

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

Contributors

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1949

W. STOTT, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

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BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WALWORTH ROAD, S.E.17.

*The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Metropolitan Borough of Southwark.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949.

This is the first printed report for several years, and although it contains all necessary information it remains in somewhat abridged form. Personally, however, I feel no regret at the loss of those formidable tomes of minute detail which were the conventional annual reports in days when money and manpower were in greater abundance, and I think it would be an advantage if the present limits were adopted as a permanent standard.

Although statistics reveal disturbing prospects by the increasing population in this already heavily overcrowded area, the diminution of the birth rate which may conceivably result in a nation of old people with an ever dwindling younger generation, and the continued acute distress of the housing problem, the following pages also reveal a gratifying decline in the toll of infectious diseases and a year of most satisfactory achievement in the work of the Sanitary Inspectors.

In this first full year of the working of the National Health Act since the transfer of powers in 1948, there has been overwhelming proof of the necessity which I mentioned in my last report that ". . . the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Department must continue to fulfil an indispensable function as liaison agents between the public and the new responsible bodies." This, however, does not infer that the Public Health Department is merely a centralised enquiry bureau; indeed, the loss of the transferred services has been supplemented by other duties and increased legislation, and there is no sign whatever, as some said in 1948, that the Public Health Departments would have nothing left to do. Certain serious defects still exist in the new Health Act, particularly in regard to the care and welfare of aged and infirm persons and the confusing division of responsibilities for certain medical services; there should be no need to upset the scheme as a whole in order to rectify those parts of it which are in such urgent need of improvement.

The following pages contain more detailed comments on the work of the separate sections of the Department, and in conclusion I must again express my appreciation to all Members of the Council, the staff of the Public Health Department, and Chief Officers and staffs of other Departments of the Council for their unfailing support and co-operation during the year

I have the honour to be;

Your obedient servant,

W. STOTT,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at December 31st, 1949).

Chairman—Alderman A. J. GILLIAN.

Aldermen :

Mrs. E. L. MADDISON. Rev. H. RUNACRES, B.A.
J. F. STROUD. L. J. STYLES, J.P. (*Ex Officio*)

Councillors :

A. BARNES.	E. BARTLETT.
J. BOOKER.	C. CARLEY.
Mrs. G. CHARLES.	G. DARVELL.
K. FARROW.	J. HARBOR.
Mrs. M. HODGES.	J. KEEN.
D. LOW (<i>Ex Officio</i>)	Mrs. C. MARTIN.
Mrs. G. LUETCHFORD.	E. RIDGE.
H. RAY.	Miss F. STROUD, J.P. (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
J. SHEEN.	Mrs. G. STYLES.
H. STILLMAN.	G. YOUNG.
Mrs. M. WRIGHT.	

Ex Officio : Councillor Mrs. C. GATES, J.P.—*Mayor*.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, 1949

Medical Officer of Health :

W. STOTT, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. H. E. DUFFIELD.

Senior Clerk :

E. A. CLARK (from March 15th.
Formerly F. Spearing).

Sanitary Inspectors :

Clerical Staff :

District Inspectors :

Infectious Diseases :

CLARK, K.
DRINKWATER, P. (from December, 5th).
HALSTEAD, K.
JONES, Miss A. (to October, 31st).
KIRRAGE, G. (from June 7th).
LASSMAN, S. (to November, 6th).
PAINE, J.
RIVETT, L.
ROBINSON, G. (from June 13th).
STEELE, H.
SYMS, J.
WARBOYS, R.

IRVINE, D. (from July 19th).

Housing :

TOMPKINS, J. (Transferred to
Sanitary Inspectors, December, 19th).

Sanitary Records :

BIGGINS, W. (to October, 24th).
CASS, Miss W. (from October 24th—Temporary).
DAVIES, E. (Temporary).
ROBERTSON, J.
ROSE, R. (to October 18th).
STEVENS, R. (from October 31st).
WORDEN, R.

Food Inspectors :

JOHNSON, A.
STUBBS, G.

Shorthand Typist :

SUTHERLAND, J.

Housing Act Inspectors :

HATTERSLEY, H.
ADAMSON, E.

Junior :

CONNOR P. (from May 2nd—
Temporary).

Rodent Control :

JENKINS, T.
ROSS, Mrs. H. (Temporary).
SMITH, Mrs. B. (Temporary).

Treatment and Bathing Centre :

AXTELL, Miss E.

Mortuary Attendant :

WEST, H.

Assistant to Inspectors :

HUSK, C.

Hallkeepers :

WITTEN, R.
BISHOP, W.

VITAL STATISTICS

The local birth rate continues to decrease and there is but a small increase in the number of deaths. Nevertheless the estimated population again shows a very substantial increase.

The infant death rate continues its downward trend but unfortunately, despite the fewer births during the year, the still birth rate was higher than in 1948.

AREA								1,132 acres
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,473
RATEABLE VALUE—(Approximate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,021,830
POPULATION :								
Estimated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99,795
Registrar General's estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96,810
Estimated population, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97,000
						<i>1949</i>		<i>1948</i>
LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	19.5	...	21.7
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Births	...	...	...	...	...	27.1	...	17.1
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.0	...	12.8
MATERNAL DEATH RATE per 1,000 live and still births :								
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	...	0.47
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1.0	...	0.95
INFANT DEATH RATE :								
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	28.9	...	36.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	25.6	...	37.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	71.4	...	26.5

	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infant Death Rate</i>			<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
				<i>Legiti- mate</i>	<i>Illegiti- mate</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1938	145,300	14.0	12.5	57	66	57	32.0
1939	141,120	14.0	13.9	47	38	47	30.8
1940	101,900	17.3	24.1	48	68	49	28.6
1941	69,740	15.9	27.5	82	59	80	34
1942	66,480	19.2	18.9	60	76	61	31.1
1943	68,470	18.3	18.8	48	62	49	24.1
1944	67,220	19.4	21.7	51	57	51	24.7
1945	71,160	18.3	16.1	43	57	39	26.1
1946	86,280	24.3	15.7	45	62	46	25.6
1947	92,070	26.4	15.6	38	60	39	26.1
1948	94,630	21.7	12.8	38	26	37	17.1
1949	96,810	19.5	13.0	26	71	29	27.1

	<i>Legitimate</i>			<i>Illegitimate</i>			<i>Totals</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Live Births								
1948	1,012	898	1,910	73	78	151	1,085	976	2,061
1949	900	857	1,757	80	60	140	980	917	1,897
	Still Births								
1948	17	2	19	13	4	17	30	6	36
1949	29	19	48	2	3	5	31	22	53
	Infant deaths (under 1 year)								
1948	40	32	72	1	3	4	41	35	76
1949	30	15	45	4	6	10	34	21	55

DEATHS

Male and Female Age Groups.

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15-44</i>	<i>45-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males ...	34	3	8	61	195	402	703
Females ...	21	3	4	43	107	380	558
	55	6	12	104	302	782	1,261

Infant Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 55, the causes of death being as follows :

Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other digestive diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Congenital malformations and birth injuries ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Other violent causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
All other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total deaths under 1 year of age ...	...	...	...	...	...	55

Maternal Mortality.

The deaths of two women due to causes other than puerperal sepsis were recorded during the year.

Cancer deaths ...	...	...	...	...	231
Whooping Cough deaths ...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles deaths ...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) deaths ...	...	...	...	...	3

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

Causes of Death		Total Deaths 1948	Total Deaths 1949	Age Groups :—1949					
				0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
All Causes	Males	664	703						
	Females	550	558						
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever		—	—						
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		4	—						
Scarlet Fever		—	—						
Whooping Cough		3	1		1				
Diphtheria		1	—						
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		81	60				21	26	13
Tuberculosis—other forms		5	6			2	3	1	—
Syphilitic Disease		9	8				1	5	2
Influenza		2	16	1	1		2	4	8
Measles		4	1		1				
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis		1	2			1	1		
Acute Infectious Encephalitis		2	2				2		
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Esophagus (Males) and Uterus (Females)		21	24				2	9	13
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum		35	39				1	17	21
Cancer of Breast		22	14				4	3	7
Cancer of all other sites		144	154				12	47	95
Diabetes		7	5					1	4
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions		105	110				1	24	85

Classification of Deaths (continued)

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1948	Total Deaths 1949	Age Groups :—1949					
			0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
Heart Disease	304	347				13	60	274
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	54	63				3	18	42
Bronchitis	113	108					29	79
Pneumonia	67	75	6	1		3	10	55
Other Respiratory Diseases	12	11				1	3	7
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	9	19				3	8	8
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6	3	3					
Appendicitis	4	2					2	
Other Digestive Diseases	24	24	1			4	7	12
Nephritis	21	15				1	5	9
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	1	—						
Other Maternal Causes	2	2				2		
Premature Births	15	11	11					
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	31	36	29			2	5	
Suicide	9	8				6	2	
Road Traffic Accidents	10	3			1	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	25	28	3	2	1	6	3	13
All other Causes	61	64	1	—	7	9	13	34
TOTALS	1,214	1,261	55	6	12	104	302	782

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The final corrected diagnoses of infectious disease cases in this borough during 1949 was nearly 400 less than in 1948, and the lowest for at least four years.

Diphtheria cases were the fewest for this same period, and the decline of Scabies continued, to almost negligible proportions. Measles figures were considerably less than in 1948, though more than the previous year; Whooping Cough, however, also decreased appreciably in comparison with the past two years. There was one death each from these two latter diseases (both un-notified cases) compared with four Measles deaths and three from Whooping Cough in 1948.

After a lapse of Poliomyelitis last year—with only one case following the 26 in 1947—this disease claimed 14 confirmed cases during 1949; as in 1948, there was again one death. The most detailed investigations were made into each case, but there appeared to be no tangible clue as to the source of infection or any connecting link between the cases.

During the year, one case each of suspected Anthrax and Smallpox were notified, but fortunately neither of these was confirmed. One case each of Food Poisoning and Paratyphoid, and 10 of Dysentery, amongst the younger age groups, were also confirmed, but it was not possible to define the causes with any certainty. All manner of usually suspect foods appeared in the reports on these cases, but rarely was there any identical factor, and analysis of the food (when practicable after the time lag of calling in the doctor and receipt of the notification) was invariably negative.

The full results of the extensive Diphtheria immunisation propaganda of recent years are now evident in that only two of the confirmed cases in 1949 had been previously immunised. Both these cases were in children under five years of age. Of the 131 confirmed Whooping Cough cases, only 23 were patients who had been previously immunised against this disease, and in all these instances the attacks were mild.

IMMUNISATION

<i>Immunisation completed</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Combined</i>	<i>Confirmed diagnoses of previously Immunised cases</i>	
				<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>
Under 5 years of age	20	445	1,205	17	2
Over 5 " " "	2	785	—	6	—
Total	22	1,230	1,205	23	2
		Total 2,457		Total 25	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of notifications, age groups of confirmed cases, and hospital admissions.

Disease	Cases notified	Rem. to Hospital	CONFIRMED DIAGNOSES Age groups :—1949														
			Total 1948	Total 1949	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
Anthrax ...	1	1	—	—													
Cerebro-spinal meningitis ...	6	6	6	2	1	1											
Diphtheria ...	46	46	33	13		3	2	1	1	3	1		2				
Dysentery ...	12	8	13	10	2	3	4	1									
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	—	—													
Erysipelas ...	17	8	41	16							2	1	2	7	1	2	1
Food Poisoning ...	10	—	—	1	1												
Malaria (Induced)	2	1	2	2							2						
Measles ...	950	27	1,166	948	62	376	271	231	5	1	1		1				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	15	14	9	15	15												
Paratyphoid ...	2	2	—	1						1							
Pneumonia ...	41	5	60	41		2	2	5	2	1	1	3	7	5	7	4	2
Poliomyelitis ...	22	22	1	14	2	7	1		1		2	1					2
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	13	12	12						3	2	6	1				
Scabies ...	38	—	95	38		2	3	5	5		5	9	5	1		2	1
Scarlet Fever ...	220	85	242	209	2	26	48	103	19	3	2	3	1	2			
Smallpox ...	1	1	—	—													
Whooping Cough	132	23	310	131	24	47	21	34	3	1		1					
*Zymotic Enteritis	29	25	23	25	19	4	1						1				
TOTALS ...	1,558	288	2,013	1,478	128	471	353	380	36	13	18	24	20	15	8	8	4

(*Notifiable from July to September only).

SUMMARY OF DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Age groups :—										
	0-	1-	5-	16-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
MEASLES :											
notified cases ...											} 1
un-notified cases		1									
WHOOPING COUGH :											
notified cases ...											} 1
un-notified cases		1									
CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS											
notified cases ...		1									1
PNEUMONIA :											
notified cases ...								1			} 21
un-notified cases	2							5	10	3	
POLIOMYELITIS :											
notified cases ...				1							} 1
un-notified cases											
TOTALS :											
notified cases ...		1		1				1			3
un-notified cases	2	2						5	10	3	22
	2	3		1				6	10	3	25
TOTALS—1948 :											
notified cases ...	6	2	1						1		10
un-notified cases	4	2	1		3	1	1	4	1	3	20
	10	4	2		3	1	1	4	2	3	30

The above statistics are from death returns in respect of the year 1949. In some cases these include deaths which occurred or were registered during the previous year; similarly some deaths occurring or registered in 1949 will be shown in the 1950 returns.

TUBERCULOSIS

The functions of the Dispensary are now divided between the Regional Hospital Board (clinical administration), Public Health Department (notifications) and the L.C.C. (Health Visitors). The most cordial co-operation has been maintained between these sections.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>
*Notified cases, 1949 (including transfers, posthumous and primary notifications)	257	16
Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1949 of notified* cases ...	65	4
Cases moved away, recovered, etc. ...	111	12
Notified cases remaining at end of 1949 ...	1,077	172

There was a slight decrease in notifications of, and deaths from, Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Non-Pulmonary notifications and deaths showed practically no change from the previous year, although notifications were 22 less than in 1947.

		<i>Age Groups</i>											
		0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45	55-	65-	Total
PULMONARY :													
Primary	} M.	1	3	2	2	13	13	24	17	18	20	7	120
Notifications		F.	1	3	2	3	16	11	13	6	3	4	2	64
New cases	} M.	-	1	-	-	-	7	8	6	5	7	3	37
other than by formal notification.		F.	-	1	-	-	-	10	12	6	-	3	4	36
Totals 1949		2	8	4	5	29	41	57	35	26	34	16	257
1948		2	9	8	7	34	62	59	32	20	21	16	270
<i>Deaths :</i>													
Notified cases	} M.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	7	11	11	7	40
		F.	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	2	1	3	14
Un-notified cases.	} M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
		F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3	7
Totals 1949		-	-	-	-	-	4	4	13	14	15	15	65
1948		1	1	1	-	3	8	14	14	12	15	16	85
NON-PULMONARY :													
Primary	} M.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	4
Notifications		F.	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	7
New cases	} M.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
other than by formal notification.		F.	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals 1949		-	2	2	2	-	4	2	1	1	-	2	16
1948		-	2	3	1	6	2	3	1	-	-	-	18
<i>Deaths :</i>													
Notified cases	} M.	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
		F.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Un-notified cases.	} M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1949		-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
1948		-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	3

TREATMENT & BATHING CENTRE

The work of disinfection and disinfestation carried out at the above Centre was again extensive, involving as it does not only the treatment of infectious and verminous premises, but

also medical bath treatments for Scabious and verminous persons and schoolchildren from both Southwark and Lambeth. The Scabies treatments, of course, are fast decreasing, and although the treatments for verminous persons were less than in 1948, there were substantial increases both of verminous bedding and verminous rooms disinfested, as well as of the quantity of goods destroyed. In addition to a large quantity of unwanted household articles, usually dirty or verminous, which were removed and destroyed by this section, there were 96 cases during the year where the entire effects of persons who had died or been removed to institutions, etc., had to be destroyed. This entailed a considerable amount of work in the complete stripping and disinfestation of the rooms and articles, and sorting of the various items prior to removal and destruction. In many of these instances there were considerable quantities of filthy rubbish—paper, rags and various odd collections—all of which had to be carefully examined, before destruction, for any articles or documents of value.

The Superintendent of the Treatment and Bathing Centre investigates most cases of infectious diseases where disinfection is involved, and although the number of infectious diseases generally was fewer than in 1948, his total visits showed little change. These cases often necessitated more than one visit; the Smallpox and Anthrax cases notified during the year alone accounted for numerous inspections in the investigation and supervision of contacts, whilst several instances of persons arriving in this Borough by air from Smallpox areas abroad or Smallpox infected vessels also entailed much time in periodical visiting.

A considerable amount of work is also concerned with enquiries into cases for burial under the National Assistance Act, and the disinfection, storage and sale, disposal or destruction of the effects of these persons.

Demonstrations of the work of this Station are always in frequent demand, and during 1949, 23 such sessions were arranged for approximately 160 students.

Analysis of work carried out during the year :

Verminous Rooms Sprayed (D.D.T.)	...	...	...	2,079
Verminous Household Goods Destroyed	...	...	...	3 tons, 3½ cwts.
Infected Rooms Sprayed (Formaldehyde)	...	...	...	229
Infected Household Goods Destroyed	...	...	...	Nil
Hospital Wards disinfected	...	...	...	56
Common Lodging Houses disinfected	...	...	...	18 rooms
Rooms disinfected by request (Tuberculosis, Measles, Cancer deaths, etc.)	...	...	...	97
Trade goods disinfected (steam)	...	...	...	520 mattresses, 12 sacks hair, 280 Service jackets,
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	130.

Infectious Disease Cases Dealt with by The Treatment & Bathing Centre.

Total—301 as under :

Scarlet Fever	219	Erysipelas	16
Diphtheria	50	Dysentery	2
Enteritis	2	Smallpox	1
Poliomyelitis	1	Meningococcal	
Typhoid	2	infections	8
Scarlet Fever cases kept at home :		139	
Smallpox Revisits :		32	

Treatment of Verminous and Infected Articles.

	<i>Verminous articles treated</i>	<i>Verminous articles destroyed</i>	<i>Infected articles treated</i>	<i>Infected articles destroyed</i>
Beds	295	78	12	2
Palliasses	1,207	71	92	2
Bolsters	275	29	10	-
Pillows	1,186	84	189	-
Cushions	236	20	6	-
Blankets	1,528	41	233	-
Sheets	579	19	61	-
Quilts	553	16	34	-
Pieces	16,719	1,133	130	11

Scabies and Vermin Treatments.

	<i>Scabies</i>		<i>Vermin</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Lambeth cases.	44	83	21	127
treatments	75	164	25	149
Southwark cases	44	120	427	254
treatments	100	241	429	259
L.C.C. Schoolchildren (Male and Female)	461		2,914	
Total treatments	1,041		3,776	

Verminous Treatment from Hostels, Common Lodging Houses, etc.

<i>Males :</i>		<i>Females :</i>	
Salvation Army Hostel ...	89	83, Blackfriars Road ...	50
Rowton House, Churchyard Row	122	78, Camberwell Road ...	9
Rowton House, Vauxhall ...	4	Cecil House	4
Marshalsea Road Common Lodging House	23	Elizabeth Baxter Hostel ...	1
Hungerford Club	4	Hungerford Club	2
Southwark casuals	169	Southwark casuals	3
Factories and private residents	43	Factories and private residents	339
Totals	454		408

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The improvement during the year in the previous serious staffing difficulties of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department is reflected in a very considerable increase in the work of this section. The following details represent over 1,600 more inspections of drainage and complaints, and 1,500 more visits to food premises than in 1948, whilst the total of works completed shews an increase of 670 over the previous year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

Inspections upon receipt of complaint	6,181
Drainage and miscellaneous inspections	3,653
Inspection of Factories	319
Inspection of Outworkers	52
Inspection of Common Lodging Houses	39
Rehousing visits	2,298
Housing Act Inspections	1,009
Smoke Observations	14
Rodent visits (Sanitary Inspectors)	333
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	4
Inspection of Offensive Trades Premises	30
Inspection and food sampling visits, shops and markets	1,636
Inspection and sampling visits, Catering and Ice Cream Premises	840
Inspection of food at Wharves and Warehouses	1,319
Visits to Bakehouses	115
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	37
Visits to Fish Curers' premises	11
Revisits	18,189

NOTICES

Intimation Notices served	3,579
Statutory Notices served	1,414
Defects in Council controlled property reported to Housing Manager	169
Notices complied with	3,397

RENT & MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920-1939

Sixty-one certificates as to the state of repair of dwelling houses were issued during the year under the above Acts.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are four women's and two men's common lodging houses in the Borough, which are fully occupied nightly. Thirty-nine inspections of these premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, 14 of men's lodging houses and 25 of women's.

SMOKE

During the year 14 observations have been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Considerable concern has been felt at the constant serious nuisance of atmospheric pollution by smoke.

It is gratifying to record that representations made earlier to the Ministry of Fuel were successful, and despite the difficulties involved, a more suitable type of coal was made available for industrial and other large scale plant. Whilst this certainly resulted in some improvement, the problem is still an acute one, and during the year under review the Council agreed to suggestions for the installation of measuring and recording apparatus at three sites in the Borough—Walworth Road, Borough High Street, and Bankside.

The selection of these sites and the standardised equipment—comprising deposit gauges, lead peroxide instruments, volumetric apparatus and smoke filters—was approved by the Fuel Research Station, Greenwich, from which the apparatus was obtained.

The installations will be put into operation on January 1st, 1950.

RODENT CONTROL

This work has been maintained with the fullest vigour; the following summary of its activities during the year represents an increase of 4,000 visits over the previous year.

	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Business</i>
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	325	8
Visits by Rodent Officer	448	160
Visits by Rodent Investigators	6,839	1,824
Visits by Rodent Operatives	4,996	2,272
Drains tested	427	54
Drains defective	55	16
Drains repaired	20	3
Drains opened for examination	11	—
Premises infested	1,222	334
Premises cleared	792	334
Prebaiting laid	2,119	15,902
Poison baits	6,322	5,460
Bodies recovered	254	554

Two maintenance treatments were carried out in June and November at approximately 800 manholes.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are seven premises engaged in offensive trades in the Borough as follows:—

Fellmongers, 5—Tripe Boiler, 1—Soap Boiler, 1.

During 1949, 30 inspections were made and one notice served.

WATER SUPPLY

The domestic water supply of the Borough is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

During the year, three complaints were received regarding the taste of water. The Metropolitan Water Board was informed and samples analysed, but in each instance they were found to be satisfactory.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936 - Section 95

Certificates have been issued in respect of the provision of a proper and sufficient supply of water at 381 new dwellings as follows :—

ST. PETER'S HOUSE, Queens Row, S.E.17	... ..	30 flats
INNIS HOUSE, Alvey Mews, S.E.17	... ..	29 ..
BRAMWELL HOUSE, Rockingham Estate, S.E.1	... ..	57 ..
CONANT HOUSE, St. Agnes Place, S.E.17	... ..	20 ..
LONGRIDGE HOUSE, Rockingham Street, S.E.1	... ..	86 ..
CONANT HOUSE, St. Agnes Place, S.E.17	... ..	56 ..
AVERY HOUSE, Red Cross Way, S.E.1	... ..	4 ..
BABINGTON HOUSE, Red Cross Way, S.E.1	... ..	20 ..
DODDINGTON GROVE FLATS, Doddington Grove, S.E.17	... ..	24 ..
TABARD STREET S.E.1	... ..	3 ..
MARTIN HOUSE, Rockingham Estate, S.E.1	... ..	52 ..

Public Health (London) Act, 1936 - Section 98

During the year 77 notifications of the withdrawal of water supply were received from the Metropolitan Water Board.

FACTORIES

Three hundred and nineteen inspections of Factories were made during the year, and 53 notices were served. There are now 842 factories of all types on the register, comprising 215 factories without mechanical power, and 627 factories with mechanical power.

Inspections.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of :—</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	215	58	14	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	627	260	39	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	1	—	—
Total	842	319	53	—

*Defects found and remedied.**No. of cases in which defects were :—*

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>found</i>	<i>remedied</i>	<i>referred to H.M. Insp.</i>	<i>referred by H.M. Insp.</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	29	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	6	4	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	5	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	40	29	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	18	5	—	—	—
Total	98	48	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS

Fifty-two inspections and 25 revisits of homes of outworkers were made during the year. The conditions generally were found to be quite satisfactory. There were no cases of default in sending lists of outworkers to the Council, nor was it necessary to serve any notices or institute any prosecutions for work carried on in unwholesome premises (Sec. 111).

<i>Nature of work</i>	<i>No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i>
Wearing Apparel { Making, etc.	81
{ Cleaning and washing	—
Household Linen	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	1
Curtains and furniture hangings	—
Furniture and upholstery	—
Electro-plate	—
File making	—
Brass and brass articles	—
Fur pulling	—
Iron and steel cables and chains	—
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	—
Cart gear	—
Locks, latches and keys	—
Umbrellas, etc.	—
Artificial flowers	—
Nets, other than wire nets	—
Tents	—
Sacks	—
Racquets and tennis balls	—
Paper bags	11
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	80
Brush making	—
Pea picking	—
Feather sorting	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	—
Stuffed toys	—
Basket making	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc.	14
Textile weaving	—
Lampshades	—
TOTAL	187

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
Bisley & Sons, 284, Jamaica Road, London, S.E.16.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 24, Ripley Street.	Work done, summons withdrawn on pay- ment on £1 1s. costs.
Mr. J. J. Grimes, 82, Vassall Road, London, S.W.9.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 85, Gurney Street.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> 2nd June. Work in pro- gress.
F. Butler & Partners, Robert Adam Street, London, W.C.1.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 20, Albany Road.	Adjourned to 5th May. Work now completed.
Mrs. M. Kerrigan, 77, Mann Street, London, S.E.17.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 103, Mann Street.	Abatement order 28 days. £2 2s. costs.

<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
Mrs. Vincent, 1, Tadworth Road, London, N.W.2.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 114, Westmoreland Road.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> on payment of £1 1s. costs. Work com- pleted.
Charles Benabo & Co., 3, St. Stephens Parade, London, S.W.1.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 161, Boyson Road.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> on payment of £1 1s. costs. Work com- pleted.
Mr. Fisher, 37, Aldred Street, London, S.E.17.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 40, Royal Road.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> on payment of £1 1s. costs. Work com- pleted.
Mr. E. J. J. Lane, 92, Newington Cause- way, London, S.E.1.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 81, Gurney Street.	Summons withdrawn on payment of £1 1s. costs. Work com- pleted.
Mr. Rexworthy Warren, 74, Henshaw Street, London, S.E.17.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 74, Henshaw Street.	Abatement order 14 days.
Charles Benabo & Co., 3, St. Stephens Parade, London, S.W.1.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 124, Trafalgar Street.	Summons withdrawn on payment of £1 1s. costs. Work done.
Charles Benabo & Co., 3, St. Stephens Parade, London, S.W.1.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 150, Westmoreland Road.	Summons withdrawn on payment of £1 1s. costs. Work done.
Mrs. Kerrigan, 77, Mann Street, London, S.E.17.	Failure to comply with an Abatement order on 103, Mann Street.	£1 fine. £2 2s. costs.
Mr. Rexworthy Warren, 74, Henshaw Street, London, S.E.17.	Failure to comply with an Abatement order on 74, Henshaw Street.	£2 2s. fine.
Mrs. Egan, 161, Ken- nington Park Road, London, S.E.11.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 161, Kennington Park Road.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> . Work in progress.
Miss E. M. Ansley, 3, Ringford Road, London, S.W.18.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 33, Tamerton Street.	Abatement order 28 days, £3 3s. costs.
J. S. Millborow, 17, Wellesley Road, Ilford, Essex.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 30, Shorncliffe Road.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> .
Richard Oughton, 340, Brixton Road, London, S.W.9.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 115, Hillingdon Street.	Nuisance order 14 days. £2 2s. costs.

<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
Mrs. M. Kerrigan, 77, Mann Street, London, S.E.17.	Failure to comply with Abatement order on 103, Mann Street.	Fine £2. £1 1s. costs.
Mr. E. G. Powell, T/A. W. H. King, 64, Surrey Square, London, S.E.17.	Failure to abate a nuisance at : 26, Runham Street.	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> . £1 1s. costs. Work done.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

House drain addition or reconstruction	...	...	...	...	10
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	176
Drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	149
W.C. pan and seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	236
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	215
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Soil pipes provided	...	...	...	...	6
Vent pipes provided	...	...	...	...	4
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	94
Waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	32
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	120
Taps fixed on rising main	...	...	...	...	18
Yards paved, repaired or drained	...	...	...	...	53
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	125
Accumulation of filth, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	65
Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	1,152
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	126
Dwellings provided with water	...	...	...	...	16
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	1,046
Window frames, sashes and glazing repaired	...	...	...	...	332
Cills and reveals repaired	...	...	...	...	97
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...	239
Fireplaces and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	321
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	235
Brickwork and pointing repaired	...	...	...	...	32
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	2,108
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	2,580
Other sanitary works executed	...	...	...	...	2,147
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	11,766

FOOD HYGIENE

Particular attention has been paid to the question of hygiene in all catering premises and premises where food is prepared. Special Sanitary Inspectors have been detailed for this purpose and careful records compiled of all such premises and the conditions found upon inspection.

FOOD

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As a result of inspections of food at wharves, warehouses, shops, etc., in the Borough, 293 tons 11 cwts. 12 lbs. were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were suitably disposed of, as follows :—

Destroyed—176 tons 8 cwts. 2 qtrs. 19 lbs.
comprising mainly—

40 tons fruit.
25 tons puree, pulp and fruit juices.
24 tons fruit cake.
18 tons pickles.
14 tons vegetables.
10 tons meat and meat products.
9 tons tinned milk.
7 tons fish.
1 ton tinned soups.
21 tons whalemeat.
3 tons bacon.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 8 tons 6 cwts. 1 qtr. 18 lbs.
,, ,, wharves and ware-
houses ... 168 tons 2 cwts. 1 qtr. 1 lb.

Released for animal feeding—61 tons 2 cwts. 1 qtr. 8 lbs.
comprising mainly—

25 tons fruit cake.
19 tons vegetables.
7 tons meat and meat products.
3 tons whalemeat.
3 tons tinned milk.
2 tons puree, pulp and fruit juices.
1 ton fruit.
1 ton fish.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 8 tons 11 cwts. 1 qtr. 23 lbs.
,, ,, wharves and ware-
houses ... 52 tons 10 cwts. 3 qtrs. 13 lbs.

Released for technical purposes—17 tons 5 cwts. 25 lbs.
comprising mainly—

8 tons bacon.
5 tons meat.
4 tons poultry.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 6 cwts. 2 qtrs. 22 lbs.
,, ,, wharves and ware-
houses ... 16 tons 18 cwts. 2 qtrs. 3 lbs.

Released for manufacturing purposes—28 tons 17 cwts. 1 qtr.
19 lbs.

comprising mainly—

20 tons jam.
6 tons dried fruit.
1 ton meat.
1 ton tinned fruit.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 4 cwts. 1 qtr. 6 lbs.

„ „ wharves and ware-
houses ... 28 tons 13 cwts. 13 lbs.

Food salvaged—9 tons 17 cwts. 1 qtr. 25 lbs.

comprising mainly—

7 tons meat.
2 tons tinned milk.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 2 cwts. 2 qtrs. 20 lbs.

„ „ wharves and ware-
houses ... 9 tons 14 cwts. 3 qtrs. 5 lbs.

IMPORTED PEARS

During the year large quantities of fruit were imported from the continent and distributed from the Grand Vitesse Station, Great Suffolk Street.

On the afternoon of Friday, 29th July, the Chief Sanitary Inspector inspected a consignment of pears which had been imported from Italy. He noticed in some cases that they had a "blue-grey appearance." Samples were taken from these trucks and submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that they had been contaminated by spraying in the fruit stage with an insecticide containing arsenic in such amounts as to constitute a possible danger to health, the quantity found on some specimens being in excess of 1/100th of a grain of arsenic per lb. of fruit. This contamination may be recognised on many specimens of fruit as a blue-grey or white deposit.

After investigation, it was found that it could be removed sufficiently by washing, and if that was found impracticable, merely polishing the fruit by means of a dry cloth would remove most of the deposit of insecticide and render it fit for human consumption.

A meeting of all interested parties, including representatives of the Ministry of Food, was arranged, and it was decided that if the owners gave a written guarantee for the pears in question to be dealt with under the supervision of the Public Health Departments in the districts to which they were consigned, the fruit would be released, otherwise it would be seized. This undertaking was agreed to by the owners.

The total quantity of pears received and inspected was 227 trucks containing approximately 1,248 tons. Samples were taken from 31 trucks, representing 305 tons. Ninety-two written undertakings were received from the owners giving guarantees that the pears would be treated under the supervision of other local authorities, and each of these districts was notified. The quantity found unfit and destroyed in the Council's Depot was 4 trucks representing 22 tons.

WHALEMEAT

The Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regulations, 1949 came into operation in March, and prohibit the importation of whalemeat and whalemeat products for human consumption unless accompanied by a veterinary certificate.

These Regulations also include provision for securing whalemeat against contamination in shops and stalls, and during transport or handling in wholesale markets, cold stores, etc.

This matter has received the most careful attention of the Food Inspectors, and during the year, a consignment consisting of 3,200 cases of whalemeat (canned steak), from New Zealand, was detained for full examination. A preliminary inspection showed that 36 per cent. was unfit for human consumption, and this was accordingly destroyed.

MINERAL OILS

The Mineral Oil in Food Order, 1949, which came into operation in April, prohibits the use of mineral oil in the preparation of any article intended for human consumption, or the sale for human consumption of any article of food containing mineral oil. There is an exemption where the oil content in food does not exceed 0.2 per cent. by weight of the article and its presence is due to its use as a lubricant or greasing agent on a surface with which the article of food necessarily comes into contact during preparation.

Investigations have revealed no infringements of these regulations.

FRENCH SWEETS

A consignment of about 10 tons of French sweets, which had been imported on licence by the Ministry of Food, was found to be dangerously contaminated by copper. Whilst the sweets themselves were quite wholesome they were wrapped in attractively coloured wrappers with gilt printing and it was found that on taking off the wrapper, this gilt easily rubbed off on the fingers and contaminated the sweets. This matter was reported to the Ministry of Food, and as a result it was decided that these licences would not in future be issued.

CONDENSED MILK

In August, a consignment of full cream sweetened condensed milk, imported from Rotterdam, was found entering the Borough through the wharves. In view of previous information received regarding these goods, tests were made, and although no harmful organisms were found, the milk was obviously contaminated, and apparently under-processed, rendering it unfit for invalids and children. In co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health of the Corporation of the City of London, where large consignments were also found, it was agreed that this milk should be used only for manufacturing purposes, where it would be re-heated in the processes, and any dangerous organisms or toxins thereby killed.

ICE CREAM

There are 121 ice cream dealers and 24 manufacturers in this Borough. During the year 97 samples of ice cream have been taken with the following results :—

25	samples	were	graded	I
23	„	„	„	II
17	„	„	„	III
31	„	„	„	IV

1 sample was not examined by the methylene blue test.

These results are not entirely satisfactory, but it has been found in several instances that samples with very low bacterial counts have been graded III or IV by the methylene blue test. In all cases giving Grade III or IV results, special visits have been made to the premises when careful investigations were made and, where necessary, sampling at each separate stage of the processes carried out, in an effort to detect some fault which was not ordinarily apparent but which may have been causing the unsatisfactory gradings. Improvements were often noted in subsequent results.

A code of standards has been sent to each maker and dealer in the Borough, and copies of the Public Analyst's reports on samples taken forwarded to the vendors concerned ; in the case of Grade III or IV samples special attention has been drawn to the necessity for stricter care in the hygiene or manufacture, handling and distribution.

Inspections are carried out before the registration of any new premises to ensure that they are satisfactory and that the requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations are fully understood. In many cases it has been necessary to restrict the sale to pre-packed ice cream.

The majority of ice cream makers in this Borough are small one-man businesses, and generally the trade has co-operated in an endeavour to improve hygiene and purity standards. There were, however, three instances where samples had revealed consistently bad standards of bacterial cleanliness and also the presence of faecal bacillus coli. The makers concerned were interviewed by the Public Health Committee and the matter referred to the Metropolitan Standing Joint Committee with a request that the Minister of Health be asked to consider giving local authorities more effective powers in this direction. It is a matter for regret that there are still no statutory standards for ice cream.

DESIGNATED MILK

During the year, whilst the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1936-1948, were in operation, 46 Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk and 20 Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk were issued.

In addition, 5 Supplementary Licences were granted in respect of Pasteurised and 4 in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk, to dealers selling from premises outside the Borough, the Principal Licences having been issued by the appropriate licensing authorities.

On 1st October, 1949, the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949; the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, came into operation. Under these regulations 100 Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk and 1 Supplementary Licence for Sterilised Milk were granted.

During 1949, 54 samples of Designated Milks were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Seven of these did not satisfy the prescribed test, and the local authority for the area in which the milk was bottled was informed.

Forty-seven samples of Pasteurised Milk supplied to local schools were also examined by the Public Analyst, and the London County Council informed of the results.

MILK SELLERS

At the close of the year there were 179 registered retailers and wholesalers in the Borough, whilst the number of retailers and wholesalers purveying milk in the Borough from registered premises elsewhere was 43. Four hundred and eighty-seven inspections of Milkshops and Dairies were made during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923 and 1947

Eleven samples of condensed milk were purchased under the above regulations for analysis. They were all certified by the Public Analyst to comply with the said regulations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is only one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough, which is not in use. Four inspections of the premises were made during the year to ensure that no slaughtering was in operation.

FOOD PREMISES

There are 351 Eating Houses and places where food is prepared for sale, and 145 Ice Cream premises in the Borough.

Close co-operation has been maintained with the local Food Office in connection with the proposed new food premises and traders, to ensure that premises comply with our requirements before the issue of food licences.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 38 Bakehouses in Southwark, of which 14 are underground. During the year 115 inspections of these premises were carried out.

PHARMACY & POISONS ACT, 1933

During the year 101 visits were paid to the various premises listed by the Council for the sale of Part II Poisons under the above Act.

There are 65 names of persons on the Council's list of Sellers of Part II Poisons.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Cause of proceedings</i>	<i>Result</i>
Frank J. Hyde, " Northumberland " P.H. 88, Brandon Street.	Selling Rum 39.5 degrees under proof.	Fined £5 and £4 4s. costs.
Frank J. Hyde, " Northumberland " P.H. 88, Brandon Street.	Selling Brandy 39 degrees under proof.	Fined £5.
G. Willscheid de Roost, Ltd., 8/10, Congreve Street.	Selling Pork Sausage Meat 36 per cent. deficient in meat.	Fined £10 10s.

G. Willscheid de Roost, Ltd., 8/10, Congreve Street.	Selling Pork Sausage Meat containing Preservative and not labelled.	Fined £10 10s. and £5 5s. costs.
Meat Products, Ltd., Beresford Avenue, Wembley.	Selling Meat Paste 18 per cent. deficient in meat.	£10 10s. costs.
Arthur Kirby, 32, Eleanor Grove, Barnes, S.W.13.	Selling Pork Sausages 24 per cent. deficient in meat.	£3 3s. costs.
Frederick Powell, 68, St. Georges Road.	Slaughtering a pig without giving prior notice to the Council.	Fined £2.

Ten cautionary letters were sent in respect of other non-genuine samples.

FOOD SAMPLING

During the year under review, 873 formal samples were taken, whilst 1,075 informal samples were purchased by the Inspector through his agents. Of these, 21 and 35 respectively, revealed adulteration or other infringements, as follows :—

	<i>Samples Examined</i>		<i>Adulterated Samples</i>	
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Milk	226	11	3	—
Designated Milks	—	54	—	—
Condensed Milk	—	11	—	—
Butter, Margarine and Lard ...	42	58	—	—
Meat and Fish preparations ...	74	137	4	11
Cake Mixtures, etc.	89	117	1	3
Cereal preparations	56	69	3	4
Tea, Coffee and Cocoa	60	46	2	2
Vinegar	44	42	2	2
Herbs	54	81	—	2
Sweets and Chocolates	24	38	1	1
Spices and Condiments	56	84	1	—
Pickles and Sauces	51	50	1	—
James and Preserves	28	19	—	1
Wines, Spirits and Beverages ...	5	128	2	3
Drugs and Medicine Preparations	20	93	1	5
Miscellaneous Samples	44	37	—	1
	<u>873</u>	<u>1,075</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>35</u>

Formal samples :

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
642	Pork Sausage Meat.	36 per cent. deficient in meat.	Summons.
666	Milk.	4.5 per cent. added water.	Cautionary letter.
672	Milk.	Deficient in non fatty solids.	Cautionary letter.
734	Meat Paste.	18 per cent. deficient in meat.	Summons.
740	Whisky.	36 degrees under proof.	Cautionary letter.
814	Milk.	2.2 per cent. added water.	Cautionary letter.
866	Glauber Salts B.P.	Was effloresced.	Stock withdrawn.

Formal Samples (cont.) :

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
44	Pearl Barley.	Contained living acari.	Used for poultry food.
84	Coffee and Chicory Essence.	32 per cent. deficient in caffeine.	Records at factory inspected. Over minimum amount of coffee used.
96	Pork Sausages.	24 per cent. deficient in meat.	Summons.
125	Beef Sausages.	Contained preservative not labelled.	Cautionary letter.
155	Orange Squash.	Contained excess preservative.	Cautionary letter.
204	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari, their ova and excreta.	Used for poultry food.
227	Tomato Sauce.	Copper, 130 parts per million.	Local authority informed.
285	Coffee and Chicory Essence.	16 per cent. deficient in caffeine.	Records at factory inspected. Over minimum amount of coffee used.
290	Sweets.	Copper, 38 parts per million.	Report sent to Ministry of Food.
307	Pearl Barley.	Contained dead acari ova and excreta.	Used for poultry food.
484	Imitation Almond.	Description misleading.	Cautionary letter.
489	Vinegar.	2 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Cautionary letter.
497	Vinegar.	1 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Cautionary letter.
592	Self-raising flour.	15 per cent. deficient in available Carbon Dioxide.	Cautionary letter.

Informal Samples :

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
823a	Meat Paste.	Deficient in meat.	Formal sample taken.
848a	Pearl Barley.	Contained living acari and their ova.	Used for poultry food.
854a	Self-raising Flour.	Deficient in available Carbon Dioxide.	Repeat sample taken. Genuine.
889a	Whisky.	37 degrees under proof.	Formal sample taken.
952a	Sago.	Contained mixture of sago and semolina.	Retailer advised.
999a	Pork Sausage.	Deficient in meat.	Formal sample taken.
1039a	Herring Spread.	Can was blown.	Stock surrendered.
36a	Currant Sugar Sweet Spread.	Was not labelled in accordance with the Labelling of Food Order.	Labelling Order did not apply to this sample.

Informal Samples (cont.):

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
52a	Pork Sausages.	Deficient in meat.	Repeat sample taken.
65a	Cocoa.	Inferior quality and deficient in fat.	No more in stock.
67a	Health Salts.	Ingredients did not react or effervesce.	Stock withdrawn.
92a	Preserved Pork Sausages.	Deficient in meat.	Formal sample taken.
96a	Orange Squash.	Contained sulphite preservative equivalent to 580 parts of SO ₂ per million.	Formal sample taken.
133a	Mixed Herbs.	Incorrectly labelled.	Firm notified.
139a	Orange Squash.	Contained excess preservative.	Formal sample taken.
144a	Coffee Essence.	Deficient in caffeine.	Formal sample taken.
194a	Sausages.	Deficient in meat.	Repeat sample taken.
218a	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari ova and their excreta.	Used for poultry food.
265a	Junket Powder.	Incorrectly labelled.	Old Stock. Withdrawn from sale.
272a	Royal Dessert Powder.	Incorrectly labelled.	None left in stock.
324a	Sausage Meat.	Deficient in meat.	Further sample taken.
329a	Savouries.	Deficient in meat.	Sold as savouries.
348a	Vinegar.	Contained a fungoid growth.	Stock examined. All sound.
350a	Sausage Meat.	Deficient in meat.	Repeat sample taken.
414a	Mixed Herbs.	Incorrectly labelled.	Arranged for stock to be re-labelled.
420a	Sausage Meat.	Deficient in meat.	Repeat sample taken.
423a	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.	Contained 0.69 per cent. ammonia.	Stock withdrawn.
483a	Herbs.	Did not comply with the Labelling Order.	No more in stock.
495a	Beef Sausages.	Contained 160 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	Formal sample taken.
574a	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari, ova and excreta.	Used for poultry food.
590a	Cherry Linctus.	Contained no Ascorbic acid.	Stock withdrawn.
620a	Vinegar.	Deficient in Acetic acid.	Formal sample taken.
680a	Tincture of Iodine B.P.	Deficient in Iodine and Potassium Iodide.	Stock withdrawn.
738a	Self-raising flour.	Deficient in available carbon dioxide.	Formal sample taken.
803a	Zinc and Castor Oil Cream.	Deficient in castor oil.	Formal sample taken.

HOUSING

The Housing duties of this Department are divided between action under the Housing Act in regard to insanitary, unfit, or overcrowded premises, and enquiries from the London County Council, the Council's Housing Manager, and other authorities in connection with priority recommendations for applicants living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions, or for reasons of medical necessity.

The continued shortage of housing accommodation has again resulted in an increase in the number of applications. Unfortunately there is still relatively very little progress in rehousing, even of these priority cases, and even less hope for the many more whose need for better housing on sociological grounds is hardly less urgent.

Another serious factor is the obvious influx of persons into the Borough—as revealed by the considerable increase in population figures despite the lower birth rate—which is making it impossible to reduce overcrowding figures.

	1947	1948	1949
Cases investigated on overcrowding, medical, and sanitary grounds ...	933	1,450	1,669
Number of visits involved ...	1,263	1,814	2,298

Medical.

In dealing with the increased number of housing applicants submitting medical certificates for priority recommendation, regard has to be made to the general housing shortage, and the most careful scrutiny of each case is therefore necessary. Applicants suffering from diseases affecting the heart, rheumatism, congenital deformities, etc., who are housed in top storey dwellings are recommended for accommodation on a lower floor. Tuberculosis patients are recommended for rehousing in the outer London area, where the cleaner air is more conducive to their recovery. Cases of bronchitis are numerous, and where housed in damp dwellings they are also recommended for rehousing.

There have been numerous cases seeking recommendation on grounds of neurosis and associated nervous conditions. From consultations with local doctors, it would appear that approximately one-third of their patients under treatment are suffering from some form of nervous condition due to their housing problems. This is a most serious prospect, but unfortunately again so many cases with more serious diseases require rehousing that special recommendations can be made only in extreme instances of mental debility, aggravated by their environmental conditions.

<i>Recommendations</i>	1947	1948	1949
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis ...	101	136	51
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on other medical grounds ...	48	69	101
Cases recommended to Southwark Borough Council on Medical Grounds ...	24	92	107
Total cases recommended ...	173	297	259

<i>Rehoused</i>	1947	1948	1949
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis ...	33	49	43
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on medical grounds ...	16	28	48
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on grounds of Tuberculosis ...	19	4	Nil
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on medical grounds ...	6	22	24
Total cases rehoused ...	74	103	115

Overcrowding.

The problem of overcrowding in present day conditions is now a matter more of degree and circumstances rather than technical enforcement of the Housing Act. Overcrowding caused merely by increases in family or in their ages are dealt with as soon as possible, but obviously with the present restricted accommodation, much that is socially undesirable and technically illegal cannot unfortunately be remedied as quickly as one would wish.

The question of degree also arises in cases of illegal overcrowding. There is for instance, the family who takes pity on a relative who for some reason is temporarily homeless; or the mother and father from the provinces who leave their family at home while they come to London, and having ultimately found some accommodation for themselves, later send for their family to come and live with them in the most overcrowded conditions, without the knowledge or consent of the owner. There are similar, but even more wilful cases where persons overcrowd themselves under the impression that the local authority is therefore obliged to rehouse them. Fundamentally

the reasons for these flagrant offences are a matter for deep concern and sympathy, but whilst any extenuating circumstances are given careful consideration, it is obviously unjust to give the same treatment of recommendation for rehousing to these offenders, who try to jump the queue over legitimate applicants who have been waiting their turn for long periods. At the same time, in view of the acute shortage of accommodation it is not practicable to institute legal proceedings except in the most wilful cases, or where alternative accommodation is unreasonably refused.

Another difficult problem is that of young married applicants who are obliged to live with parents or relations. Even with the best of intentions this invariably results in domestic friction, but at the same time existing conditions leave no alternative but to regard these people as sharing the accommodation of the whole house. This eliminates the possibility of gaining priority on overcrowding grounds, where in fact they share adequate accommodation with their families. This is admittedly a grave social evil, but it will not be possible to overcome it until more permanent accommodation becomes available.

SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING CASES

	1947			1948			1949		
	<i>Prem-ises</i>	<i>Fami-lies</i>	<i>Per-sons</i>	<i>Prem-ises</i>	<i>Fami-lies</i>	<i>Per-sons</i>	<i>Prem-ises</i>	<i>Fami-lies</i>	<i>Per-sons</i>
<i>New Cases :</i>									
Remaining on register at end of 1946 ...	877	976	4,996	1,001	1,158	5,662	1,064	1,244	5,952
New Cases reported ...	266	372	1,532	259	338	1,442	224	282	1,168
Total ...	1,143	1,348	6,528	1,260	1,496	7,104	1,288	1,526	7,120
Overcrowding abated ...	142	190	866	196	252	1,152	207	257	1,114
Remaining on register	1,001	1,158	5,662	1,064	1,244	5,952	1,081	1,269	6,006
<i>Overcrowding abated :</i>									
Rehoused by L.C.C. ...	102	141	621	161	212	962	150	187	803
Rehoused by Borough Council ...	23	28	123	21	25	116	18	23	88
Rehoused by other Boroughs ...	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rehoused by owners ...	4	5	18	4	4	23	2	2	8
Moved away ...	8	11	55	9	9	45	33	41	190
Found own accommodation ...	—	—	—	1	2	6			
Families reduced in size owing to death, etc.	4	4	44	—	—	—	4	4	25
Total cases abated	142	190	866	196	252	1,152	207	257	1,114

It should be noted that the overcrowding abated may not be a true picture of the actual abatement as the Department is not normally informed of cases where the families have been rehoused by their own efforts.

A check of families known to be overcrowded will be carried out during the coming year, in order to arrive at a more accurate figure.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - SECTIONS 9 - 12

Two inspectors were appointed in May for work in connection with the Housing Act, including inspections under Section 9. One was absent from the end of August and eventually retired owing to ill health, but nevertheless a considerable amount of work has been done during the year.

Whilst it has not been practicable to resume the service of Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, 248 "informal" notices have been issued requesting voluntary action by the owner. 460 revisits and 204 clearance area survey inspections were made during the year.

No formal action by the Council was necessary during the year.

Action under Sections 11 and 12 has still to be limited because of the difficulties in rehousing people displaced. However, demolition orders were made in respect of five premises, and in two of these undertakings not to relet were accepted from the owners.

Five premises were affected by closing orders, and the closing orders in respect of two others were cancelled.

Details of action taken are as follows :—

Premises represented under Section 11.

31, Burman Street	Reported to Committee 30/11/49 (Demolition Order made 15/2/50).
33, Burman Street	Order made 4th May. (Demolished).
15, Comus Place ...	Undertaking not to re-let accepted from the owner.
7, Congreve Street	Order made 17th November. (Demolished).
20, Ripley Street	Undertaking not to re-let accepted from the owner.

Premises closed under Section 12.

1 and 2, Arch Street Buildings.	
83, Gurney Street	Basement front room.
77, Gurney Street	Basement front room.
81, Boyson Road	Basement rooms.
86, Boyson Road	Basement rooms.

Closing orders cancelled.

55 and 57, Nelson Square.—These premises were later demolished for purposes of the Nelson Square Housing Scheme.

No. of Dwellings in Borough 23,473

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses* :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	6,442
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	25,722
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	261
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	721
(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 sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3,827

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices* :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	2,424
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year* :—

A. 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 (248 "informal" section 9 notices were issued).	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3,579
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners 	973
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 	Nil
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 ...	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 	2
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 	6
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 	Nil

WELFARE OF THE AGED

The problems appertaining to the care and welfare of aged persons have evoked much public concern, and in endeavouring to overcome serious difficulties caused by the displacement of Relieving Officers and District Medical Officers, an opportunity is now also afforded for making other and wider improvements in aspects of this subject which had hitherto not received adequate attention.

In the meantime, close liaison is being maintained between the Public Health Department and the London County Council, local hospitals, and general practitioners. Cases of old people reported to be in need of care and attention are visited by Health Visitors to ascertain the exact nature of the appropriate assistance needed. Much progress is being made in regard to institutions for old people, which are far removed from the former poor law workhouses. This prejudice must be broken down, but it must also be remembered that sentimental associations of home ties and possessions, however humble, are usually held in high regard by the aged, who are often loth to leave them for the greater care and comfort of these excellent institutions.

For this reason, future steps must be planned with a greater emphasis on domiciliary care to prevent rather than remedy the appalling results of protracted loneliness and neglect. An extension of the institution scheme to provide sub-hospital medical facilities, and a system of regular and frequent home visiting of all old people, are necessary steps which will probably be instituted in the near future.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Compulsory Removals.

During the year, two cases were dealt with under Section 47, which provides for the removal of persons in need of care and attention. Both of these cases were found to be infirm, living under insanitary conditions owing to neglect, in need of proper care and attention, and with no known relatives. Both of these persons—a woman aged 88 and a man aged 78—had refused to enter an institution voluntarily, and Court Orders were made in January and September respectively, for their removal to an institution for three months. At the end of this period, they were found to have settled comfortably in the institution, and no extension of the Orders was necessary.

In addition to the above, a number of cases in similar circumstances were admitted to various institutions voluntarily.

Burial of the Dead.

During the year, the Council arranged for 23 burials under Section 50 of the above Act, at a total cost of £174 11s. 6d. In July, 1949, the Death Grant Scheme came into operation, by which the Borough Council is enabled to claim a proportion of the normal sum payable, for burials undertaken by the council.



