in. rain Tons per square mile	56.98 mm. rain Grams per 100 sq. metres	2.25 in. rain Tons per square mile	0.56 mm. rain Grams per 100 sq. metres	0.02 in. rain Tons per square mile	36.68 mm. rain Grams per 100 sq. metres	1.45 in. rain Tons per square mile	61.98 mm. rain Grams per 100 sq. metres	2.44 in. rain Tons per square mile	64.09 mm. rain Grams per 100 sq. metres	2.53 in. rain Tons per square mile
TOTAL WATER - INSOLUBLE MATTER ..	325	8.29	496	12.65	395	10.07	766	19.53	644	16.41	742	18.93
Soluble in CS <sub>2</sub> ..	12	0.30	4	0.10	3	0.07	4	0.10	7	0.17	8	0.20
Ash .. ..	259	6.61	397	10.14	292	7.45	675	17.22	537	13.69	611	15.57
Other combustible matter .. ..	54	1.38	95	2.42	100	2.55	87	2.21	100	2.55	124	3.15
TOTAL WATER - SOLUBLE MATTER ..	222	5.67	228	5.81	205	5.24	440	11.21	497	12.69	578	14.73
Ca <sup>++</sup> .. ..	30	0.77	39	1.01	42	1.07	61	1.54	50	1.27	45	1.14
Cl <sup>-</sup> .. ..	17	0.44	17	0.44	18	0.47	55	1.41	70	1.78	88	2.25
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>==</sup> .. ..	76	1.95	120	3.05	95	2.42	154	3.93	162	4.13	118	3.02
TOTAL SOLIDS ..	547	13.96	724	18.46	600	15.31	1206	30.74	1141	29.10	1320	33.66
Wt. of SO <sub>3</sub> collected estimated on mg./100 Sq. cm./day. (PbO <sub>2</sub> cylinder)	1.66		2.00		2.59		2.85		4.49		4.29	



### **Shops Act, 1950.**

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 1959 was 81.

### **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.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Licences have been issued in respect of 2 premises within the Borough.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers.**

The total on the register at the end of the year was 50 persons and 43 premises.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50.**

Burials carried out under the provisions of this Act totalled 5 (adults).

The total cost was £48. 7s. 0d. of which £38. 5s. 0d. was recovered.

**National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.**

**National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, Section 1.**

The number of cases of aged and infirm persons in need of urgent care and attention increased steadily throughout the year. A large proportion of these cases were existing under appalling sanitary conditions and many were persuaded voluntarily to enter hospital or other suitable establishments. It was not found necessary on any occasion to seek compulsory removal.

The appointment of a Woman Welfare Officer to the department made it possible to establish routine procedure whereby all cases known to the department were kept under periodical observation. Every possible facility and help is extended to these old people to enable them to live in clean and comfortable surroundings and to maintain an adequate state of nutrition in order to keep them physically in good shape and enable them to participate in communal activities as long as possible.

Tribute must be paid to the valuable assistance and co-operation of the L.C.C. Home Help Section, the W. S., District Nurses, Local Medical Practitioners, Hospital Authorities, National Assistance Board and local welfare organisations.

**Incontinent Laundry.**

In order to meet increasing demands for facilities to assist those old persons and their relatives who were unable to cope with incontinent laundry, the service was increased in 1959 to two collections per week. Provision was made for the acquisition of suitable laundry equipment to provide a more efficient and suitable service



### **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.

The total number of bodies received during 1959 was 478. (Residents 184, non-residents 294. Post-mortem examinations were made in 370 cases and inquests were held in 104 cases. There were 4 cases for deposit only.

### **Public Cleansing.**

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

**Refuse.** During the year 21,383 tons 9 cwts. 1 qr. of house, trade, street, gully, market and kitchen refuse were collected and disposed of at the controlled tip. In addition 13,051 tons 4 cwts. of refuse from other boroughs were also dealt with at the Council's Refuse Disposal Depot.

**Street Cleansing.** Two Mechanical/Sweeper/Collectors supplemented the work of the manual Road Sweepers, and as warranted by weather conditions a watering machine was used for washing and watering roads and street markets.

**Gully Cleansing.** Three Gully/Emptying machines have carried out 6,895 gully cleansings and the weekly emptyings of three cesspools.

## 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.
Watts Grove Baths	..	Slipper Baths.
Sophia Street Baths	..	Laundry only.

## Public Swimming Pools.

There are two pools, both situated at the main establishment, East India Dock Road, E. 14, and I am indebted to the Chief Baths Superintendent for the information contained in the report which follows: -

	Large Pool	Small Pool
1. Length.	100 ft.	64 ft.
2. Width.	39' 6"	25 ft.
3. Maximum depth.	8' 6"	6' 6"
4. Minimum depth.	3' 6"	3 ft.
5. Capacity.	150,000 galls.	50,000 galls.

The water to the pools is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, and is a mixture from the Rivers Lea and Thames.

Continuous filtration and chlorination of the water is carried out during the whole period the pools are in use, the period of complete turnover of both pools



being 3.5 hours. The pH value of the water is maintained between 7.6 and 7.8 while the chlorine content is maintained at 1.0 to 1.2 parts per million. As soon as the last bather leaves the pool at the end of the day, and for the week-end closure of the establishment, the chlorine content is increased to 1.5 (or even more) parts per million to ensure sterile water when the pool is re-opened.

Wallace and Tiernam chlorinators supply the chlorine to the water and the filtration equipment used is made by United Filters. Sulphate of Alumina is used in required quantities in the filtering of the water and soda ash, or similar, is used to assist in maintaining the necessary pH. value of the water. Hourly tests are made of both pools to see that the correct pH. and chlorine values are present. Periodical bacteriological examination of the water is carried out by visiting pathologists from the London County Council Public Health Department Pathological Services.

The water is maintained in such sterile condition that it is not necessary to empty the pools. However, as the large pool is closed during the winter season, and has to be drained down, the contents of the small pool are used to thoroughly wash out the filters servicing this pool, and then, 50,000 gallons of water from the large pool is filtered through both sets of filters into the small pool. This, in effect, means that both pools are emptied down each year. While the pools are empty opportunity is taken to thoroughly scour all sections of the pool steps that are under water, and all glazed tiling is cleaned down with an abrasive powder.

## SECTION C

### HOUSING

Details of new housing accommodation completed in the Borough during 1959 are as follows:-

Poplar Borough Council	.. .. .	28 dwellings
London County Council	.. .. .	349 dwellings

The number of families living in property owned or managed by the Borough Council at 31st December, 1959, was as follows:-

<u>Type of dwelling</u>	<u>No. of Lettings</u>
Pre-war Council houses and flats .. .. .	1,058
Post-war Council houses and flats .. .. .	1,537
Temporary bungalows .. .. .	403
Old properties in Compulsory Purchase Areas .. .. .	68
Requisitioned Properties .. .. .	72
Acquired properties (Req. Houses Act, 1955) .. .. .	97
Other properties .. .. .	8
<b>TOTAL PROPERTIES</b> .. .. .	<b>3,243</b>



## Rent Act, 1957,

Details of action taken between 1st January and 31st December, 1959, are as follows:-

Applications for certificates .. .. .	59
Decisions not to issue certificates .. .. .	NIL
Decisions to issue certificates .. .. .	52
(a) in respect of some but not all defects .. .. .	52
(b) in respect of all defects .. .. .	NIL
Undertakings given by landlords .. .. .	33
Undertakings refused by Council .. .. .	NIL
Certificates issued .. .. .	23
Applications by landlords to Council for cancellation of certificates .. .. .	52
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates .. .. .	30
Council decisions to cancel in spite of tenants' objections .. .. .	3
Certificates cancelled .. .. .	31

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

No Closing Orders were made under this Act during the year.

## Closing Orders (Housing Act, 1957).

4 Closing Orders were made under this Act during 1959.

## 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) .. .. .	1,804
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	4,858
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .	-
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	-
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	5
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	1,292

### 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 .. .. .	907
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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.. ..	399
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
	(a) By owners .. .. .	266
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	1
	(b) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act 1957:-	
	(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 17 and 23 of the Housing Act 1957:-	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	2
	(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	-
	(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957:-	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	8
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	1
	(e) Proceedings under Section 30 of the Housing Act 1957:-	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses included in Clearance Areas ..	-
	(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure .. .. .	15

## SECTION D

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Food Premises.

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

Manufacturing premises 34.

(Confectionery 4; Flour Millers 3; Edible oils 1; Ice cream 2; Wine blenders 2;

Nut roasters 2; Grocery 3; Pickles 1; Spice grinders 1; Food Dehydration 1;

Meat products 6; Mineral waters 1; sugar refiners 2; Bakers 2; Essences 1;

Sausage Rusk 1; Biscuit 1).

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

Wharves 28.

Cold Stores 2.

Wholesale premises 17.

(Grocers 10; Banana Merchants 2; Confectioners 3; Fruiterers 2);

Retail premises 935.

(Grocers 165; Confectioners 115; Restaurants 116; Industrial canteens 97;

Non-industrial canteens 26; School meals centres 25; Public houses 154; Off-

licences 25; Bakers 32; Fishmongers 33; Greengrocers 60; Butchers 57; Chemists

16; Miscellaneous 14);

Street market stalls 150.



# Registered premises.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16.

(a) Ice cream; Manufacture and sale ..	13
Sale and storage .. ..	176
Storage only .. ..	2

(Note - in addition to the premises referred to above ice cream is also sold from 36 premises exempt from registration, i.e., Restaurants, Cinemas, etc.).

(b) Sausages and preserved, etc., foods. .. 54

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Dairies .. .. .	1
Milk Distributors: Inside the Borough ..	111
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</u> <u>Inspections</u>
Bakers .. .. .	16
Dairies .. .. .	10
Milk Distributors .. .. .	132
Restaurants .. .. .	201
Industrial catering establishments .. .. .	39
Other catering establishments .. .. .	38
Fish shops, fryers and curers .. .. .	63
Stalls and itinerant vendors.. .. .	312
Market inspections .. .. .	118
Ice cream premises .. .. .	91
Wharves .. .. .	230
Butchers .. .. .	72
Registered food manufacturers .. .. .	28
Other food premises .. .. .	101
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<u><u>1,451</u></u>



# TABLE VIII

Sample No.	ARTICLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION
30 (inf)	Saccharin tablets	Deficient in saccharin to the extent of 0.02 grain per tablet.	Formal sample taken
35 (inf)	Pork Sausages	Deficient in meat content to the extent of 16.6 per cent.	Formal sample taken
46 (inf)	Saccharin tablets	Deficient in saccharin to the extent of 0.01 grain per tablet.	Formal sample taken
104 (inf)	Pork Sausages	Deficient in meat content to the extent of 25.3 per cent.	Warning letter sent
136 (inf)	Cake Mix	Contained a rancid fat	Old stock destroyed
155 (inf)	Sponge Mix	Contained a rancid fat	Old stock destroyed
210 (inf)	Pearl Barley	Contained 220 parts per million of sulphur dioxide and 1.1 per cent talc.	Letter to Wholesaler and Importer. Stock returned to Importer and used for animal feeding.
228 (inf)	Pearl Barley	Contained 200 parts per million of sulphur dioxide and 1.4 per cent talc.	Letter to Wholesaler and Importer. Stock returned to Importer and used for animal feeding.
285 (inf)	Dried Fruit Prunes	Infested with larvae and eggs.	Letter to Wholesaler and Affected stock withdrawn.
287	Dried Fruit Prunes	Infested with larvae	Letter to Wholesaler. Affected stock withdrawn.
390 (inf)	Borax	This was old stock which had dried out. The analysis showed 128.3 per cent of Borax.	Stocks withdrawn.
391 (inf)	Orange Crystals	This was wrongly labelled by the shopkeeper and should have been called Raspberry Crystals.	Remedied by Shopkeeper
486 (inf)	Seasoning	This was sold in a plain bottle without a label.	Letters to Importer and Retailer.
535 (inf)	Steakettes	Sample consisted of minced meat with Sulphur Dioxide preservative. Minced Meat should not contain any preservative	Letter to Butcher.

## Food Sampling.

A total of 627 samples of food were procured during the year by the Council's Food Inspector. Of these, 538 were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination, the remaining 89 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, 17 samples were acquired formally and 521 informally. A total of 14 samples (2.6 per cent) were found to be adulterated. Details of the unsatisfactory samples and the action taken are shown in Table VIII on page 45.

During the year Thirty One samples of sausages were purchased mostly from different manufacturers, including local butchers. The meat content of pork sausages varied from 39.7 to 82.2 per cent., with an average of 61.5 per cent. (Prices varied from 1/9d. to 3/6d. per lb. with an average of 2/4d. per lb.). In the case of beef sausages the meat content varied from 50.0 to 69.6 per cent. with an average of 58.5 per cent. (Prices were from 1/4d. to 2/5d. per lb. with an average of 1/10d. per lb.). Two samples of Pork Sausages were unsatisfactory. Details of these samples and action taken are shown in Table VIII page 45.



## 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:-

Peaches (Stock at Wharf)	.. 17 cwts. 16 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Garlic cloves (Stock at Wharf)	.. 6 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 6 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Garlic cloves (Stock at Wharf)	.. 1 ton 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 4 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Tomato Puree (Stock at Wharf)	.. 2 tons 15 cwts. 10 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Ham (Stock at Shop)	.. 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 4 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Grapefruit (Tinned) (Stock at Wharf)	.. 1 ton 7 cwts. 3 qrs. 12 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Cocoa beans (Stock at Shop)	.. 6 cwts. 1 qr. 11 lbs.	.. Condemned and destroyed.
Chicken (Stock at Cold Store)	.. 8 cwts. 1 qr. 4 lbs.	.. Released for animal feeding.
Pineapple (Tinned)	.. 2 tons	.. Condemned and destroyed

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

sumption:-

	<u>Fresh foods</u>		<u>Canned foods</u>	
Meat and offal.	-		7 cwt. 2 qr. 27 lbs.	
Meat products.		6 lbs.	14 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lbs.	
Ham.	-		1 ton 11 cwt. 3 qr. 18 lbs.	
Poultry.	-		8 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lbs.	
Milk.	-		1 cwt. - 16 lbs.	
Vegetables.	4 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.		18 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs.	
Fruit.	4 cwt. - 14 lbs.		7 ton - 2 qr. 9 lbs.	
Cloves.	7 ton 14 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs.		-	
Gherkins.	10 cwt. - -		-	
Fruit Juice	-		3 cwt. - 20 lbs.	
Cocoa Beans.	6 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lbs.		-	
Other foods.	3 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lbs.		12 cwt. - 6 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 and destroyed 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.

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

During the year 142 inspections were made of premises from which milk is distributed. Conditions on the whole were found to be satisfactory.

**Registration and Licensing.** For details of registration of distributors see page 43.

Licences 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 .. ..	117	64	26
Supplementary ..	27	23	23
Pasteurisers ..	-	1	-

**Milk Sampling.** A total of 23 samples of milk ( - formal, 23 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 3.5, Non-fatty solids 8.60.

The Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk) Regulations, 1956, fixed a minimum standard of 4 per cent. fat in connection with milk sold under the description Channel Islands, Jersey, Guernsey and South Devon. 2 samples of Channel Islands milk were taken and reports showed fat figures of 4.3 and 4.4 and in each case the non-fatty solids figure was 9.0

The 7 samples of designated milk submitted to Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests, were satisfactory.

### **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 71 samples were taken during the year. Of these 69 were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Test.

The remaining samples were examined by the Public Analyst under the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951. Both samples were reported to be satisfactory,



the quality in general being much higher than the standards prescribed in the regulations.

### **Ice Lollies.**

During the year 11 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. A satisfactory report was received in each case.

### **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.

### **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 99 inspections were made of foods exported from the district; 99 certificates of purity were issued.

## Food poisoning.

54 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. One of these a salmonella typhi-murium infection proved to be fatal. Although the majority were isolated cases there was one small outbreak, this occurred in a school. Several of the school staff were affected by food poisoning with acute abdominal pains and diarrhoea after partaking of a school meal. Specimens taken for bacteriological examination indicated that the outbreak was due to heat resistant *Clostridium Welchii*.

This outbreak stressed the importance of time and temperature factors in storage and service of meals. This particular school kitchen prepared meals for three schools. None of the school children were affected as the meals were kept at a proper temperature before serving. In the case of the teachers the meal was served and put in a hot cupboard at an unsatisfactory temperature which permitted sufficient organisms to grow in just over half an hour to produce the symptoms. As is characteristic with this type of outbreak recovery was rapid.



## SECTION E

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of corrected notifications of infectious disease during 1959 was 1518 which was approximately 3 times the figure, 513, for the previous year and mainly due to the increase in the number of cases of measles 1166 and 86 respectively, which were notified.

#### Diphtheria.

Although no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year there is little room for complacency with regard to this disease. This degree of freedom from diphtheria in Poplar can only be maintained by a vigorous policy of immunisation with the whole hearted support of the public. The tendency to disregard the seriousness of this disease is reflected in the percentage of immunisation which is far from satisfactory.

#### Dysentery.

The number of notified cases showed an increase of nearly 50 per cent when compared with the figures for 1958. There were two outbreaks at schools in this area. The first occurred in the north of the Borough. In all 25 pupils were excluded from attending school and the contacts of families concerned were visited and specimens taken. The number of children confirmed as positive cases amounted to twelve. The second outbreak concerned a school in the west of the Borough. Five members of the staff were involved and nineteen pupils. In every case bacteriological confirmation of the infection was obtained. A number of other cases exhibiting symptoms were also involved but no organisms were discovered in these cases.

## Measles.

The number of cases of measles notified during the year was 1166 as compared with 86 in 1958 and 1010 in 1957. These figures clearly illustrate the cyclic nature of this disease.

## Poliomyelitis.

During the year one only confirmed case of poliomyelitis (paralytic) was notified.

## Tuberculosis.

Although much progress has fortuitously been recorded in the apparent control of tuberculosis by reason of the advent of new drugs, in recent years there has been very little change in the number of cases notified and it is apparent that this disease is a long way from eradication.

If we are to obliterate this scourge, as I think is possible, there is a very great need for every consideration to be given to the preventive approach.

Whilst in England it is considered repugnant to insist on compulsion in the treatment of tuberculosis, from time to time individuals are found, open cases with positive sputum, who refuse all offers and persuasion to undergo treatment, and in London we are hampered in dealing with this because of the lack of suitable legislation.

The table shown overleaf indicates the age and sex incidence of the cases notified.



TABLE IX

## TUBERCULOSIS - PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS

	0	1	2	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	75	TOTAL
	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	
Respiratory males ..	-	-	-	3	1	3	1	7	8	3	10	4	-	40
Respiratory females ..	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	3	5	1	1	1	1	17
Non-respiratory males ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Non-respiratory females ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	4

In addition, 63 other cases were added to the register as a result of information received from the following sources.

Death returns	..	1
Transfers from other areas	..	62

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

The number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December, 1959, after adjustment in respect of deaths and transfers, was as follows:-

	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	TOTAL
Males ..	445	61	506
Females ..	275	63	338
TOTALS	720	124	844

## Mass Radiography.

Arrangements were made for Mass Radiography Unit 6B of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board to hold sessions on two sites on the Isle of Dogs during October.

Information relating to the survey, a summary of which follows, has been furnished by Dr. D.J. Lawless, O.B.E., Medical Director of the Unit.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Centre No. 1 - Malabar Street, E. 14: -</u>				
Numbers X-rayed on miniature film	...	83	113	196
Numbers recalled for large film	...	1	2	3
Numbers referred for further investigation		1	2	3
<u>Centre No. 2 - Castalia Square, E. 14: -</u>				
Numbers X-rayed on miniature film	...	159	170	329
Numbers recalled for large film	...	2	-	2
Numbers referred for further investigation		1	-	1

## Whooping Cough.

There were 15 cases of whooping cough notified during the year. This shows a welcome decline in this disease which must still be regarded as one of the most serious of childhood because of the possibility of sequelae.



**TABLE X**  
**INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

D I S E A S E	Corrected Notifications									Removed to Hospital
	0- yrs.	1- yrs.	3- yrs.	5- yrs.	15- yrs.	25- yrs.	45- yrs.	65- yrs.	TOTAL	
Dysentery .. .. .	1	6	5	28	7	8	4	3	62	3
Encephalitis Acute .. .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2
Erysipelas .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
Measles .. .	49	132	312	646	26	1	-	-	1166	17
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia .. .	3	5	2	4	5	8	19	20	66	5
Poliomyelitis, Ac. Paralytic .	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Poliomyelitis, Ac. Non- Paralytic .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .	-	-	-	-	2	27	4	-	33	31
Scabies .. .	-	-	2	2	1	3	2	1	11	-
Scarlet Fever .. .	-	4	10	52	10	1	-	-	77	2
Whooping Cough .. .	1	2	4	7	1	-	-	-	15	1
Zymotic Enteritis .. .	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	18	7
Tuberculosis, pulmonary ..	-	-	-	4	7	12	17	17	57	-
Tuberculosis, Meninges & C.N.S. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other forms ..	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	6	-
<b>T O T A L S</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1518</b>	<b>71</b>

## SECTION F

### GENERAL PROVISIONS 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, Bow Group Hospital Management Committee.

##### 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)*

Dial '999' and ask for 'Ambulance' or follow instructions given on telephone instrument.

(b) *Very urgent illness at home*

For the conveyance of sick persons from their homes to hospital, provided a doctor certifies that the case is one of life or death and that arrangements have been made with a hospital for the patient's admission.

Telephone

WATERloo 6000  
NEW Cross 2645  
RELiance 3622  
CENTral 6301  
REGent 4000

(c) *Maternity cases*

Normally, if the expectant mother has booked a bed at a hospital or nursing home, she is in possession of a white card (Form L.A.S. 23) confirming the booking arrangements and giving full instructions for summoning the ambulance.

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*

For the removal to and from hospitals, etc., of sick persons, provided the ambulance is ordered by the hospital authority, by the Emergency Bed Service, or, in certain circumstances by a private doctor, application should be made in writing or by telephoning.

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.

## 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. G. 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,					Newmill House,
Poplar High Street, E. 14.	..	..	..	..	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	..	..	..	..	1,179
---------------------	----	----	----	----	-------

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

1959	..	..	..	..	1,032
------	----	----	----	----	-------

1958	..	..	..	..	799
------	----	----	----	----	-----

1954-57	..	..	..	..	1,158
---------	----	----	----	----	-------

Total attendances by children:

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	15,480
---------------------	----	----	----	----	--------

1 - 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	8,230
--------------------	----	----	----	----	-------



## Ante Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

### Ante Natal consultations:

Number of women who attended during the year .. .. .	399
Number of new cases included above .. .. .	307
Total attendances .. .. .	2,133

Post Natal consultations: Number of women who attended .. .. .	105
--	-----

### Health Visitors

Number of children visited during the year .. .. .	7,637
Number of infants under 1 year of age visited for first time .. .. .	1,423
Total visits to infants under 1 year of age .. .. .	8,243
Total visits to children aged 1 year but under 2 years .. .. .	5,162
Total visits to children aged 2 years but under 5 years .. .. .	12,701
Number of expectant mothers visited .. .. .	504
Total visits to expectant mothers .. .. .	1,498

### Infant Life Protection

(i) No. of foster mothers on approved list at end of year . .. .	6
(ii) No. of children fostered .. .. .	10

Foster mothers supervised by the Area Children's Officer excluded.

### Child Minders (Daily Guardians)

Number of Daily Guardians: Statutory .. .. .	2
Voluntary .. .. .	61
Number of children minded: Statutory .. .. .	7
Voluntary .. .. .	54

### Care of premature infants

Number of premature live births during the year .. .. .	80
Number of deaths under 1 month .. .. .	5

## Personal Health Services.

### 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 .. .. .	1,153
5 - 15 years of age .. .. .	292

Number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection.. .. . 1,018

### Vaccination

Number of children successfully vaccinated or revaccinated .. 937

### Domestic Help Service

Domestic Help was provided as follows:

Maternity cases .. .. .	20
T.B. cases.. .. .	17
Aged and chronic sick cases . . . .	945
Other .. .. .	54



## Health Education

The importance of education in the field of public health and preventive medicine cannot be over-emphasized. Posters, leaflets, and other material dealing with various health matters obtained from the Central Council for Health Education and material made available by the London County Council relating to diphtheria immunisation, home accidents and other health topics and services were exhibited and displayed at Council establishments and other suitable premises throughout the borough.

Much can be done by personal contact and lectures. Talks and film shows on all aspects of public health work were undertaken by members of the department and given to organisations, societies and interested bodies within the area.

This service has established a very useful liaison with an interested section of the general public and the work of the Health Department, and its scope is being extended.

## **Legislation.**

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

### **Acts.**

Factories Act, 1959.

Housing Purchase & Housing Act, 1959.

Housing (Underground rooms) Act, 1959.

London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1959.

### **Statutory Instruments.**

Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959.

Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959.

Factories Act, 1959 (Commencement No.1) Order 1959.

Fluorine in Food Regulations, 1959.

Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations, 1959.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959.

Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

Meat (Staining & Sterilization) Regulations, 1959.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

Slaughterhouses Licences (Forms & Records) Regulations, 1959.

Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Amendment Order 1959.

Meat (Staining & Sterilization) (Revocation) Regulations, 1959



Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order 1959.

**Ministry of Health. (Circulars)**

Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959.

Food Hygiene Codes of Practice.

**Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. (Circulars)**

The Meat (Staining & Sterilization) Regulations, 1959.

The Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959.

Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction, 1959.

Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations, 1959.

Meat (Staining & Sterilization) (Revocation) Regulations, 1959.

Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 Approved Chemical Agents

The Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection Grant) 1958.

Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948.

The Slaughterhouse Licences (Forms & Records) Regulations, 1959.

Slaughterhouse Reports.

Fluorine in Food Regulations, 1959.

Food Standards Committee - Report on Soft Drinks.

**Ministry of Housing and Local Government. (Circulars)**

Clean Air Act, 1956. Progress of Smoke Control Areas.

Clean Air Act, 1956. Leaflets to House holders.

Clean Air Act, 1956. Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order, 1959.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959.

Radioactivity.



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