

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

### **Contributors**

Southwark (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.  
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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

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Annual Report  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR  
1950

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

*Medical Officer of Health*

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## BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

WALWORTH ROAD, S.E.17.

*The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,*

*Metropolitan Borough of Southwark.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1950.

Reviewing the year briefly as a whole, it will be observed that whilst the population has continued to increase since before the end of the war, the increase in 1950 was much smaller than previously. Further, both birth and death rates are declining.

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was low, except for an increase of dysentery and food poisoning, which gives me no little concern, particularly as the causes of these conditions are known and are preventable by "cleanliness" used in its widest meaning. The remedy, I think, is that of education, not only of the food handlers, but also of the public generally.

The most pressing need, not only of this Borough, but of the majority of towns in the country, is for more and more housing accommodation. I know of no more important factor which would contribute to the general happiness and wellbeing—and therefore good health, both mental and physical—than that of adequate housing accommodation for every family. The intolerable conditions under which many of our citizens are living and which I come across daily lead not only to much distress and misery but to many broken marriages and in some cases to serious mental breakdowns. I am informed by several of our local medical practitioners that over a third of the patients who attend their surgeries regularly are suffering from serious anxiety neurosis directly due to bad housing conditions. Whether this is an under or an over estimate I cannot say, but I can speak of the deplorable conditions I find, and I know as a medical man that these conditions lead to great mental distress and unrest, and that people being under tension of this nature are neither physically well, nor can they give of their best.

In making these remarks, I fully realise that in no way can any reflection be cast on the Council's efforts to produce houses, which are very restricted by higher authority, but I feel that we



and others should keep on pressing home these serious facts upon those in higher authority as I am convinced that they are too far removed to comprehend fully the distress and difficulties with which we are faced every day.

The second problem to which I wish to refer is that of the "Old People."

Since the introduction of the National Health Act the plight of many old people has been very acutely and forcibly brought to our notice. The Borough Council has done all it is allowed to do under the law to bring assistance to these people and to encourage the interested voluntary bodies in their welfare work. After two years' experience of dealing almost daily with some problem relating to an old man or woman, one is forced to think that the Ministry of Health are quite satisfied that the situation is covered by the provisions of the Health and Assistance Acts, together with the assistance rendered by voluntary agencies. In spite of all the provisions made, I am certain that this line of thought, based on curative medicine and hospital beds, is a wrong one. To deal with the old people adequately, one must work and think on preventive lines. Many of the conditions which render old people helpless and bedridden when neglected are preventable. Many hospital beds, and the time of district nurses, are being used by old people suffering from conditions which could have been prevented if adequate preventive services had been available. These services can best be provided by the local authorities responsible for environmental health; that is those authorities closest to the problem and who are in daily contact and know the conditions and needs of their citizens.

Other comments which I have wished to make on the activities of this Department will be found under the appropriate sections of the report. I would, however, particularly like to point out the large amount of very successful work undertaken during the year by your Sanitary Inspectors, and also to the report on "Smoke Abatement" on pages 13-16.

In expressing once again my appreciation of the loyal co-operation received from the Members of the Council, the Public Health Department staff, and the Chief Officers and staffs of other Departments, I must add a personal note on the sad deaths during the year of Alderman A. J. Gillian, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and of Mr. T. Jenkins of the Rodent Control section; also on the retirement of Mr. H. Hattersley, Sanitary Inspector for more than half of his forty years' service.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. STOTT,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**GOLDEN JUBILEE****1900 — 1950**

---

Southwark celebrated its Golden Jubilee as a metropolitan borough in 1950 ; it was created a borough in 1900 following the Local Government Act of 1899.

One of the earliest functions of its first Public Health Committee was to provide a bacteriological service at Guy's Hospital to assist medical practitioners in dealing with suspected infectious diseases. Soon afterwards, the first Public Analyst was appointed for the examination of food samples.

There have been many important changes in Public Health during the ensuing 50 years, including the creation of the Ministry of Health, and the establishment of the Maternity and Child Welfare, School Medical, Tuberculosis, and Health Insurance Services, and the introduction of the new Public Health and consolidated Housing Acts.

Between 1936 and 1939 the Council had replanned and reconstructed the Treatment and Bathing Centre and built the new Health Services Department—which at that time was probably one of the most up to date and best equipped buildings of its kind—with a complete scheme of health services second to none. These services were severely curtailed by the outbreak of war, and with the introduction of the new National Health and National Assistance Acts, which robbed the Council of its personal health services, many plans for their further development were shattered.

It is interesting to note the strides made in the prevention of infectious diseases during this last 50 years. In 1901 Southwark's notifications of Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria alone exceeded the total of all infectious diseases notified in 1950. There were 161 deaths from Measles, 14 from Smallpox, 54 from Scarlet Fever, 98 from Whooping Cough, and 53 from Diphtheria. In 1950, however, the total deaths from all infectious diseases was 65, only 9 of which were due to diseases other than Tuberculosis.



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at December 31st, 1950).

*Chairman*—A. E. BARNES.

*Aldermen :*

Mrs. E. L. MADDISON.	Rev. H. RUNACRES, B.A.
J. F. STROUD.	L. J. STYLES, J.P. ( <i>Ex Officio</i> )
J. R. LILL.	

*Councillors :*

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

*Ex Officio :* A. E. KNIGHT, J.P.—*Mayor*.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, 1950

*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.

*Sanitary Inspectors :*

*District Inspectors :*

BIGGINS, W. (from October 26th).  
 CLARK, K.  
 CLIFFORD, G. (from July 31st).  
 DRINKWATER, P.  
 GOURLEY, Miss G. (from July 31st).  
 KIRRAGE, G. (to April 22nd).  
 PAINE, J. (to August 27th).  
 PARRY, M.  
 RIVETT, L.  
 ROBINSON, G.  
 STEELE, H.  
 SYMS, J.  
 TOMPKINS, J.  
 WARBOYS, R.  
 HUSK, C. (Assistant).

*Food Inspectors :*

JOHNSON, A.  
 STUBBS, G.

*Housing Act Inspector :*

ADAMSON, E.

*Rodent Control :*

JENKINS, T. (to September 18th).  
 ROSS, Mrs. H. (Temporary).  
 SMITH, Mrs. B. (Temporary).

*Clerical Staff :*

*Infectious Diseases :*

MARSDEN-WEBB, G.

*Housing :*

STRIPP, D.

*Sanitary Records :*

CASS, Miss W. (Temporary).  
 DAVIES, E. (Temporary).  
 ROBERTSON, J.  
 STEVENS, R.  
 WORDEN, R.

*Shorthand Typist :*

SUTHERLAND, J.

*General :*

ASHFORD, F. (Temporary).  
 CHARNICK, R.

*Treatment and Bathing Centre :*

AXTELL, Miss E.

*Mortuary Attendant :*

WEST, H.

*Hallkeepers :*

WITTEN, R.  
 BISHOP, W.

# Vital Statistics

The estimated population in this borough in 1950, whilst still increasing, was only 270 more than for 1949, compared with increases of over 2,000 for each of the preceding two years. The current population estimate includes members of H.M. Forces stationed in the area.

There was a decline in both birth and death rates, and also in still births and infant death rates; the two latter were the lowest recorded for many years past.

AREA ... ..	1,132 acres
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DWELLINGS ...	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: 2em;">{</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Dwelling houses 23,921  Tenement houses 534 </div> </div>
RATEABLE VALUE—(Approximate) ... ..	£1,035,409

## POPULATION :

Registrar General's estimate (mid-1950), including members of Armed Forces stationed in area				97,080
Estimated population, 1949 (mid-year)				96,810
				<i>1949</i> <i>1950</i>
LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	19.5	18.6
Adjusted by comparability factor	...	...	—	18.4
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Births	...	...	27.1	16.8
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	13.0	12.2
Adjusted by comparability factor	...	...	—	12.4
MATERNAL DEATH RATE per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	1.0	Nil

## INFANT DEATH RATE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	28.9	19.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	...	25.6	17.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	...	71.4	46.3

<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
1950 97,080	18.6	12.2	17	46	20	16.8



	<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>
	<b>Live Births</b>								
1949	900	857	1,757	80	60	140	980	917	1,897
1950	839	819	1,658	85	66	151	924	885	1,809
	<b>Still Births</b>								
1949	29	19	48	2	3	5	31	22	53
1950	12	16	28	1	2	3	13	18	31
	<b>Infant deaths (under 1 year)</b>								
1949	30	15	45	4	6	10	34	21	55
1950	9	20	29	4	3	7	13	23	36

## 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 ...	13	4	2	60	186	406	671
Females	23	4	2	38	88	366	521
	36	8	4	98	274	772	1,192

### *Infant Mortality.*

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 36, the causes of death being as follows :

Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	...	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	...	...	22
All accidents, other than by motor vehicle ...	...	...	...	...	2
Total deaths under 1 year of age ...	...	...	...	...	36

### *Maternal Mortality.*

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1950	Age Groups 1950 :—							
All causes—Males, Females		0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	51	—	—	—	2	19	23	5	2
Tuberculosis—other forms ... ..	5	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	4	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Malignant neoplasm stomach ... ..	34	—	—	—	—	3	11	12	8
"    "    lung, bronchus ... ..	47	—	—	—	—	4	21	18	4
"    "    breast ... ..	16	—	—	—	—	2	5	7	2
"    "    uterus ... ..	11	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	109	—	—	—	1	8	33	34	33
Leukaemia, Aleukemia ... ..	4	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1
Diabetes ... ..	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	101	—	—	—	—	1	23	38	39
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	111	—	—	—	—	1	31	44	35

### Classification of Deaths (continued)

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1950	Age Groups 1950 :—							
All causes—Males, Females		0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
Hypertension with Heart disease ... ..	50	—	—	—	—	—	9	12	29
Other Heart disease ... ..	213	—	—	—	—	15	16	58	124
Other Circulatory disease ... ..	35	—	—	—	1	1	5	13	15
Influenza ... ..	7	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	3
Pneumonia ... ..	57	3	2	—	—	3	14	13	22
Bronchitis ... ..	105	2	—	—	—	—	24	40	39
Other diseases of Respiratory system ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	1
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	22	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	10
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	6	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	11	—	—	2	1	1	4	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	10	4	1	—	2	2	1	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	90	22	2	—	2	6	15	20	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	11	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	1
All other accidents ... ..	33	2	—	—	—	4	8	6	13
Suicide ... ..	12	—	—	—	2	1	3	6	—
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	1,192	36	8	4	15	83	274	354	418



## Infectious Diseases

The final figures of corrected diagnoses of infectious diseases in the Borough during 1950 shewed an increase of only 60 on those of 1949, which were the lowest for several years past.

A particularly pleasing feature was that in 1950 there was not a single confirmed case of diphtheria in this Borough. There were more whooping cough cases than for the past two years, although the figures for this disease in 1949 were exceptionally low, but fortunately there was only one death. Measles shewed a decrease for the second year in succession in conformity with the normal cycle, and there were no deaths from this cause. Both pneumonia and scarlet fever cases were well below the average. Scabies has now decreased to only about 5 per cent. of the number of cases in 1946, even despite the cessation of examination and treatment of contacts.

Fourteen cases of poliomyelitis occurred, one of which was fatal ; these figures were the same as for the year 1949.

Other deaths of infectious disease cases included one each from dysentery, gastro-enteritis and encephalitis, and four from meningococcal infections.

During 1950, the Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infection) Regulations, 1949, came into operation, by which revised nomenclatures and extended notifiable conditions were applied to meningococcal infections, poliomyelitis and acute encephalitis.

### ANTHRAX

Two cases of Anthrax were notified during the year and were traceable to the handling of goat skins imported from various provinces in India, and from which the blood-stained hair had not been completely removed.

The facts were reported to the Ministry, and the Council asked for the regulations governing the importation of these skins to be reviewed in the light of geographical and political changes which have, in recent years, affected the Far East, parts of which are specifically defined in the regulations.

## DYSENTERY

There was a marked increase in Dysentery during the year, not only in this district, but throughout the country as a whole. The entire question of the control of this disease and the method by which it is spread is receiving very urgent attention by all medical officers and those interested in preventive medicine.

Whereas some few years ago Sonne Dysentery was a disease more or less confined to closed institutions, for some unknown reason it now seems to be escaping from these compact communities, and is, in fact, becoming endemic throughout the population of the whole country.

## 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	88	637	571	33	—
Over 5 „ „ „	1	33	9	21	—
Booster injections	—	116	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	89	786	580	54	—
	—	—	—	—	—
	Total 1,455			Total 54	

## SUMMARY OF DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Age groups:—							Total	
	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-		75-
DYSENTERY ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
GASTRO ENTERITIS ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
WHOOPING COUGH ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	4
ENCEPHALITIS ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TUBERCULOSIS :									
Respiratory ... ..	—	—	—	2	19	23	5	2	51
Other forms ... ..	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	5
POLIOMYELITIS ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ... ..	2	3	2	3	22	25	5	3	65
„ 1949... ..	—	2	3	27	—	27	13	—	72

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS, AGE GROUPS OF CONFIRMED CASES, AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.

DISEASE	Cases notified	Rem. to Hospital	CONFIRMED DIAGNOSES Age Groups :—1950														
			Total 1949	Total 1950	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
Anthrax ...	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal																	
Meningitis ...	—	—	2	<i>(See Meningococcal Infection)</i>													
Diphtheria ...	7	7	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery...	82	47	10	71	8	23	10	14	3	2	1	3	4	1	1	1	—
Encephalitis :																	
Infective ...	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post infectious...	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas...	19	7	16	18	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	7	1	4	1
†Food Poisoning ...	25	7	1	27	4	3	5	2	—	—	1	2	4	5	—	1	—
Malaria (induced)	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	819	184	948	806	28	256	241	267	9	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal																	
Infection ...	9	9	—	8	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia																	
Neonatorum ...	6	6	15	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Paratyphoid ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(\* Notifiable from July to September only.)

(† Certain of these confirmed cases were notified as other diseases, and diagnoses later corrected.)



# **Infectious Diseases** (*continued*)

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS, AGE GROUPS OF CONFIRMED CASES, AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.

DISEASE	Cases Notified	Rem. to Hospital	CONFIRMED DIAGNOSES Age Groups :—1950														
			Total 1949	Total 1950	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
Pneumonia ...	23	2	41	23	2	1	1	3	—	3	—	2	3	2	4	2	—
Poliomyelitis :																	
Paralytic ...	13	13	14	10	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	5	4		4	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	6	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies ...	19	—	38	19	—	1	1	3	1	1	4	4	2	—	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	153	41	209	149	—	18	53	56	14	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
†Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	365	73	131	354	60	103	102	81	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
*Zymotic Enteritis	39	23	25	30	9	8	2	1	—	1	—	1	2	2	2	1	1
TOTALS ...	1,596	433	1,478	1,539	121	423	420	428	36	15	17	18	23	17	9	10	2

(\*Notifiable from July to September only.)

(†Certain of these confirmed cases were notified as other diseases, and diagnoses later corrected.)

## TUBERCULOSIS

There was very little variation in Tuberculosis statistics during 1950. Notifications, deaths and removals of pulmonary cases remained almost unchanged, although non-pulmonary notifications were twice the number registered in the previous year.

		Age Groups											Total
		0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
PULMONARY :													
Primary Notifica- tions New cases other than by formal notification	M.	2	6	1	2	8	13	14	14	26	15	9	110
	F.	—	2	—	5	15	18	17	6	4	1	1	69
	M.	1	1	1	—	1	9	11	6	4	4	6	44
	F.	—	—	1	—	—	6	19	2	1	—	2	31
Totals 1950	...	3	9	3	7	24	46	61	28	35	20	18	254
1949	...	2	8	4	5	29	41	57	35	26	34	16	257
NON-PULMONARY													
Primary Notifica- tions New cases other than by formal notification	M.	—	3	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	8
	F.	—	2	2	2	3	1	5	4	—	—	—	19
	M.	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
	F.	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Totals 1950	...	—	6	3	3	5	4	6	5	—	—	—	32
1949	...	—	2	2	2	—	4	2	1	1	—	2	16

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>
Cases on Register, end of 1949 ...	1,077	172
Notified cases, 1950 (including transfers, posthumous and primary notifications)	254	32
Cases removed from Register during 1950	182	16
Cases remaining at end of 1950 ...	1,149	188

# Treatment & Bathing Centre

Whilst there has been a decrease in the total number of treatments for vermin and scabies during the year, there was a substantial increase in the number of male casual cases coming from hostels, etc. This was probably due to the much stricter precautions which appear to be taken in these establishments now against the risk of verminous conditions.

The Centre has undertaken a very considerable quantity of chargeable trade disinfection work during the year, and there have also been increases in the amount of departmental laundry, destruction of verminous goods, and disinfection of common lodging houses.

The Superintendent of the Treatment and Bathing Centre investigates all cases of infectious diseases where disinfection or special enquiries are involved. This often necessitates several visits, whilst several instances of persons arriving in this Borough by air from smallpox infected areas or vessels also entailed much time in visiting and the supervision of contacts.

A considerable amount of work is 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 Centre are always in frequent demand, and during 1950 14 such sessions were arranged for approximately 127 students.

## Analysis of work carried out during the year.

Verminous Rooms Sprayed (D.D.T.)	...	...	2,141
Verminous Household Goods Destroyed	...	...	9 tons 2½ cwts.
Infected Rooms Sprayed (Formaldehyde)	...	...	202
Infected Household Goods Destroyed	...	...	2 cwts.
Hospital Wards disinfected	...	...	24
Common Lodging Houses disinfested	...	...	166 rooms
Rooms disinfected by request (Tuberculosis, Measles, Cancer deaths, etc.)	...	...	111
Trade goods disinfected (steam)	...	...	143 mattresses, 500 palliasses covers, 11,931 greatcoats, 1,500 trousers, 3,132 peaked caps, 3,702 jackets and tunics
Library books disinfected	...	...	94
Departmental laundry	...	...	4,524 towels, 903 swabs and dusters, 15 sheets.



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

Total—309 as under :

Anthrax	2	Food Poisoning	19
Scarlet Fever	157	Erysipelas	20
Diphtheria	10	Dysentery	54
Enteritis	7	Smallpox	
Poliomyelitis	26	Meningococcal	
Typhoid	2	infections	12

Scarlet Fever cases kept at home : 115

### 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 ... ..	163	65	10	2
Palliasses ... ..	466	93	74	2
Bolsters ... ..	93	33	10	2
Pillows ... ..	426	97	99	4
Cushions ... ..	95	23	16	—
Blankets ... ..	1,790	18	133	2
Sheets ... ..	204	6	47	2
Quilts ... ..	173	12	16	—
Pieces ... ..	36,282	933	420	6

### Scabies and Vermin Treatments.

				<i>Scabies</i>		<i>Vermin</i>	
				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Lambeth cases	...	...	...	21	60	15	82
treatments	...	...	...	44	129	15	84
Southwark cases	...	...	...	28	66	717	219
treatments	...	...	...	50	137	717	223
L.C.C. Schoolchildren	(Male and	...	...	294		2,739	
Female)	...	...	...				
Total treatments	...	...	...	654		3,778	

### Verminous Treatment from Hostels, Common Lodging Houses, etc. (Included in above.)

<i>Males :</i>				<i>Females :</i>			
Salvation Army Hostel	...	174		83, Blackfriars Road	...	28	
Rowton House, Churchyard				78, Camberwell Road	...	9	
Row	...	167		Cecil House	...	4	
Rowton House, Vauxhall	...	—		Elizabeth Baxter Hostel	...	—	
Marshalsea Road Common				Hungerford Club	...	3	
Lodging House	...	14		Southwark casuals	...		
Hungerford Club	...	4					
Southwark casuals	...	324					
Totals	...	683				44	

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

The number of complaints of sanitary nuisances received during the year was about 800 less than in 1949, and it is fair to assume that part, at least, of this decrease is due to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors in the past. Nevertheless their activities have continued with full vigour, and during 1950 nearly 600 more inspections and visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors than in the preceding year.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

*(Separate statistics for certain of the following headings are given in the Housing section.)*

Inspections upon receipt of complaint ... ..	5,134
Drainage and miscellaneous inspections ... ..	3,207
Inspection of Factories ... ..	299
Inspection of Outworkers ... ..	99
Inspection of Common Lodging Houses ... ..	30
Rehousing visits ... ..	2,587
Smoke Observations ... ..	83
Rodent visits (Sanitary Inspectors) ... ..	550
Inspection of Slaughterhouses ... ..	4
Inspection of Offensive Trades Premises ... ..	11
Inspection and food sampling visits, shops and markets ... ..	1,746
Inspection and sampling visits, Catering and Ice Cream Premises ... ..	1,230
Inspection of food at Wharves and Warehouses ... ..	1,745
Visits to Bakehouses ... ..	127
Visits to Fried Fish Shops ... ..	63
Visits to Fishmongers premises ... ..	21
Revisits ... ..	12,312
Miscellaneous ... ..	512

### NOTICES

Intimation Notices served ... ..	2,672
Statutory Notices served ... ..	1,129
Defects in Council controlled property reported to Housing Manager	155
Intimation Notices complied with ... ..	2,725
Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	807



## RENT & MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920-1939

Seventy-seven 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 inspections of these premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, 21 of men's lodging houses and 9 of women's.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

Mr. G. Stubbs, the Council's Smoke Abatement Officer, reported that the results obtained from the recording instruments, which were in operation from February, proved that the extent of atmospheric pollution in Southwark is a serious matter, and in fact is far worse than had been realised.

This applies particularly to the Bankside area, where pollution is so bad that it can be classed as one of the black spots in the kingdom.

The figures of the deposited matter as recorded on the sites in Walworth Road and at Bankside are as follows :—

			<i>Walworth</i>					
1950			<i>Road</i>	<i>Bankside</i>				
February	...	...	32.9	117.4	tons	per	sq.	mile
March	...	...	22.7	43.2	„	„	„	„
April	...	...	28.9	122.7	„	„	„	„
May	...	...	19.7	41.5	„	„	„	„
June	...	...	17.2	67.1	„	„	„	„
July	...	...	18.8	78.8	„	„	„	„
August	...	...	45.1	65.8	„	„	„	„
September	...	...	16.6	235.0	„	„	„	„
October	...	...	18.8	146.5	„	„	„	„
November	...	...	76.4	138.1	„	„	„	„
December	...	...	23.9	146.4	„	„	„	„

Comparing these figures with other places as published in the "Atmospheric Pollution Bulletin" of the Fuel Research Station,



whilst the records of the Walworth Road site are in keeping with the deposits recorded in other parts of London, the deposits in the vicinity of Bankside are in excess of those of nearly all the industrial centres in the country.

Careful investigations indicated that the main source of pollution in the Bankside area was due to ash emitted from the chimneys of the electricity station. The deposited matter in this area can readily be seen as it accumulates in the gutters and in the alleyways.

There are 18 chimneys at the station, 14 of which serve solid fuel furnaces. Only two are fitted with grit arresters, and if all the solid fuel furnace chimneys were so fitted it would considerably reduce the emission of grit. The Council's Inspector served an intimation notice under Section 150 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

Representations were made to the British Electricity Authority, who stated that in view of the cost, the structural alterations involved, the age of the plant, and the limited life of the existing station, the expense of fitting grit arresters would not be justified. They explained that on completion of the new electricity station now in course of erection the existing station would be dismantled. There is, however, no fixed date for this, as it is dependent on many factors, and in any event it would not take place for some years.

The B.E.A. stated they would try to obtain better, though more expensive coal for the station, and to do all they reasonably could to minimise the grit emission.

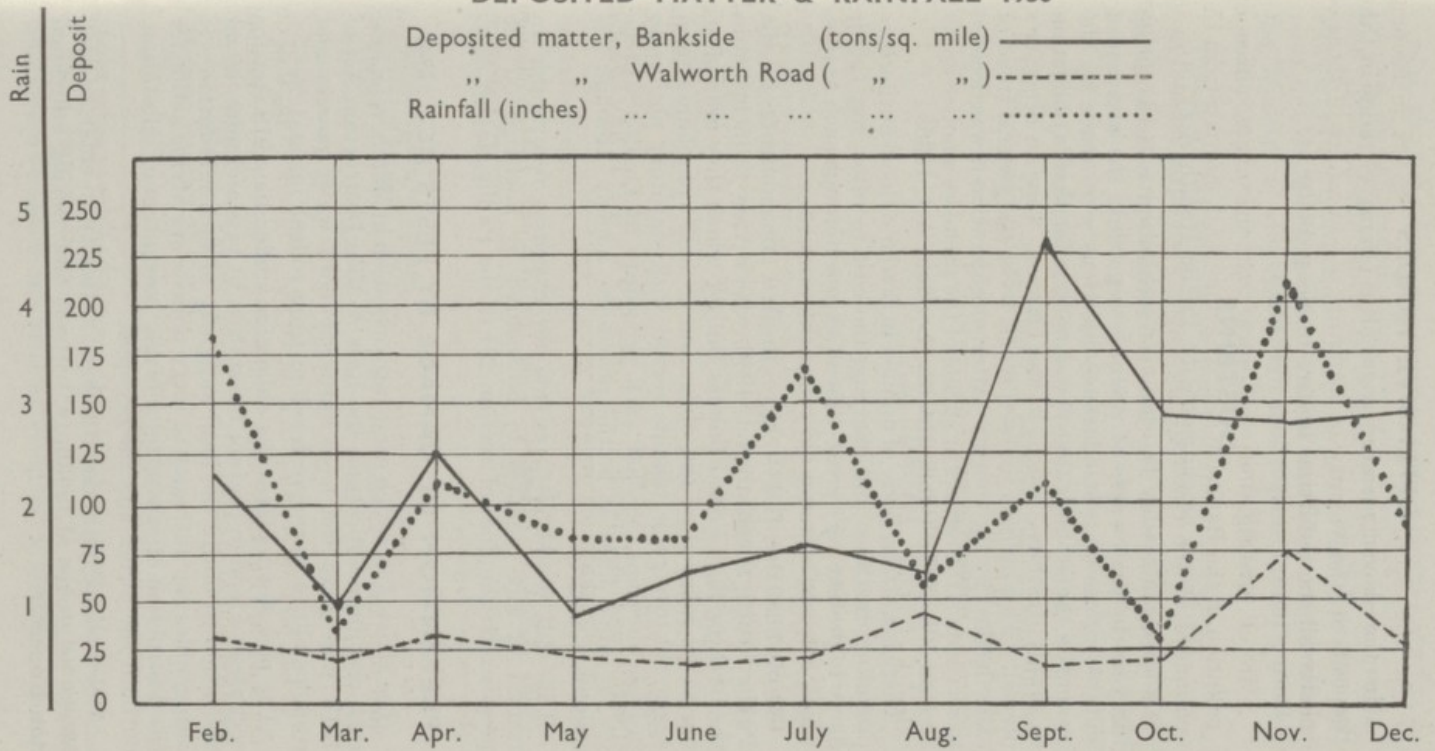
There have been interviews and correspondence with the chief officials of the B.E.A., and the matter is still receiving attention.

It has been interesting to observe the influence of rainfall on deposits at Bankside and Walworth Road. Heavy rainfall resulted almost consistently in heavier deposit readings.

(See graph page 15.)

During the year 19 complaints were received regarding smoke emissions in the Borough, and 83 observations were made by the Inspector.

# DEPOSITED MATTER & RAINFALL 1950





## OFFENSIVE TRADES

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

Fellmongers, 5—Tripe Boiler, 1—Soap Boiler, 1.  
During 1950, 11 inspections were made.

## DUSTBINS

(Proposed amendments to Public Health Act)

In connection with the issue of intimation notices during the year to the owners of premises regarding the absence of suitable refuse accommodation, objections were made by the owners on the grounds that it was not the landlord's obligation to supply dustbins, which, it was claimed, were an occupier's utensil. This opinion, in fact, seems to be the general trend of cases decided by the courts. After consideration it was decided to serve upon the owners or agents of the premises a notice under Section 105 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

There is a strong body of opinion in favour of local authorities providing dustbins, and charging the cost to rates, but this is likely to present very great difficulties in a Borough such as this, which consists of many old tenement properties.

Meanwhile the L.C.C. have drafted amendments to the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, with a view to inclusion in the forthcoming General Powers Bill, by which they are applying to be relieved of the obligation to hear complaints from aggrieved owners or tenants served with statutory notices to provide dustbins, so that such procedure in London will be on the same lines as in the provinces, namely, through the Summary Courts.

This Bill would also provide for expenses recoverable in respect of any premises to be secured by a charge on the premises on the lines of Section 291 of the Public Health Act.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The above Act, which came into operation in March, re-enacts with certain modifications the Rats & Mice Destruction Act of 1919, and gives the local authority both wider powers and responsibilities to secure freedom from rodent infestation.

The new Act replaces the obligation under the 1919 Act for occupiers of land to prevent infestation by rats and mice, by an obligation to notify the local authority of such infestation ; it also enables the authority to serve notices, specifying action for the destruction of rats or mice or the prevention of infestation, on both the owner and the occupier.

A new clause authorises the local authority to enter infested blocks or groups of buildings, without first serving individual notice on owners or occupiers, to carry out necessary operations.



Part II of the new Act imposes upon persons carrying on business in the manufacture, storage, transport, sale, etc., of food and food containers an obligation to give notice to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of any infestation by rats, mice, insects and other pests likely to cause damage to food, and the Minister is empowered to direct these persons to take specific steps to prevent or mitigate such damage to food.

This is an amendment of parts of the Infestation Order of 1943, made under the Defence Regulations. Parts of this latter Order are also now replaced so that it is no longer necessary for manufacturers of rat poisons, insecticides, etc., to be licensed by the Government, although regulations may be made to secure approved methods and substances by contractors.

FIGURES FROM 31ST MARCH-31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

	<i>Type of Premises.</i>			
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwellings</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total premises ... ..	33	24,455	4,762	29,250
Infestations :				
Notified by occupiers ... ..	2	872	210	1,084
Otherwise found ... ..	—	153	140	293
Total ... ..	2	1,025	350	1,377
Infested by Rats* :				
Major ... ..	2	—	12	14
Minor ... ..	—	474	309	783
Mice only ... ..	—	551	29	580
Properties inspected ... ..	6	1,770	904	2,680
Inspections ... ..	24	3,482?	959	4,465
Section 4 Notices ... ..	—	—	—	—
Complete treatments (excluding Blocks), by arrangement with Occupier :				
Rats* ... ..	6	474	321	801
Mice only ... ..	—	551	29	580
Section 5 (i) :				
Rats* ... ..	—	—	—	—
Mice only ... ..	—	—	—	—
Block treatment :				
Number of blocks ... ..	—	22	—	22
Surface : separate occupancies ... ..	—	1,667	715	2,382
Sewers : manholes treated	—	1,651	—	1,651

\*Rats only or rats and mice.

Local Authority's premises do not include Council dwellings, which are shown under the heading "Dwellings."

Major infestations are those estimated with more than 20 rats.

Figures for year ended 31st December, 1950 :—

	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Business</i>
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors ... ..	537	13
Visits by Rodent Officer ... ..	256	53
Visits by Rodent Investigators ... ..	3,882	1,783
Visits by Rodent Operatives ... ..	4,089	2,220
Drains tested ... ..	452	171
Drains defective ... ..	91	19
Drains repaired ... ..	56	5
Drains opened for examination ... ..	39	6
Premises infested ... ..	2,370	468
Premises cleared ... ..	654	462
Prebait laid ... ..	3,737	23,745
Poison baits ... ..	6,698	7,373
Bodies recovered ... ..	260	430

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

## 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, two 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 265 new dwellings as follows :—

PATTISON HOUSE ... ..	50 flats
THOMPSON HOUSE ... ..	24 „
BRAMWELL HOUSE ... ..	52 „
DENT HOUSE ... ..	20 „
MANCHESTER BUILDINGS ... ..	25 „
PENROSE HOUSE ... ..	24 „
KNIGHT HOUSE ... ..	25 „
BETSHAM HOUSE ... ..	25 „
STAUNTON HOUSE ... ..	20 „

### *Public Health (London) Act, 1936 - Section 98*

During the year 60 notifications of the withdrawal of water supply were received from the Metropolitan Water Board.

## FACTORIES

Two hundred and ninety-nine inspections of Factories were made during the year, and 49 notices were served. There are now 761 factories of all types on the register, comprising 193 factories without mechanical power, and 568 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 ... ..	193	48	8	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	568	229	41	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ... ..	—	22	—	—
Total ... ..	761	299	49	—

## 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) ...	24	16	—	4	—
Overcrowding (S2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	1	3	—	5	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	3	2	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	56	63	—	27	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	1	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	7	10	—	1	—
Total ... ..	91	95	—	40	—



## OUTWORKERS

Ninety-nine visits to 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.	...	...	...	...	73
	{ Cleaning and washing	...	...	...	...	—
Household Linen	...	...	...	...	...	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	...	...	...	...	...	—
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	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nets, other than wire nets	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tents	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sacks	...	...	...	...	...	—
Racquets and tennis balls	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paper bags	...	...	...	...	...	10
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	...	...	...	...	...	76
Brush making	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pea picking	...	...	...	...	...	—
Feather sorting	...	...	...	...	...	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—
Stuffed toys	...	...	...	...	...	—
Basket making	...	...	...	...	...	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	33
Textile weaving	...	...	...	...	...	—
Lampshades	...	...	...	...	...	—
TOTAL						197

## PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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### Failure to Abate Nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Result</i>
111, East Street ... ..	Summons adjourned <i>sine die</i> , £1 1s. costs.
113, Kennington Park Road ...	Nuisance Order, 42 days. £2 2s. costs.
77, Beckway Street ... ..	Summons adjourned <i>sine die</i> . £1 1s. costs.
29, Townsend Street ... ..	Work done before hearing. £1 1s. costs received from defendant.
31, Townsend Street ... ..	Ditto
84, Chatham Street ... ..	Ditto
162, Westmoreland Road ...	Ditto
303, Weston Street ... ..	Ditto
58, Darwin Street ... ..	Ditto
68, Darwin Street ... ..	Ditto
151, Lorrimore Road ... ..	Ditto
149, Lorrimore Road ... ..	Ditto
71, Boyson Road ... ..	Nuisance Order, 56 days.
8, Crosslett Street ... ..	Nuisance Order, 42 days.
86, Mann Street ... ..	Summons withdrawn on payment of £1 1s. costs.
34, Stead Street ... ..	Summons adjourned <i>sine die</i> . £1 1s. costs.
177, Boyson Road ... ..	Summons adjourned <i>sine die</i> .
133, Kennington Park Road ...	Summons adjourned <i>sine die</i> . £1 1s. costs.
39, Deans Buildings ... ..	Work done before hearing. £1 1s. costs received from defendant.
163, Boyson Road ... ..	Nuisance Order, 28 days, £2 2s. costs.

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### Failure to Comply with Nuisance Order.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Result</i>
8, Crosslett Street ... ..	Order complied with. £2 2s. costs.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

House drain addition or reconstruction	...	...	...	...	18
Drains repaired ...	...	...	...	...	170
Drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	119
W.C. pan and seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	191
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	85
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Soil pipes provided	...	...	...	...	4
Vent pipes provided	...	...	...	...	7
Baths provided ...	...	...	...	...	14
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	79
Waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	15
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	79
Yards paved, repaired or drained	...	...	...	...	21
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	78
Accumulation of filth, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	41
Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	1,372
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	134
Dwellings provided with water	...	...	...	...	12
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	1,145
Window frames, sashes and glazing repaired	...	...	...	...	317
Cills and reveals repaired	...	...	...	...	126
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...	329
Fireplaces and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	505
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	334
Brickwork and pointing repaired	...	...	...	...	60
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	2,083
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	2,584
Other sanitary works executed	...	...	...	...	216
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	...	...	<b>10,184</b>

Separate statistics under certain of the headings in the foregoing section are given in the Housing Section, relating to the work of the Housing Act inspectors.



# Food

## THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As a result of inspections of food at wharves, warehouses, shops, etc., in the Borough, 785 tons 5 cwts. 3 qtrs. 13 lbs. were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were suitably disposed of, as follows :—

**Destroyed**—169 tons 12 cwts. 3 qtrs. 8 lbs.

comprising mainly—

- 39 tons fruit.
- 20 tons puree, pulp and fruit juices.
- 9 tons egg albumen.
- 6 tons pickles.
- 67 tons vegetables.
- 10 tons meat and meat products.
- 3 tons tinned milk.
- 3 tons fish and fish paste.
- 1 ton tinned soups.
- 6 tons poultry.
- 1 ton bacon.
- 2 tons cheese.
- 1 ton Danish lager.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 3 tons 9 cwts. 7 lbs.

„ „ wharves and  
warehouses ... 166 tons 3 cwts. 3 qtrs. 1 lb.

**Released for animal feeding**—516 tons 19 lbs.

comprising mainly—

- 2 tons fruit cake.
- 6 tons vegetables.
- 7 tons meat and meat products.
- 316 tons whalemeat.
- 1 ton tinned milk.
- 156 tons puree, pulp and fruit juices.
- 2 tons fruit.
- 16 tons egg yolk.
- 5 tons pudding mixture.
- 3 tons cheese.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 1 cwt. 3 qtrs. 9 lbs.

„ „ wharves and  
warehouses ... 515 tons 18 cwts. 1 qtr. 10 lbs.

**Released for technical purposes—25 tons 6 cwts. 9 lbs.**

comprising mainly—

14 tons bacon.

5 tons meat.

6 tons poultry.

Inspected at shops, etc. ... 9 cwts. 2 qtrs. 20 lbs.

,, ,, wharves and

warehouses ... 24 tons 16 cwts. 1 qtr. 17 lbs.

**Released for manufacturing purposes—45 tons 11 cwts. 2 qtrs. 19 lbs.**

comprising mainly—

5 tons dried fruit.

11 tons meat.

29 tons tinned fruit.

Inspected at wharves and

warehouses ... 45 tons 11 cwts. 2 qtrs. 19 lbs.

**Food salvaged—28 tons 14 cwts. 3 qtrs. 14 lbs.**

comprising mainly—

11 tons fruit.

1 ton tinned milk.

6 tons corned beef.

5 tons cheese.

3 tons fruit cake.

2 tons dried fruit.

Inspected at wharves and

warehouses ... 28 tons 14 cwts. 3 qtrs. 14 lbs.

**MINERAL OIL IN FOOD ORDER (AMENDMENT)**

The above Order came into operation on August 1st, 1950, and provides that the prohibition in the principal order relating to mineral oil in food shall not apply in relation to dried fruits containing not more than one part by weight of mineral oil per 100 parts by weight of dried fruit. It also makes provision regarding articles of food containing mineral oil by reason of the inclusion therein of dried fruit containing mineral oil. This Amendment Order is necessary as large stocks of dried fruit intended for distribution before Christmas were treated with mineral oil in the countries of origin as a deterrent to infestation, to prevent crystallization, and to facilitate separation of the berries in manufacturing processes.

Exporting countries have been requested to stop the use of mineral oil for the treatment of dried fruit for consignment to the United Kingdom, but some time must elapse before the instruction is fully effective. The treatment of existing stocks with solvents to eliminate the oil would be impracticable on the scale required.



## **FOOD STANDARDS (PRESERVES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1950**

The above Order raised the minimum fruit content of certain jams by amounts varying from 2 to 15 per cent.

### **ICED LOLLIES**

In consequence of representations made by the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee regarding the danger of injury to children from eating iced lollies which have been in direct contact with solid carbon-dioxide, the Ministry of Food intimated that it would be a mistake to give undue prominence to the dangers in question, but asked the trade to draw attention to the importance of keeping dry ice in a separate container, which is the usual practice, or otherwise adequately protecting it from coming into contact with ice or ice cream. The sale of iced lollies or cream contaminated by carbon-dioxide would appear to be an offence, and it might well be that effective action by a local authority may have more useful results than would be obtained from general publicity.

### **ICE CREAM HEAT TREATMENT REGULATIONS**

Following intimations made by the Council to the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee that local authorities should have effective powers to enforce bacterial cleanliness of ice cream products, representations were accordingly made to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Food. The Ministry of Health, however, informed the Standing Joint Committee that the coliform test could not be regarded as indicating dangerous contamination, and pointed out that the Public Health Laboratory Service had agreed that the test could not be accepted as satisfactory for the examination of ice cream. Accordingly, it was suggested that the Standing Joint Committee should ask the Ministry of Health what steps they suggested should be taken in the case of manufacturers of ice cream whose products consistently fell below Grade 2.

### **ICE CREAM**

There are 149 ice cream dealers and 26 manufacturers in this Borough, an increase of 28 dealers and 2 manufacturers from last year. Most of the dealers sold only pre-packed ice cream, obtained from the large manufacturers; a number of local manufacturers possess modern equipment with indicating and recording apparatus.



During the year, 102 samples of ice cream were taken with the following results, which show an improvement on those of last year :—

34 samples, Grade I.

22 samples, Grade II.

15 samples, Grade III.

24 samples, Grade IV.

7 samples were not examined by the methylene blue test.

Periodical visits were made to all premises and advice given where necessary. A code of standards was sent to each maker and dealer in the Borough, and copies of the Public Analyst's reports on samples taken were forwarded to the vendors concerned. In the case of Grade III and IV samples, special attention was drawn to the need for stricter care in the hygiene or manufacture, handling and distribution ; special investigations were made at the premises and, where necessary, sampling at various stages of the processes carried out in an effort to detect some fault which may have been causing the unsatisfactory gradings. Improvements were always apparent in subsequent results, although unfortunately there were a few instances—certainly a very small number—where manufacturers did not maintain the improvement once close supervision was relaxed.

In one sample only was it found that the minimum fat content was below the 2.5 per cent. suggested by the Ministry of Food ; in most samples the fat content was well above the minimum.

Inspections were carried out before the registration of any new premises to ensure that they were satisfactory and the requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations fully understood and complied with.

The majority of ice cream makers in this Borough are small one-man businesses, and it should be recorded, with gratification, that the whole of the trade generally has co-operated to the utmost extent to secure the highest standard of hygiene and purity in their products.

### DESIGNATED MILK

During the year the following Licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

79 Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

109 Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk.

55 Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

*Supplementary Licences.*

15 Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

14 Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk.

14 Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Fifty-three samples of Designated Milks were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Two of these did not satisfy the prescribed tests, and the local authority for the area in which the milk was bottled was informed.

Forty-four 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 171 registered milk distributors in the Borough, whilst the number of distributors purveying milk in the Borough from registered premises elsewhere was 26. Four hundred and nine inspections of Milkshops and Dairies were made during the year.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK)  
REGULATIONS, 1923 and 1947**

Thirteen 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.

**CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS**

There are 360 Catering Establishments in the Borough, and during the year 748 inspections were made.

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 127 inspections of these premises were carried out.



## PHARMACY & POISONS ACT, 1933

During the year 119 visits were paid to the various premises listed by the Council for the sale of Part II Poisons under the above Act.

There are 72 names of persons on the Council's list of Sellers of Part II Poisons.

## PROTECTION OF FOOD

During the year the Public Health Committee considered and approved the revised draft byelaws in regard to the protection of food under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Additional suggestions were made relating to the location of lavatories in premises concerned with food handling, the use of cracked or chipped crockery, and the observation of personal cleanliness of persons handling food in the open air. The scope of the byelaws, however, is governed by the byelaw making powers given by Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, and after further consideration it was felt that the only suggestion admissible was that persons offering food for sale in the open air should be subject to the same requirements as regards cleanliness as those engaged in handling, wrapping, or delivery of food. This suggestion was accordingly passed to the Standing Joint Committee.

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.

## WRAPPING OF SWEETS BY OUTWORKERS

During the year the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee drew the attention of constituent councils, and also referred the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour and National Service, to the practice of firms supplying outworkers with sweets, etc., which were taken home to be wrapped, and subsequently returned to the firm for sale. It was considered that whilst this practice is not general, it is, nevertheless, wholly undesirable, and that having regard to the difficulties arising in the supervision of outworkers, it should be prohibited.

No outworkers in Southwark were employed in this manner.



## LABELLING OF FOOD ORDER, 1950

This Order came into operation on November 1st, and substantially re-enacts in consolidated form the Labelling of Food Order, 1946, and amending Orders, and introduces certain new provisions.

### MOLASSES

During the year a sample of molasses taken from a vegetarian food shop in the Borough was found to contain lead and other metallic contaminants in poisonous quantities. The contamination varied from 5 to 50 parts per million and some samples contained large quantities of arsenic.

These goods were imported in bulk and tinned in 1 lb. and 2 lb. containers by the shopkeeper, who immediately agreed to withdraw the remaining stock.

Enquiries revealed that small quantities of molasses which had undergone some refining process were allowed to be imported from Australia, Africa, etc., already packed, and although there was no guarantee that they were free from metallic contamination, they were intended for human consumption. Imports of crude molasses in bulk unpacked form, however, are quite unfit for, and never intended to be used for human consumption; they are imported for industrial purposes only, and the only conclusion was that there had been some illicit diversion of this material on to the market for human consumption.

### FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Cause of proceedings.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
671	Selling Beef Sausage Meat 16 per cent. deficient in meat.	Fined £2 and £2 12s. 6d. costs.
700	Selling Zinc & Castor Oil Cream B.P.C. 80 per cent. deficient in castor oil.	Fined £4 and £3 3s. 0d. costs.
26	Selling Non-Brewed Vinegar 16 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Fined £3 and £2 2s. 0d. costs.
176	Selling Vinegar 20 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Summons withdrawn in view of recent High Court decision as to wording of Food & Drugs summonses.
219	Selling Cut Mixed Peel containing 420 parts per million of sulphur dioxide.	Summons withdrawn. Warrant pleaded. Supplying firm in liquidation.

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

## FOOD SAMPLING

During the year under review, 847 formal samples were taken, whilst 976 informal samples were purchased by the Inspector through his agents. Of these, 21 and 24 respectively revealed adulteration or other infringements, as follows :—

	Samples Examined		Adulterated Samples	
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Milk ... ..	191	12	1	—
Jellies and Custard Powders ...	32	55	1	1
Condensed Milk ... ..	—	13	—	—
Fats, Cheese, etc. ... ..	54	61	—	—
Meat and Fish preparations ...	89	148	3	4
Cake Mixtures, etc. ... ..	72	77	1	1
Cereal preparations ... ..	59	64	5	7
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, etc. ... *	53	41	—	—
Vinegar ... ..	17	27	4	2
Herbs ... ..	28	46	—	—
Sweets and Chocolates ... ..	18	24	—	1
Spices and Condiments ... ..	67	86	1	—
Pickles, Sauces, etc. ... ..	77	51	—	1
Jams and Preserves ... ..	29	10	—	1
Wines, Spirits and Beverages ...	6	129	—	—
Drugs and Medicine Preparations	21	60	2	5
Dried Fruits ... ..	15	34	3	—
Miscellaneous Samples ... ..	19	38	—	1
Totals ... ..	847	976	21	24

### Formal Samples :

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
671	Beef Sausage Meat	16 per cent. deficient in meat.	Summons.
678	Self-raising flour.	12 per cent. deficient in available carbon dioxide.	Cautionary letter.
700	Zinc & Castor Oil Cream B.P.C.	Not made to B.P.C. formula—castor oil not more than 10 per cent.	Summons.
775	Milk.	4 per cent. deficient in milk-fat.	Cautionary letter.



Formal Samples—*contd.*

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
791	Unsweetened Table Jelly.	Incorrect description.	Reported to Ministry of Food.
886	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari.	Stock used for poultry feeding.
26	Non-brewed Vinegar.	16 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Summons.
29	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari.	Stock used for poultry feeding.
89	Glauber Salts.	Effloresced.	Stock withdrawn.
121	Figs.	Mouldy and infested with mites.	Stock destroyed.
152	Ground cloves.	Lead 30 parts per million.	No action.
168	Figs.	Mouldy and infested with mites.	Stock destroyed.
170	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari.	Stock withdrawn.
176	Vinegar.	20 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Summons.
219	Cut Mixed Peel.	420 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	Summons.
281	Vinegar.	4.5 per cent. deficient in acetic acid and infested with vinegar eels.	Cautionary letter.
292	Pork Sausages.	40 parts of sulphur dioxide per million.	Cautionary letter.
368	Vinegar.	Consisted of "Non-brewed Condiment" and was infested with vinegar eels.	Cautionary letter.
398	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari, their ova and excreta.	Used for poultry feeding.
413	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari, their ova and excreta.	Used for poultry feeding.
551	Pork Sausage Meat.	38.5 per cent. deficient in meat.	Summons.

## Informal Samples :

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
803a	Zinc & Castor Oil Cream B.P.C.	Not made to B.P.C. formula.	Formal sample taken.
814a	Self-raising Flour.	Deficient in available carbon dioxide.	Formal sample taken.



Informal Samples—*contd.*

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
815a	Chewing Gum.	Consisted mainly of paraffin wax.	None in stock.
817a	Potted Meat.	Contained 8.5 per cent. cereal filler.	(Imported product.)
833a	Glauber Salts.	Effloresced.	Stock withdrawn.
887a	Unsweetened Table Jelly.	Incorrect description.	Formal sample taken.
976a	Greek Currant Extract.	Sulphur dioxide 200 parts per million.	Stock withdrawn.
996a	Jam.	Contained insect.	Stock withdrawn.
997a	Glauber Salts.	Effloresced.	Stock withdrawn.
136a	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.	Deficient in ammonia.	Stock withdrawn.
137a	Vinegar.	Deficient in acetic acid.	Formal sample taken.
276a	Molasses.	Contained lead 7 parts per million.	Stock withdrawn.
325a	Pork Sausages.	Contained sulphite preservative.	Retailer warned.
380a	Barley Flakes.	Contained dead beetle, dead mites and ova.	None in stock.
396a	Pearl Barley.	Contained acari, ova and excreta.	Used for poultry feeding.
397a	Gravy Powder.	Contained acari.	None in stock.
402a	Glauber Salts.	Effloresced.	Stock withdrawn.
460a	Figs.	Deposits of mould.	Stock destroyed.
504a	Barley Flakes.	Contained acari, their ova and excreta.	Used for poultry feeding.
505a	Caramel Flavour Dessert.	Not labelled with ingredients.	None in stock.
532a	Brisling in Oil.	Tin 2.5 grains to the pound.	Formal sample taken.
547a	Non-brewed Vinegar.	Consisted of Non-brewed Condiment.	Label amended.
625a	Pork Sausages.	Slightly deficient in meat.	Formal sample taken.
673a	Sauce.	Not labelled in accordance with the Labelling of Food Order.	None left in stock.

## Housing

The duties of the Housing section of the Public Health Department are divided between action under the Housing Act in relation to overcrowded, unfit and insanitary premises, and negotiations between the London County Council, the Council's Housing Manager and other authorities in connection with applications for rehousing on grounds of medical necessity, overcrowding and insanitary conditions.

Work in connection with the Housing Act has been carried out during the year by one inspector only, the appointment to replace the second Housing Act inspector (who retired early in the year) not having been made. Nevertheless, a considerable amount of work has been completed and was in progress during the year.

### HOUSING ACT, 1936

#### *Insanitary houses capable of repair at reasonable expense (Section 9)*

Although it was not considered practicable to serve formal notices under Section 9 of the Act, the system of issuing "informal" notices on the person having control of the house has been continued. Four hundred and forty-one notices were issued requesting voluntary action by the owner, and 205 houses have been rendered fit for habitation. A total of 456 inspections and 2,537 re-inspections were made during the year.

The work involved was comprehensive and the amount expended considerable. For instance, in the case of Victoria House and Louise House, two blocks of tenement flats in Blendon Row, the cost of repairs exceeded £2,600, whilst for houses in Pollock Road it approached the sum of £8,000. These repairs, which were required to make the premises fit for habitation, included amongst other items extensive plaster work, complete redecoration, roof renewals and thorough overhauls, window repairs and replacements throughout, provision of food cupboards, and the necessary installation of a sink and water supply where necessary.

#### *Insanitary houses incapable of repair at reasonable expenses (Section 11)*

The following premises were represented during the year and Demolition Orders made or undertakings not to re-let accepted accordingly.



5, Gaza St.	} Demolition Orders made	13.12.50
1 and 2, Namur Terr.		18.10.50
12, 13, 14, Comus Pl.		15.11.50
21, Gaza St.	} Undertakings accepted	18.10.50
70, Royal Terr.		15.11.50
7, 8, 9, Macleod St.		18.10.50

An assurance was received from the owners of 3, Gaza Street that the premises would be demolished on rehousing of the tenants.

*Parts of premises closed (Section 12)*

(i) The following premises were represented and Closing Orders made on the dates shewn :—

75, Gurney St.	} Basement rooms	7.3.50
13, Boyson Rd.		28.6.50
20, Gaywood St.		26.7.50
213, New Kent Rd.		1.11.50

(ii) The following requisitioned properties were found to be unfit for human habitation :—

18, 20, Inville Rd.	} Basement rooms.	
2, Inville Rd.		
26, Nelson Sq.		
64, Westmoreland Rd.		
4, 107, Mann St.		Basement back rooms.
52, Nelson Sq.		Basement front rooms.

*Cancellation of Closing Orders and Undertakings.*

As a result of a check of premises to which Closing Orders and Undertakings apply, the following were found to be demolished :—

29, Alberta Rd.	28, Bethwin Rd.
12, 86, 121, Blackfriars Rd.	195A, Borough High St.
75, Borough Rd.	62, Brandon St.
43, Burge St.	1, 5, Colliers Rents.
15, Comus Pl.	25, Carter St.
16, Delaune St.	9, 18, Dodson St.
251, 253 East St.	9, Gaywood St.
87, 175, 187, 202, 203, 204, Great Dover St.	51, 65, Gurney St.
186, Gt. Suffolk St.	25, 27, Horsman St.
75, Harper Rd.	47, 48, Lant St.
73, 75, 81, 87, Kennington Rd.	7, Layton's Bldgs.
83, Lancaster St.	147, 269, New Kent Rd.
30, Marshall Gdns.	20, 21, Sturge St.
122 and 147/149 (rear), Newington Causeway	32, 34, The Cut.
5, Princess St.	6, 7, Valentine Row.
259, Union St.	49, Zoar St.
	99, Summer St.
	137, 170, 172, Walworth Rd.



*Rent Restrictions Acts.*

Nine certificates were issued during the year under the above Acts.

*Clearance Areas (Section 25).*

During the year 186 visits were made in connection with clearance areas. There has been no official representation, but the worst areas have been previously mapped and listed as proposed clearance areas.

*Overcrowding (Section 59).*

There has been no legal action in regard to overcrowding during the year. This matter is dealt with more fully in the Rehousing section.

**SUMMARY**

Section 9 inspections	...	...	...	...	456
Clearance area survey visits	...	...	...	...	186
Other visits (complaints, etc.)	...	...	...	...	139
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	2,537
Informal notices	...	...	...	...	441
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	205

Summary of Sanitary works completed during the year (Housing Act) :—

House drain addition or reconstruction	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired and/or cleansed	...	...	...	...	16
W.C. pan and seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	21
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Vent pipes provided	...	...	...	...	7
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	60
Waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	7
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Taps fixed on rising main	...	...	...	...	50
Yards paved, repaired or drained	...	...	...	...	5
Dustbins provided and chutes repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulation of filth, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	23
Roofs and gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	19
Dwellings provided with water	...	...	...	...	50
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	25
Window frames, sashes and glazing repaired (number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	476
Cills and reveals repaired	...	...	...	...	141
Sashcords renewed (number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	193
Fireplaces and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	80
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	47
Brickwork and pointing repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	20
Walls and ceilings repaired and decorated (number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	1,985
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	71
Ventilated food cupboards provided	...	...	...	...	86
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	...	...	<b>3,484</b>

## REHOUSING

The continuing increase in the local population has added to the difficulties in the acute shortage of housing accommodation, which is now even greater than in previous post-war years. The increase in the number of cases dealt with by the Public Health Department emphasises this shortage, which is causing applicants to seek the assistance of the Department for recommendations on grounds of ill-health, insanitary or overcrowding conditions.

	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases investigated on medical, over-crowding and sanitary grounds ...	933	1,450	1,669	2,156
No. of visits involved ...	1,263	1,814	2,298	2,587

### *Medical.*

Applicants for rehousing seeking priority recommendations on medical grounds have been more numerous than ever, and a most careful scrutiny of these cases has been essential in order that recommendations are made only for the most urgent cases, having regard to the nature of the illness, the condition of the property and the amenities available.

Advanced rheumatoid and osteo-arthritis cases, crippling congenital deformities, etc., housed in top floor dwellings, are recommended for ground floor accommodation. Respiratory tuberculosis patients who cannot be given separate bedrooms are usually recommended for rehousing in outer London where the air is less polluted; recommendations are also made for non-pulmonary cases where home conditions are bad, and the numerous cases of recurrent bronchitis or associated respiratory conditions where patients live in very damp dwellings.

From consultations with local doctors, it appears that a very substantial proportion of their patients are suffering from some nervous condition attributable to housing conditions. Neurotic tendencies are evident in numerous cases seeking medical priority for rehousing but again only the most extreme cases can be recommended.

The following table shows that the necessity for these drastic standards has resulted in fewer recommendations being made despite the increased cases dealt with. This remedial rather than preventive approach, though quite unavoidable, can only add to the cumulative difficulties of rehousing, and is also likely to create a grave sociological problem.



<i>Recommendations.</i>	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis ... ..	101	136	51	47
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on other medical grounds ... ..	48	69	101	40
Cases recommended to Southwark Borough Council on medical grounds	24	92	107	100
Total cases recommended ... ..	173	297	259	187

<i>Rehoused.</i>	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis ... ..	33	49	43	32
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on other medical grounds ... ..	16	28	48	34
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on grounds of Tuberculosis ...	19	4	—	2
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on other medical grounds ...	6	22	24	31
Cases rehoused by other authorities on grounds of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	1
Total cases rehoused ... ..	74	103	115	100

### *Overcrowding*

In overcrowding, also, there has been an increase in the new cases reported but a decrease in those abated. Overcrowding is sometimes created in order to gain priority rehousing, but the most careful investigations are made to ensure that such cases are not recommended. Whilst wilful overcrowding renders the offender liable to prosecution, it is not considered practicable to make any prosecutions in view of the extreme shortage of accommodation.

Overcrowding is therefore regarded not so much from the legal aspect as from the social circumstances which cause it. Increases in the ages of children constitutes legitimate overcrowding and recommendation is accordingly made. Cases where a member of a family marries and brings his or her partner to live with the parents is strictly illegal but recommendations are usually given as young married couples have little opportunity of avoiding this course. Careful enquiries are made in instances of overcrowding where parents permit married children with their families to come from the provinces to live with them, or where a married couple take up residence in a dwelling and later bring their children to live with them ; where it is evident that these conditions are unavoidable or there is domestic hardship, recommendations are submitted. Similar assistance is given to newly married couples living with one or the other's parents-in-law, where domestic friction is established and where the families are living separately in overcrowded conditions.



During the year a check was made on all overcrowded cases on the register, and as a result it was found that 593 premises, 712 families and 3,145 persons were no longer overcrowded. This was largely due to bombing and evacuations during the war, and has accordingly brought the overcrowding percentage in the Borough down from 6.69 to 3.39. The percentage of new cases reported during 1950 was 1.32. These figures relate to persons, not families, living in overcrowded conditions, expressed as a percentage of the estimated population.

### SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING CASES

	1948			1949			1950		
	<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>	<i>(End of 1947)</i>			<i>(End of 1948)</i>			<i>(End of 1949)</i>		
Remaining on register	1,001	1,158	5,662	1,064	1,244	5,952	1,081	1,269	6,006
New Cases reported ...	259	338	1,442	224	282	1,168	244	316	1,284
Total ...	1,260	1,496	7,104	1,288	1,526	7,120	1,325	1,585	7,290
Overcrowding abated ...	196	252	1,152	207	257	1,114	164	193	847
Remaining on register	1,064	1,244	5,952	1,081	1,269	6,006	1,161	1,392	6,443
Cases removed by over- crowding survey ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	593	712	3,145
Amended Total ...	1,064	1,244	5,952	1,081	1,269	6,006	568	680	3,298
<i>Overcrowding abated :</i>									
Rehoused by L.C.C. ...	161	212	962	150	187	803	142	163	727
Rehoused by Borough Council ...	21	25	116	18	23	88	7	8	9
Rehoused by other Boroughs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rehoused by owners ...	4	4	23	2	2	8	1	1	5
Moved away ...	9	9	45	33	41	190	9	10	53
Found own accommo- dation ...	1	2	6				4	10	30
Families reduced in size owing to death, etc.	—	—	—	4	4	25	—	—	—
Case reported but later found to be not over- crowded ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Total ...	196	252	1,152	207	257	1,114	164	193	827

No. of Dwellings in Borough ... 23,749

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—*

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...   | 6,095  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 20,944 |
| (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 ... | 456    |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 2,993  |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...                                      | 11     |
| (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 ...   | 3,113  |

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 ...	2,930
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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 (441 "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 ... | 2,672 |
|--|-------|



(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	807
(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	...	11
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	—
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	... ..	4
(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

Early in the year the Ministry of Health suggested that local authorities and local voluntary associations should collaborate in promoting the welfare of the many old people who prefer to continue to live in their own homes, although they cannot do so in reasonable comfort without outside help. Whilst the National Assistance Act, 1948, encourages this help by enabling local authorities to contribute to the needs of voluntary organisations providing mobile meal services, social and recreational clubs, etc., experience has shown an urgent need for services of a more personal nature, particularly frequent and regular informal home visiting. This provides a valuable link for lonely aged folk who are unable or disinclined to join in communal activities, and who otherwise may become serious cases through lack of social contact or timely observation.

Many old people are still apt to regard a visit by an official either as "interference" or as an "investigation" which makes it difficult to establish an atmosphere of friendly co-operation and confidence even with the most careful approach. It was therefore thought that informal home visiting would be best dealt with by voluntary workers, and any case needing assistance from an official source referred to the appropriate quarter.



The essence of the matter is the need for local authorities to encourage to the fullest extent voluntary efforts to meet the requirements, both material and psychological, of old people living in their own homes, to enable them to continue to do so with whatever assistance may be necessary. With this in view, preparatory arrangements were made during the year to form an Old People's Welfare Committee from representatives of all voluntary and welfare associations in the Borough.

One hundred and twenty-seven cases have been referred to the Public Health Department during the year. Satisfactory results in many instances have been achieved through close co-operation between the Department and general practitioners, hospitals, district nurses, the L.C.C. Home Help service, National Assistance Board, etc., but there is still a very pressing need for an extension of the home help scheme, including suitable male personnel; the provision of laundry services; sub-hospital facilities at institutions for the long-stay bed cases which are beyond medical aid; private cubicles with space for a few articles of personal furniture in institutions; and some provision parallel with the former District Medical Officers, for emergency medical aid for the numerous old people who for one reason or another are still not registered with a local doctor.

## National Assistance Act

### *Compulsory Removals.*

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 47 during the year, although in a number of cases the Department assisted in arranging voluntary admissions to Institutions.

### *Burial of the Dead.*

During the year, the Council arranged for 18 burials under Section 50 of the above Act, at a total cost of £145 7s. 0d.

## Mortuary

Post mortems without Inquest	...	...	...	1,022
Post mortems with Inquest	...	...	...	207
Inquests without Post mortems	...	...	...	—
Inquests, Post mortems held elsewhere	...	...	...	62
Bodies brought in for convenience	...	...	...	3
Infectious disease deaths	...	...	...	—
				<hr/>
				1,294
				<hr/>

