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Contributors

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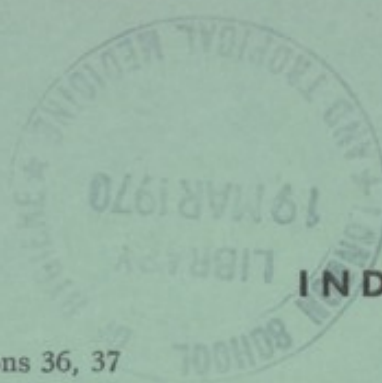
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METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1955

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 beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The population figure as calculated by the Registrar General again decreased to 93,820.

An increase of 200 in the number of deaths, together with the lower population, resulted in a higher crude death rate of 13.8 per 1,000 of the population.

Infant mortality increased from 21 to 28 per 1,000 births, owing chiefly to a large increase of deaths amongst the illegitimate infants.

The year was marked by the unprecedented outbreaks of infectious diseases. I refer particularly to Measles, Poliomyelitis and Dysentery.

The Measles epidemic was greater than ever before recorded and persisted for several months, in fact, until the early summer. Fortunately only four infants lost their lives from this disease, an indication of the greater adequacy of the newer weapons we now possess to prevent the killing complications of these types of infections.

No sooner had we finished with Measles than the Borough was struck with what turned out to be the worst outbreak of Poliomyelitis that we had ever experienced. Many cases were notified but actually 64 were confirmed, of which 41 were paralytic cases.

Those chiefly affected with paralysis were under 5 years of age—namely 27, of whom 21 were boys. The remainder ranged between the ages of 5 to 25. Of the non-paralytic cases—23 altogether—11 were among the under 5-year age groups and the remainder chiefly fell between 5-15 years.

The epidemic commenced at the beginning of July in the north of the Borough in three of the "block" buildings in this area, and slowly became disseminated throughout the Borough, reaching its peak in mid August. From this point it slowly declined until it finally subsided in the early part of December.

Extensive investigations were made into each case and families were visited and closely questioned—some on several occasions—but in spite of all our efforts we were unable to say from where the disease had come or how it was spread. Many points of interest, however, were found and many insanitary conditions were brought to light and remedied.

Watching children at play, it was quite obvious that they preferred to play in the insanitary "bombed sites," where they could dig holes, build bricks and drag around pieces of old iron, rather than avail themselves of the sanitary, tidy playgrounds provided by the Borough Council. Moreover, in spite of our warnings to avoid crowded places, as the weather was very hot, one found large crowds of children playing in and around the ponds in the parks and gardens. A point of interest, particularly to me, was the fact that in the surrounding districts immediately over the boundaries of the Borough there were no cases of Polio, and I was forced to the conclusion, by this and other facts which I had found, that fairly close contact with a case or carrier was necessary for the spread of the disease. A point perhaps worth noting is the fact that two or three weeks before the onset of the epidemic there had been several cases of a febrile condition which had been termed "Flu" amongst the adults living in some of the buildings where the first cases of Polio were notified; the symptoms of this illness were a general malaise with headache, sore throat and feverishness, severe enough in some cases to lay up the patient. A similar type of illness was found in a few of the families both before and after a case of Polio had occurred in the family.

In mid December, following in the wake of Polio, Dysentery broke out in epidemic form. This epidemic also eventually turned out to be the heaviest yet experienced here. Last year in my report I wrote at length on the cause of this disease, and preventive measures and I therefore do not intend to take up further space now.

The problems for the care of the older citizens of the Borough are ever increasing. In the autumn the Council asked the Town Clerk and Medical Officer to discuss these problems to ascertain how far they were being met and to make further suggestions for enlarging and bettering the services already in existence. This report, duly presented by the Town Clerk, was given very careful and serious consideration by the Members of the Council, and already decisions have been taken which, when put into operation—I hope next year—will prove of the greatest value and help to the old people. A report on the work of the Old People's Welfare Committee will be found in the body of the report.

I would like to record in this report that in September, with the full concurrence of the Council, I took over the additional duties as Medical Officer of Health for Lambeth upon the retirement from that post of Dr. A. G. Thompson, until such time as a new Medical Officer of Health was appointed.

My best thanks are due to the various members of the Council and Chief Officers for the consideration they always give to me, and to the staff of the Public Health Department for their ever willing help and co-operation in the exceptionally heavy work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. STOTT.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (As at 31st December, 1955).

Mayor—C. W. WILLIAMSON, J.P. **Chairman**—J. J. SHEEN.

Aldermen—A. E. Barnes, Rev. H. Runacres, B.A., L. J. Styles, J.P.

Councillors :

J. Booker (*Ex-officio*), W. N. Camp, Mrs. C. Clunn, F. W. Combes (*Ex-Officio*), H. G. Coppen, G. Darvell, J. R. Davies, Mrs. E. G. Doswell, R. Hughes, J. J. Keen, Mrs. G. Luetchford, W. A. Miller, G. M. Nottage, J. Prendergast, H. A. W. Ray, E. H. Ridge, H. Stillman, L.C.C., Mrs. G. Styles, J. A. Tallon, Miss K. Webber, Mrs. M. Wright.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, 1955

Medical Officer of Health :

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

Public Analyst—D. Button, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

H. Archer, F.R.S.H.

Senior Clerk

E. A. Clark.

Sanitary Inspectors :

E. Adamson
J. Ashmore
R. Bishop (T)
R. Decent (to July 17)
E. Dunn
R. French (T)
Miss G. Gourley
A. Johnson
J. Keen (to Sept. 25)
T. Lloyd, T.D.
E. Potts (T) (from Dec. 5)
K. Rapley (from July 27)
F. Saunders
R. Seeds (to Oct. 9)
D. Smith (from Oct. 17)
G. Stubbs
J. Syms (T)
R. Warboys
R. Worden

Clerical Staff :

F. Ashford (to Dec. 4)
Miss E. Axtell (to Feb. 15)
E. Davies
F. Goddard
H. Jefferson (T) (Aug. 17-Dec. 4)
Miss M. Kelly (T) (from Sept. 12)
Miss M. Laws (to Oct. 2)
G. Marsden Webb
D. Newcombe (T) (to Nov. 27)
T. Oldfield (to Feb. 27)
R. Potter (to Aug. 28)
A. Purdom
Mrs. F. Robertson (T) (from Dec. 12)
J. Robertson
R. Stevens

(T)—Temporary

Rodent Investigators : Mrs. H. Ross (T), Mrs. B. Smith (T)

Sanitary Inspectors' Assist. : C. Husk

Mortuary Attendant : H. West

Hall-Keepers : R. Witten, W. Bishop

VITAL STATISTICS

The estimated population for the Borough in 1955 again fell for the third consecutive year since 1953, when the decrease was 1,100 fewer than in 1952. In 1954 and again this year, the decrease widened to 1,500 less than each previous year.

There was a slight decline in the birth rate after the small increase in 1954. The death rate, after decreases in the two previous years, rose sharply in 1955, the increases being chiefly in vascular lesions of the nervous system, circulatory diseases and pneumonia.

The infant death rate showed a considerable rise after last year's decline, and the death rate of illegitimate infants—following its dramatic decline in 1954 to the lowest recorded for many years—increased in 1955 to nearly 80 per cent. of the abnormally high peak in 1953. The still birth rate showed a substantial decrease after rising for the two previous years.

Area	1,132 acres
Estimated Number of Dwellings (April, 1956)	25,009
Dwellings Erected by Borough Council During Year ..	214
Approximate Rateable Value (TOTAL)	£1,073,392
(DWELLINGS)	£414,295

Population :

Registrar General's estimate (mid-1955), including members of Armed Forces stationed in area	93,820
Estimated population, 1954 (mid-year)	95,370
Census, 1951	97,191
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.4
Adjusted by comparability factor	14.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births	22.1
Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.8
Adjusted by comparability factor	14.1
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	1.1

Infant Death Rate :

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births ..	23.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births ..	61.5

Estimated Population		Crude		Infant Death Rate (To nearest unit)			Still Birth Rate
		Birth Rate	Death Rate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	
1938	145,300	14.0	12.5	57	66	57	32.0
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
1951	97,930	18.0	13.5	19	19	19	23.2
1952	97,970	17.6	14.0	28	34	29	21.4
1953	96,870	17.2	12.4	30	77	32	23.3
1954	95,370	17.7	11.5	21	10	21	27.5
1955	93,820	17.4	13.8	24	61	28	22.1

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Live Births									
1954	821	770	1,591	50	53	103	871	823	1,694
1955	789	715	1,504	71	59	130	860	774	1,634
Still Births									
1954	26	16	42	3	3	6	29	19	48
1955	13	21	34	1	2	3	14	23	37
Infant deaths (under 1 year)									
1954	21	13	34	1	—	1	22	13	35
1955	28	10	38	5	3	8	33	13	46

DEATHS

Male and Female Age Groups.

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Total 1955	Total 1954
Males ..	33	3	7	35	164	444	686	603
Females	13	3	2	19	93	484	614	495
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	46	6	9	54	257	928	1,300	1,098
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infant Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 46, the causes of death being as follows :

Measles	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1
Congenital malformations	6
Other defined and ill defined diseases ..	32

Maternal Mortality.

Two maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1954	Total Deaths 1955	Age Groups 1955 :—							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
All causes—Males, Females										
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	22	23	—	1	—	—	3	9	5	5
Tuberculosis—other forms	1	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm stomach	30	39	—	—	—	—	—	17	13	9
" " lung, bronchus	65	57	—	—	—	—	1	32	20	4
" " breast	12	12	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	4
" " uterus	8	8	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	98	98	—	—	—	—	4	30	38	26
Leukaemia, Aleukemia	3	6	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1
Diabetes	—	10	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	115	171	—	—	—	—	2	21	54	94
Coronary disease, angina	147	140	—	—	—	—	4	40	42	54

Classification of Deaths (continued)

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1954	Total Deaths 1955	Age Groups 1955 :—							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
All causes—Males, Females										
Hypertension with Heart disease ..	37	42	—	—	—	—	—	5	19	18
Other Heart disease	135	138	—	—	—	1	5	11	35	86
Other Circulatory disease	54	75	—	—	—	—	1	9	26	39
Influenza	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	72	106	3	—	—	1	1	10	27	64
Bronchitis	84	95	1	—	—	—	1	19	37	37
Other diseases of Respiratory system ..	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	5
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ..	18	19	—	—	—	—	1	4	8	6
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	5	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	9	5	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	9	10	6	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	106	165	32	—	3	—	5	18	25	82
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	9	—	1	2	1	—	3	2	—
All other accidents	13	17	—	—	1	—	4	4	1	7
Suicide	16	7	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	1,098	1,300	46	6	9	5	49	257	370	558

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Confirmed diagnoses were more than three times as many as in 1954 due to exceptionally heavy outbreaks of Measles, Poliomyelitis and Dysentery. Scarlet Fever notifications were twice as many as in 1954, but Food Poisoning remained at the same level and Whooping Cough continued to decrease.

There were four deaths from Measles and one, an infant, from Salmonella Typhi-murium.

IMMUNISATION

Although "booster" injections were more than twice the 1954 figure, other injections were fewer due to the precautionary suspension of immunisation during the Polio outbreak.

		<i>Under 5</i>	
<i>Immunisation</i>		<i>years of age</i>	<i>Over 5</i>
Diphtheria	..	116	37
Whooping Cough ..	..	14	—
Combined	..	922	14
"Booster" injections..		564	—
		1,616	51
		Total 1,667	

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

951 faeces specimens were taken by the Department for pathological examination in connection with Food Poisoning and Dysentery cases. 222 were from notified home cases of which 117 proved positive, and 283 from contacts of which 72 were positive. 127 of the remaining 446 "follow-up" specimens were also positive.

FOOD POISONING

18 of the 26 confirmed cases (including those for Southwark residents notified to other Boroughs from hospitals in their areas) were individual cases, as follows :—

Salmonella Typhi-murium ..	14
Salmonella Schwarzengrund ..	1
Unknown	3

The remaining 8 cases were in 4 "outbreaks" (more than one case in a family) all due to Salmonella organisms.

Four sudden, fortunately mild, outbreaks occurred in canteens. In only one case was the suspected food available, and the meat revealed that the causative organism, *C. Welchii*, had apparently developed in large numbers between the time of cooking and consumption. The meat was cooked when received, allowed to cool at atmospheric temperature, then reheated and served the next day.

CANCER OF LUNG AND BRONCHUS

Deaths From:	<i>Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus</i>	<i>Respiratory Tuberculosis</i>	<i>All Causes</i>
1952	51	45	1377
1953	62	21	1209
1954	65	22	1098
1955	57	23	1300

The highest mortality rate from neoplasm of the lung and bronchus occurred in the 45-74 age groups ; that of tuberculosis between the ages of 45 to 64.

TUBERCULOSIS

Including inward transfers, there were 13 more pulmonary cases than last year, and 4 less non-pulmonary.

					<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary (all forms)</i>
Cases at end of 1954	..	..	..	..	1384	185
New cases 1955	..	..	..	..	151	10
Inward transfers 1955	..	..	..	..	86	2
Less removals from Register	..	..	..	..	200	25
Cases at end of 1955	..	..	..	..	1421	172

Deaths were three more than in 1954—1 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary

		Age Groups											Total
		0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	
Pulmonary :													
Primary Notifica- tions	{ M.	1	6	3	—	5	8	11	8	18	11	21	92
	{ F.		3	6	2	8	9	11	1	7	2	5	54
*New cases other than by formal notification	{ M.										1	3	4
	{ F.											1	1
Totals 1955 ..		1	9	9	2	13	17	22	9	25	14	30	151
Non-Pulmonary													
†Primary Notifica- tions	{ M.		1		1								2
	{ F.			1	2		1	1	1	1			7
†*New cases other than by formal notification	{ M.											1	1
	{ F.												
Totals 1955 ..		—	1	1	3	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	10

* Local and inward transferable Death Returns and posthumous notifications.

† Include meninges and Central Nervous System.
Primary notifications: 1 male, 1 female, aged 10.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

DISEASE	Cases notified	Rem. to Hospital	CONFIRMED CASES, SOUTHWARK RESIDENTS Diagnosed in or outside Borough—Age Groups, 1955.														
			Total 1954	Total 1955	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	375	187	163	231	13	81	30	48	6	6	8	11	11	1	1	4	11
Encephalitis :																	
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	14	3	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	5	—
Food Poisoning :																	
Bacterial	79	17	26	26	6	4	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	—	—
Toxic			1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2,151	141	233	2,142	96	584	614	826	13	—	2	6	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal																	
Infection	6	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia																	
Neonatorum	1	2	14	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Paratyphoid	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases (continued)

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

DISEASE	Cases notified	Rem. to Hospital	CONFIRMED CASES, SOUTHWARK RESIDENTS Diagnosed in or outside Borough—Age Groups, 1955.														
			Total 1954	Total 1955	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
Pneumonia	125	28	54	86	6	15	5	12	—	3	1	6	2	11	11	8	6
Poliomyelitis :																	
Paralytic	32	41	1	41	3	16	8	10	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic ..	25	31	—	23	2	6	3	6	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	25	39	76	39	—	—	—	—	—	5	20	12	2	—	—	—	—
Scabies	32	1	20	33	1	1	2	3	5	4	2	7	4	—	1	2	1
Scarlet Fever ..	186	33	96	185	1	17	40	98	23	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	143	20	229	141	21	50	29	40	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zymotic Enteritis ..	8	5	5	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(July-Sept.)																	
TOTALS	*3,204	551	933	*2,971	154	776	734	1,046	51	26	38	51	23	16	19	19	18

*Cases notified include 82 non-Southwark residents.

Confirmed cases include 74 Southwark residents notified to other Boroughs.

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

TREATMENT AND BATHING CENTRE

(Superintendent—Mr. T. Lloyd)

The overall figures of treatments for body vermin carried out at the Centre during the year, show a slight decrease on last year's figures ; but the number of male persons requiring treatment has increased by 12 per cent. The majority of these men are inmates of Lodging Houses and Hostels and are sent to the Centre for treatment, by the keepers of these establishments.

It would appear that a greater insistence on a reasonable standard of personal cleanliness is now demanded from their " Lodgers ", by those in charge of lodging houses and hostels. Co-operation in this commendable attitude is given by this Department and arrangements are made for our transport to collect from the lodging house or hostel for disinfestation, all bedding and effects of each person on the day they attend for treatment.

A number of aged and infirm people, of both sexes, are regularly conveyed to the Centre from their homes in our transport, treated and returned home.

There has been a further considerable drop during the year in the number of dwelling houses requiring disinfestation for the more usual types of domestic insects, i.e. bed bugs and fleas ; but there has been an increase in other types of insect infestation. Some considerable infestations of wood-boring beetles (" Wharf borers "—*Nacerda melanura*) and wood-boring weevils (*Euophryum confine*) have been dealt with. The continued warm weather in the summer months, resulted in some large scale invasions of houses and flats by garden ants and Clover mites (*Bryobia praetiosa*). In one such infestation, it was found necessary to have parts of the main wall of a building opened-up to reach the ant nests.

Assistance was given by the Department to various commercial undertakings in the Borough in dealing with infestations of Moths, cockroaches and beetles.

Because of the greatly increased number of notifications of suspected cases of infectious disease—in particular, Poliomyelitis—the disinfection of both premises and articles carried out, was considerably more than in recent years. In one School, the Nursery Class was closed for a period and the class rooms and contents were disinfected.

Infectious Disease Cases : Enquiries and Visits.

Total—573 as under :

Tuberculosis deaths and removals : 49

Scarlet Fever	189	Food Poisoning	77
Diphtheria	1	Erysipelas	13
Poliomyelitis	87	Meningococcal infections	4
Enteritis	9	Dysentery (bacilliary)	142
Malaria	1	„ (amoebic)	1

Disinfection following infectious diseases.

Rooms treated (Formalin solution)	..	..	..	..	218
School rooms treated	..	..	..	..	3
Library books treated	..	..	..	..	171
Other disinfection (Tuberculosis, etc.)	..	..	..	..	59

Treatment of Verminous and Infected Articles.

			Verminous articles treated	Verminous articles destroyed	Infected articles treated	Infected articles destroyed
Beds	..	..	129	3	12	1
Palliasses	..	..	765	11	173	5
Bolsters	..	..	173	3	11	1
Pillows	..	..	1,269	3	499	—
Cushions	..	..	120	—	22	—
Blankets	..	..	1,831	—	541	—
Sheets	..	..	1,067	3	326	—
Quilts	..	..	767	—	127	1
Pieces	..	..	16,441	28	11,295	27

Effects destroyed on request or following death.

Verminous	..	5 tons 9 cwts.
Infected	..	6 cwts.

Disinfestation of Premises.

Body vermin	Domestic dwellings	..	884	} rooms
infestations	Non-domestic premises	..	8	
Cockroaches, moths,	Domestic dwellings	..	210	} rooms
flies, beetles, etc.	Non-domestic premises	..	15	

Scabies and Vermin Treatments.

			Scabies		Vermin	
			Males	Females	Males	Females
Lambeth cases	..	..	26	50	15	113
treatments	..	..	50	102	15	114
Southwark cases	..	..	37	49	984	219
treatments	..	..	67	102	984	219
L.C.C. Schoolchildren (Male and						
Female)	..	..		100		932
treatments	..	..		470		1,519
Total treatments	..	..		791		2,851

**Verminous Treatments from Hostels, Common Lodging Houses, etc.
(Included in above.)**

<i>Males :</i>			<i>Females :</i>		
King George Hostel	..	2	83, Blackfriars Road	..	42
Salvation Army Hostel	..	473	78, Camberwell Road	..	9
Rowton House, Church-			Hungerford Club	..	3
yard Row	..	268	90, Camberwell Road	..	4
Rowton House, Vauxhall		3	96, Gt. Guildford Street	..	41
Marshalsea Road Common			Norwood House	..	35
Lodging House	..	12	Newington Lodge	..	4
Hungerford Club	..	6	Casuals	..	1
Southwark casuals	..	146			
Totals	..	910			139

Rehousing.

Precautionary disinfection of soft goods and bedding 147 families.

Trade goods disinfected and disinfested.

Steam disinfection 6 mattresses.
Second-hand clothing for export, 5 parcels.
Disinfection Stored food (moth infestation).
" (Larder beetle infestation).

Departmental Laundry.

In addition to the washing of towels, wraps etc., used during the treatment of cases, the following articles were laundered :

Hand towels	6,038
Roller towels	331
Dusters	471
Swabs	117
Sheets	20

Condemned Foodstuffs.

Collected and destroyed 10 tons 5 cwts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

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

Inspections upon receipt of complaint	..	..	..	3,777
Drainage inspections (and revisits)	..	..	..	2,385
Inspection of Factories	..	..	..	625
Inspection of Outworkers	..	..	..	224
Inspection of Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	94
Rehousing cases : Inspections	..	..	..	1,068
Smoke Observations and inspections	..	..	..	163
Rodent Officers inspections of Industrial premises	..	..	..	95
" " " " Dwellings	..	..	..	806
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	—
Inspection of Offensive Trades Premises	..	..	..	51
Inspection and food sampling visits, shops and markets	..	..	..	1,217
Inspection and sampling visits, Catering and Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	1,970
Inspection of food at Wharves and Warehouses	..	..	..	2,314
Bakehouses—Inspections	..	..	..	98
Fried Fish Shops—Inspections	..	..	..	90
Fishmongers' premises—Inspections	..	..	..	93
Re-inspections	..	..	..	13,085
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	1,469
Pet Animals Act and Sunday Market Inspections	..	..	..	238

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

Drain additions or reconstructions	94
Drains repaired	118
Drains unstopped	148
Watercloset pans and seats repaired or renewed	486
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	439
Soil pipes repaired, renewed or provided	171
Ventilation pipes provided	63
Sinks provided	246
Baths provided	202
Lavatory basins provided	269
Waste pipes provided	816
Waste pipes repaired	127
Yards paved, repaired or drained	68
Dustbins provided	127
Accumulations removed	177
Roofs and gutters repaired	702
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	266
Dwellings provided with water	288
Dampness remedied	734
Window frames and glazing sashes repaired	365
Cills and reveals repaired	306
Sashcords renewed	521
Fireplaces and flues repaired	402
Floors repaired or renewed	252
Brickwork and pointing repaired	261
Staircases repaired	116
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	1,205
Walls and ceilings repaired	1,187
Other sanitary works executed	565
Total ..	10,721

Separate statistics under certain of the headings in the foregoing section are given in the Housing and Food Sections.

NOTICES

Intimation Notices	1,679
Statutory Notices	971
Defects in Council controlled property reported to Housing Manager	186
Intimation Notices complied with	1,889
Statutory Notices complied with	1,185
Work carried out by Local Authority in default of owner	71

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Failure to Abate Nuisances.

Nuisance Orders :

7 days	..	..	1	
14 days	..	..	3	
28 days	..	..	19	
6 weeks	..	..	3	
2 months	..	..	2	
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	..	..	2	Work commenced or completed
Summons withdrawn	..	..	21	
Case dismissed	..	..	—	

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are four women's and two men's common lodging houses in the Borough, which are fully occupied nightly. 94 inspections of these premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, 48 of men's lodging houses, and 46 of women's. Six intimation notices were served, all of which have been complied with.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are now three premises engaged in offensive trades in the Borough as follows :—Skin Dressers 2, Manure Manufacturer 1.

During 1955, 51 inspections were made.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Fifteen applications were received during the year for registration under the Act, all of which were satisfactory.

238 Inspections were made during the year.

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. These were due to dirty storage tanks. The Metropolitan Water Board was informed and samples analysed, which were found satisfactory.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Section 98

During the year 40 notifications of the withdrawal of water supply were received from the Metropolitan Water Board.

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 288 new dwellings as follows :—

ROWLAND HILL HOUSE, NELSON SQUARE	105 flats
SAYER STREET, 8-10	1 flat
BAZELEY HOUSE, LANCASTER STREET	32 flats
PORTLAND STREET (reconstruction)	20 „
SALTWOOD GROVE	6 „
SURREY GROVE, 1	1 flat
GREAT DOVER STREET, 60	1 house
CHELSEFIELD HOUSE, ALFRETON STREET	25 flats
SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD (reconstruction)	16 „
BOROUGH ROAD, BRIDGE HOUSE TAVERN	1 house
SUTHERLAND SQUARE, 61	2 flats
MERROW STREET, QUEEN ELIZABETH P.H.	1 house
LYTHAM STREET	45 cottages
PHHELP STREET	9 „
SONDES STREET	22 „
WESTMORELAND ROAD, HOUR GLASS P.H.	1 house

OUTWORKERS

Two hundred and twenty-four inspections 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	6
	{ Cleaning and washing	—
Stuffed toys		2
Lampshades		10
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper		70
Cosaques, Christmas crackers & stockings, etc.		13
TOTAL		101

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

(Rodent Officer—Mr. R. Warboys)

	Type of Premises			
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Business & Others	Total
I. Total properties	33	25,009	4,834	29,876
II. Properties inspected as a result of :—				
(a) Notification	—	1,500	331	1,831
(b) Survey under Act ..	—	1,552	503	2,055
(c) Otherwise	—	52	172	224
III. Total Inspections (including Reinspections) ..	—	5,226	997	6,223
IV. Properties inspected infested by :—				
Rats { Major	—	2	18	20
{ Minor	—	596	235	831
Mice { Major	—	—	—	—
{ Minor	—	831	111	942
V. Number of infested properties (IV) treated by local authority	—	1,429	364	1,793
VI. Notices served under Sec. 4 :—				
(a) Treatment	—	62	—	62
(b) Structural, i.e., proofing	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action taken by local authority following Sec. 4 notice	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	63—2,559 visits (2,000 dwelling houses, 599 business premises) in connection with "Block" schemes.			

NOTES :—(a) Council houses are indicated in "Dwellings."

(b) Sewers are not included in above table.

	Domestic	Business
Inspections by Rodent Officer	806	95
Inspections by Rodent Staff	4,398	700
Drains tested	245	15
Drains defective	79	5
Drains repaired	60	—
Drains opened for examination	58	—
Prebait laid	—	6,271
Poison baits	10,657	5,321
Bodies recovered	—	190
Works completed by arrangement	50	—

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer treatment was carried out four times in the year, adhering to the previous year's method of quarterly treatments of 10 per cent. zinc phosphide poison bait laid without the normal pre-baiting and checked 48 hours afterwards.

The results were not as spectacular as in 1954, but confirmed that the treatments in that year had been most effective. There was a continued decrease in the number of manholes infested, and out of 1,015, 642 were free from infestation.

The use of quarterly treatments appears to have better results than half-yearly, and costs compared favourably as pre-baiting expenses were avoided.

	<i>Complete "Takes"</i>	<i>Fairly Heavy Infestations</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>No "Takes"</i>
1st Qtr. (12 oz. Poison baits) ..	—	3	226	392
2nd Qtr.	—	6	258	418
3rd Qtr.	—	4	221	421
4th Qtr.	—	4	113	533

689 manholes were tested in the first quarter, but inclement weather interfered with this treatment.

In addition, extensive work has been carried out in connection with disused drainage on sites cleared after war damage and at properties demolished in connection with slum clearance.

VENTILATION OF SEWERS

The Council agreed to co-operate in an all-London experiment in connection with the ventilation of sewers by using existing soil pipes after removal of the stoppers from interceptor traps between sewers and private drainage systems. It was recommended that wire guards be fitted in lieu of the stoppers to prevent the risk of rats gaining access.

REQUISITIONED HOUSES AND HOUSING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1955

This Act, which came into operation on the 6th June, 1955, enables local authorities to wind up the use of requisitioning for housing purposes by 31st March, 1960, and provides new measures and Exchequer assistance to make this possible without causing hardship to the families living in the houses, including provisions for payments to owners who are willing to accept licensees as statutory tenants and grants to local authorities leasing or purchasing requisitioned houses or houses in substitution therefor.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has directed local authorities to invite the owners of requisitioned houses to accept the licensees as their statutory tenants, and special compensation (in

addition to payments under the Compensation (Defence) Act, 1939, in respect of damage to property whilst requisitioned) will be paid to owners who agree to do so. A tenancy created by an owner accepting the release of a requisitioned dwelling with the present occupants will be protected by the Rents Acts and a new standard rent will be calculated. The tenant will not, however, be required to pay more than he paid under the licence except so far as the local authority may from time to time determine, and until the 1st April, 1965, or until the former licensee or his statutory successor leaves, any difference between the reduced rent and the full rent will be payable by the local authority to the landlord. After the 1st April, 1965, the tenant will pay the full standard rent.

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

125 certificates of disrepair and 109 revocation certificates were issued during the year under the above Act.

WATERCLOSETS

The Public Health Committee agreed to a proposal made by the London County Council to repeal the bye-law relating to water-closets, it being considered that Section 11 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, now gives local authorities adequate powers in this respect.

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

During the year four samples were taken and submitted to the prescribed Analyst Mr. G. Ginger, F.C.S., Chiltern Research Laboratories, Ltd., Marlow. All these samples complied with the requirements of the Regulations.

Ten premises are registered for the use of filling materials, and one licensed for manufacture or storage of Rag Flock.

WELL WATER

The three private wells in the Borough are still in use for industrial purposes. The supply in each case is satisfactory.

LITTER

The Council supported a suggestion from the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee that the scope of the L.C.C. Bye-law relating to litter deposited on the highway should be extended. Whilst the bye-law provides penalties for persons depositing refuse from a house, shop or street stall, or other refuse likely to cause injury, it does not cover litter otherwise deposited, or the position where it is likely to become a danger or a nuisance.

LIGHTING OF STAIRCASES

As a result of representations to the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee the London County Council inserted a clause in their General Powers (No. 2) Bill regarding the lighting of staircases in houses in multiple occupation.

CEILING HEIGHTS

The Committee had previously agreed to support a proposal that representations should be made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government against his requirement, in approving housing schemes, that the top floors of maisonettes, houses and flats should have a ceiling height of not more than 7 ft. 6 in.

In view of the division of opinion from constituent councils, however, the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee decided not to make the representations proposed.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

The Council fixed 1st September, 1955 as the date on which the provisions of Section 18 of the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1954, relating to hairdressers and barbers' establishments should come into effect in this Borough.

Fifty-one such premises were registered at the end of the year.

CLEAN AIR BILL

This Bill, which had its second reading in the Commons in November, has four main purposes :—

- (i) To prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys, railway engines, etc., subject to certain qualifications.
- (ii) To prohibit the installation of new industrial furnaces unless they are capable, so far as practicable, of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (iii) To require that the emission of grit and dust from existing industrial furnaces shall be minimised, and that new industrial furnaces burning pulverised fuel or large quantities of other solid fuel shall be provided with grit-arresting equipment.
- (iv) To empower local authorities by order, subject to confirmation by the Minister concerned, to declare " smoke-control areas," in which the emission of smoke from chimneys will constitute an offence.

The Bill provides for the payment of grants by the Exchequer and by Local Authorities towards the cost of converting appliances where necessary in private dwellings in smoke-control areas; for amending and extending the operation of the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906; for the application of the Act to Crown premises and naval vessels. Certain amendments to the Bill were, however, being drafted by the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

(*Smoke Abatement Officer—Mr. G. Stubbs.*)

The figures of deposited matter in the Bankside area, which is an industrialised district, showed a decided improvement over the figures of the previous year. Probably this result was largely due to the restricted use of the old Bankside Generating Station. It is noteworthy that the figures of deposits recorded at Walworth Road, which is mainly a residential area, have shown little variation during the past few years.

As in previous years, several complaints were received of smoke emission from works' incinerators burning waste straw, wood chips and rubbish. Visits by the Inspector and instructions on the proper methods of operating the plants produced good results. Most of the complaints of smoke from factory chimneys were found on investigation to be due to excessive demands on the boilers or to mechanical faults. It is pleasing to record that in all cases the managements concerned readily co-operated and took action to abate the nuisances.

Two firms have converted their furnaces from coal-burning to oil-burning and the results have proved satisfactory. Several other firms have stated their intention to consider a change to oil-burning.

The first visit by members of the newly formed South-East Division of the National Smoke Abatement Society was to the new Bankside Power Station where the flue-gas washing plant was seen in operation. The party was welcomed to Southwark by the Mayor.

The Borough Council has in use two Standard Deposit Gauges, three Lead-Peroxide Instruments and one Smoke and Volumetric Sulphur-Dioxide Apparatus.

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

1955	Bankside	Walworth Road
January	65.9	29.7 tons per square mile
February	36.5	23.2 do.
March	30.1	21.3 do.
April	20.4	14.6 do.
May	29.2	21.5 do.
June	25.1	22.8 do.
July	14.0	9.9 do.
August	17.0	13.7 do.
September	27.2	21.9 do.
October	24.6	22.6 do.
November	15.8	14.5 do.
December	40.2	19.9 do.

During the year sixteen complaints were received regarding smoke emissions : 163 observations and inspections were made by the Inspector, and 9 Intimation Notices issued.

FACTORIES ACTS

Five hundred and thirty-four inspections of Factories were made during the year, and 28 notices were served. There are now 1,024 factories of all types on the register, comprising 251 factories without mechanical power, 746 with mechanical power, and in addition 27 building sites, for which a further 91 inspections were made, but no notices served.

<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	251	22	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	746	512	28	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	27	91	—	—
Total	1,024	625	28	—

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>No. of Prosecutions</i>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	18	32	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	8	9	—	2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :—					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	7	—	4	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	20	23	—	1	—
Total	52	72	—	11	—

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.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.—*Insanitary houses capable of repair at reasonable expense* (Section 9)

Notices served	—
complied with	1
Informal notices issued (requesting voluntary action) :—	—
complied with	—

2.—*Insanitary houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense* (Section 11)

Demolition Orders—

Made and sealed—5
(4 represented in 1954)

Represented for Demolition—6

3.—*Premises demolished* (Section 11)—19

Documents sealed 1953—8 properties	
" " 1954—4 "	
" " 1955—1 property	
Represented 1952—3 properties	
Undertakings previously received—3 properties	

4.—*Closure of premises—*

Premises closed—nil

(In pursuance of undertakings given under section 11).

Section 11, Housing Act, and section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Orders made—2 (1 represented in 1954)

Represented—3 properties

5.—*Parts of premises* (Section 12)—

Closing Orders made and sealed.

82 underground rooms (47 represented in 1954)

8 basement rooms (7 represented in 1954)

31 other rooms (represented 1954)

Closing Orders made, not sealed.

91 underground rooms (40 represented in 1954)

6 other rooms

Represented for Closure.

43 underground rooms only

Approval was granted for 11 underground rooms and 6 others, officially closed, to be used for specified purposes, subject to no nuisance arising.

6.—Rooms made fit for habitation—4 underground rooms,
3 others

7.—Clearance Areas (Section 25).

Areas represented—11

(107 properties).

Confirmed by Minister	..	..	..	..	—
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Declared, not confirmed	..	..	..	..	9
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	---

Represented only	..	..	..	..	..	2
------------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Three areas represented in 1954 were confirmed by the Minister in 1955.

Three areas represented in 1954 are included in a Compulsory Purchase Order.

Premises demolished—(Sec. 25 Orders)—22.

Summary of works completed during 1954 as a result of Notices served following inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations :—

Drains cleansed	8
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	1
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	8
Sinks provided or renewed	2
Sinks refixed	1
Roofs and gutters repaired or renewed	8
Parapet walls rebuilt or repaired	3
Dampness remedied	8
Window frames, sashes and glazing repaired (number of rooms) ..	8
Eills and reveals repaired	2
Accumulation of rubbish removed	1
Fireplaces, ranges and flues repaired	2
Floors repaired or renewed	2
Brickwork repaired and pointing renewed	4
Walls repaired or rebuilt	10
Staircases cleansed and redecorated	1
Walls and ceilings repaired and decorated (number of rooms) ..	23
Doors repaired or renewed	3
Ventilated food cupboards provided	6
Artificial lighting repaired	1
TOTAL	102

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

No. of Dwellings in Borough	25,009
<i>1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—</i>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	7,210
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	21,232
(2) (a) Number of dwellings (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	3,433
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	4,370
(3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	114
(4) Number of dwellings (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	1,679
<i>2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices :—</i>	
Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	1,889
<i>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>	
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (No "informal" section 9 notices were issued)	—
(2) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	1,679
(2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1,185
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	71
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(2) Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	19

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	218
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	7

TOTAL INSPECTIONS :

Housing Consolidated Regs. :	3,433
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TOTAL RE-INSPECTIONS	937
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Overcrowding statistics are given separately in the following section.

REHOUSING

There was little change in the total number of applicants seeking the assistance of the Public Health Department for rehousing.

New cases of overcrowding again decreased slightly but considerably fewer were rehoused, and the total of these cases remaining on the register at the end of 1955 was more than at the end of the previous year.

There were slightly fewer cases needing medical recommendation.

MEDICAL

<i>Recommendations</i>	1953	1954	1955
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis	61	50	51
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on other medical grounds	74	75	91
Cases recommended to Southwark Borough Council on medical grounds	169	243	203
Cases recommended to Southwark Borough Council on grounds of Tuberculosis	—	12	10
Total cases recommended	304	380	355
<i>Rehoused</i>	1953	1954	1955
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis	12	11	9
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on other medical grounds	22	31	17
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on grounds of Tuberculosis	5	—	9
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on other medical grounds	16	20	19
Cases rehoused by other authorities on grounds of Tuberculosis	2	—	—
Medical cases rehoused by own efforts	—	5	—
Total cases rehoused	57	67	54

OVERCROWDING

	1953			1954			1955		
	Prem- ises	Fami- lies	Per- sons	Prem- ises	Fami- lies	Per- sons	Prem- ises	Fami- lies	Per- sons
<i>New Cases :</i>	(End of 1952)			(End of 1953)			(End of 1954)		
Remaining on register	597	732	3,416	445	546	2,506	461	564	2,540
New Cases reported and recommended	112	114	597	92	104	449	75	80	366
Total	709	846	4,013	537	650	2,955	536	644	2,906
Overcrowding abated	264	300	1,507	76	86	415	47	51	254
Remaining on register	445	546	2,506	461	564	2,540	489	593	2,652
<i>Overcrowding abated :</i>									
Rehoused by L.C.C.	47	52	229	65	72	347	32	32	175
Rehoused by Borough Council ..	12	14	58	3	5	22	13	17	69
Rehoused by other Boroughs ..									
Rehoused by owners									
Moved away									
Found own accommodation ..	205	234	1,220	8	9	46	2	2	10
Cases removed by overcrowding survey									
Total	264	300	1,507	76	86	415	47	51	254

				1953	1954	1955
No. of visits involved				2,062	1,175	1,068

OTHER CASES

Referred to L.C.C. and Borough Council	291
Rehoused	121

COUNTY OF LONDON DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In March, 1955, the Minister of Housing and Local Government approved with modifications the Development Plan for the County. There are no major modifications of the Plan as it affects this Borough, but the Minister re-zoned for residential purposes two areas in Southwark which had been zoned for commercial and light industrial purposes.

The Minister approved a density of population of 136 persons to the acre for this borough.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME, 1956-60

In consultation with the London County Council, joint proposals for dealing with slum clearance in this Borough during the next five years have been submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The proposals provide for this Council to deal with 257 unfit houses during the period 1956-60 and the County Council will deal with areas comprising 341 houses, making a total of 598 houses. It has been agreed that the balance of the list of 903 unfit houses submitted to the County Council are not in such a condition that they should be dealt with immediately, but further consideration will be given to their clearance before the end of the five-year programme.

FOOD

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year, 377,200 tons of imported food were inspected under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948, and the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1953.

The consignments imported were as follows :—

<i>Description</i>								<i>Tonnage</i>
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47,981
Canned Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,797
Offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,190
Poultry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,254
Casein	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,363
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,126
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,729
Margarine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,640
Lard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,907
Canned Milk and Milk Powder	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,226
Eggs and Egg Albumen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,198
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,169
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,518
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44,317
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,946
Cereals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,022
Nuts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,603
Canned Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,673
Canned Soup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	416
Des. Coconut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	878
Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,878
Sauces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Starch	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	545
Honey and Preserves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,552
Cocoa Butter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,062
Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	220
Fruit Juices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,436
Coffee and Cocoa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150
Peppers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	683
Jellies, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Palmkernel Oil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	179
Liquorice Paste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	354
Ginger	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	377,200

223 samples were submitted for analysis; all were satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937—1948.

Bottled Prawns.

A consignment comprising 100 cases ($48 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.) bottled Prawns was detained at St. Mary Overy's Wharf for further examination. 24 cases and 16 jars were released on condition that they be re-exported to Norway. The remainder of the consignment was found fit for human consumption and accordingly released.

Corned Beef.

A consignment of Australian Corned Beef with Cereal was detained at New Hibernia Wharf for a 100 per cent. examination. 209 cases (9×5 lbs.) and 5 tins were found unfit and released for processing into animal feeding stuff. The remaining 288 cases (9×5 lbs.) were sound and accordingly released for human consumption.

Cheddar Cheese.

A consignment comprising 20 crates of imported New Zealand Cheddar Cheese was detained at New Hibernia Wharf. These crates were splashed by ship's soil pipe during unloading. After cleaning and trimming, this consignment was released for processing.

Gammon and Shoulder Hams.

A consignment comprising 61 cases (6×8 lbs.) and 12 tins of Gammon Hams and 151 cases (6×8 lbs.) and 18 tins of Shoulder Hams was permitted to be returned to the overseas suppliers, in Lisbon. This arrangement was agreed to as the result of an unsatisfactory report received from the Bacteriologist.

Indonesian Groundnut Kernels.

Three consignments comprising 559 bags, (approximately 50 tons) of Indonesian Groundnut Kernels were detained because of infestation. They were ultimately released for oil extraction.

UNSOUND FOOD

During the year 166 tons 5 cwts. 3 lbs. of food examined at wharves, warehouses and shops were found unfit for human consumption and disposed of as follows :—

Food condemned at wharves and warehouses :—

Destroyed :

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	..	..	..	—	4	2	22
Poultry	..	..	..	1	13	3	16
Offal	..	..	..	—	1	—	15
Meat Products	..	..	..	17	15	—	15
Bacon	..	..	..	—	4	2	18
Cooked Hams	..	..	..	6	13	1	13
Fish	..	..	..	—	—	1	17
Canned Fish	..	..	..	—	15	3	—
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	18	14	2	20
Fruit	..	..	..	30	4	2	—
Dried Fruit	..	..	..	1	13	3	24
Purées	..	..	..	27	17	1	23
Vegetables	..	..	..	3	15	3	25
Canned Vegetables	..	..	..	3	16	3	16
Fats	..	..	..	1	17	—	—
Egg Albumen	..	..	..	1	4	1	10
Canned Milk	..	..	..	5	17	1	22
Cereals	..	..	..	10	7	3	16
Preserves	..	..	..	—	6	1	5
Cake Mixtures	..	..	..	—	16	—	—
Salad Cream	..	..	..	—	—	—	12
Canned Soup	..	..	..	—	7	3	14
Confectionery	..	..	..	1	3	—	25
				135	12	2	20

Food released for Animal Feeding :—

Dried Fruit	..	..	..	1	2	—	26
Meat Products	..	..	..	5	3	3	10
Gammon	..	..	..	—	10	—	11
				6	16	—	19

Food released for Technical Purposes :—

Meat	..	..	..	12	14	—	25
Offal	..	..	..	1	4	3	24
Bacon	..	..	..	6	9	3	20
Cooked Hams	..	..	..	—	—	—	22
				20	9	1	7

Food condemned at shops :—*Destroyed :*

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	..	..	..	—	9	—	18
Meat Products	..	..	..	—	9	1	6
Offal	..	..	..	—	3	1	5
Bacon	..	..	..	—	—	1	27
Cooked Hams	..	..	..	—	5	1	1
Fish	..	..	..	—	4	—	7
Canned Fish	..	..	..	—	—	3	4
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	—	2	2	7
Purées	..	..	..	—	3	2	7
Canned Vegetables	..	..	..	—	—	1	14
Canned Milk	..	..	..	—	—	2	24
Egg Albumen	..	..	..	—	—	3	14
Cereals	..	..	..	—	5	1	6
Salad Cream	..	..	..	—	2	—	2
Confectionery	..	..	..	—	—	—	8
Nuts	..	..	..	—	19	—	—
Canned Soup	..	..	..	—	—	—	3
				3	6	3	13

ICE-CREAM

There are 241 ice-cream dealers and 13 manufacturers in this Borough, an increase of 12 dealers, and a decrease of 1 manufacturer since last year. Most of the dealers sold only pre-packed ice-cream, obtained from the large manufacturers.

During the year 37 samples of ice-cream were taken with the following results :—

20 samples, Grade I.

6 samples, Grade II.

5 samples, Grade III.

6 samples, Grade IV.

In addition :

28 samples were chemically examined for compliance with the prescribed standards of composition of ice-cream. Four of these samples did not contain the requisite amount of fat and the vendors were cautioned. Samples subsequently taken at the premises were satisfactory.

Periodical inspections were made to all premises. A "Code of Standards" was sent to each new dealer and inspections were carried out before the registration of any new premises to ensure that they were satisfactory and all requirements fully understood.

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 investigations were made at the premises in an effort to detect some fault which may have caused the unsatisfactory gradings.

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.

120 Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

162 Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk.

96 Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Supplementary Licences

17 Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

17 Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk.

15 Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Forty-seven samples of Designated Milks were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. All these satisfied the prescribed tests.

Twenty-nine 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 147 registered milk distributors in the Borough, whilst the number of distributors purveying milk in the Borough from registered premises elsewhere was 17. 305 inspections of Milkshops and Dairies were made during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS

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

BAKEHOUSES

At the end of the year there were 22 Bakehouses in use in Southwark, of which 4 were Basement Bakehouses.

Ninety-eight inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Basement Bakehouses at 325, Walworth Road, 167, Manor Place, 168 Borough High Street were closed by the occupiers.

COFFEE

In October an informal sample described as "Coffee" was found on analysis to consist of a dry coffee extract. The manufacturers were averse to calling their product a coffee extract, and claimed it was soluble coffee and that accordingly there was no contravention of the Labelling of Food Order.

Discussions were held with the Food Manufacturers' Federation, and mutual agreement was reached on the re-wording of the label.

FOOD STANDARDS (TABLE JELLIES) AMENDMENT ORDER, 1955

This order provides for the use of low setting gelatine and allows a content of not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces sugar per pint of prepared table jelly sweet, as an alternative to the former standard of 84 per cent. sugar content in jelly crystals.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS (MINISTRY OF FOOD) ORDER, 1955

This Order dissolved the Ministry of Food and transferred most of its functions to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

MYXOMATOSIS

In March, the Ministry of Food issued a circular that all carcasses of rabbits and hares infected with myxomatosis should be regarded as unfit for human consumption. This followed a prosecution of a trader who claimed that the virus of this disease is not communicable to man.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

This Act will repeal the Food and Drugs Act, 1954, and consolidates it together with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 and certain sections of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954 and of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954. The new Act will come into effect on 1st January, 1956.

Some of the more important changes in the law are as follows : Provides that the probable cumulative effects of consuming food injurious to health should be taken into consideration; gives power for a Court to disqualify a caterer convicted of a serious offence against the Regulations; contains new provisions as to description of cream substitutes; certain important changes in the procedure for sampling and analysis; gives powers to enter ships, aircraft, vehicles, etc.; the time limit within which a prosecution must be

made where a sample has been procured is increased for foods other than milk; changes in the conditions for the acceptance of a warranty as a defence.

MINERAL OIL IN FOOD (AMENDMENT REGULATIONS) 1955

Chewing compounds such as chewing gum, are now included in the definition of food under the 1955 Food and Drugs Act, and the above Regulations were made to provide for the presence of 12.5 per cent. micro-crystalline wax in such compounds, used to increase their plasticity.

LABELLING OF FOOD (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1955

These Regulations re-enact, with certain modifications, the provisions of sections 32 and 33 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which the new Food and Drugs Act repealed, and cover the labelling, marking and advertising of margarine and margarine cheese.

FOOD STANDARDS (BUTTER AND MARGARINE) REGULATIONS, 1955

These Regulations, coming into operation on 1st January, 1956, prescribe standards for butter and margarine similar to those previously contained under section 32 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

These Regulations give extensive provisions for the prevention of contamination of food, not only during its sale but also in its preparation, storage, transport and all stages of handling. They come into effect on 1st January, 1956 (excepting certain provisions involving alterations to premises, which are deferred until 1st July, 1956) and replace section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which is repealed by the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954, and Regulations 19, 20 and 21 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

FOOD HYGIENE

During the year the Chief Sanitary Inspector gave several talks to food traders on food hygiene and methods for preventing food contamination. These talks evoked keen interest and co-operation from the traders.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 433 catering establishments in the Borough. These include riverside snack bars, cafes, coffee stalls, mobile snack bars, public house restaurants, and industrial canteens. All have received systematic inspection and close supervision during the year, and a satisfactory standard has been maintained.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES (Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

There are now 91 premises (an increase of 3) registered for the purpose of the Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food intended for Sale.

Two premises (an increase of 1) are registered for the purpose of Wholesale Dealing in Margarine and one for Butter Blending and Packaging.

ANALYSIS OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN FOOD PREMISES

Yards cleansed	40
Walls and Ceilings repaired	147
Kitchens, Sculleries, Food Stores, and Dining Rooms, redecorated and cleansed	204
Roofs and Gutters repaired or renewed	16
Shelves and Cupboards cleansed	113
Floors repaired or renewed	71
Staircase risers and treads repaired or renewed	30
Hot water supplies provided	49
Waste pipes provided and repaired	49
Drains unstopped	14
Drains repaired	16
Dustbins provided	45
Dampness remedied	30
Water-closets provided	3
Water-closets repaired or renewed	56
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	42
Seats to water-closets repaired or renewed	8
Walls and Ceilings to water-closets redecorated and cleansed	100
Artificial lighting provided	18
Refrigerators repaired or renewed	11
Food cupboards provided	41
Covering provided for cakes and sandwiches	68
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	21
Utensils cleansed	113
Ventilation provided	20
Sinks provided	35
Miscellaneous	165
TOTAL	1,525

FOOD SAMPLING

During the year under review, 584 samples and 900 informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst. Of these, 13 and 19 respectively revealed adulteration or other infringements, as follows :—

					Samples Examined		Non-genuine Samples	
					Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	..	..	..	..	121	45	1	—
Condensed milk	..	..	..	..	—	9	—	—
Ice-cream	..	..	..	..	37	28	1	3
Fats, cheese, etc.	..	..	..	..	62	57	3	1
Meat and fish preparations	..	..	..	..	48	145	3	2
Cereals, etc.	..	..	..	..	54	88	—	1
Non-brewed condiments, etc.	..	..	..	..	22	21	2	3
Herbs	..	..	..	..	20	13	—	—
Spices and condiments	..	..	..	..	25	38	—	—
Pickles, sauces, etc.	..	..	..	..	14	45	—	—
Jams and preserves	..	..	..	..	20	15	—	—
Wines, spirits and ales	..	..	..	..	14	55	2	5
Soft drinks	..	..	..	..	—	32	—	1
Medicine and drug preparations	..	..	..	..	3	75	—	1
Canned fruit	..	..	..	..	8	24	—	—
Dried fruit	..	..	..	..	20	21	—	—
Canned vegetables	..	..	..	..	—	14	—	—
Custard powders, jellies, etc.	..	..	..	..	12	36	—	1
Confectionery	..	..	..	..	50	68	1	1
Tea, coffee, cocoa, etc.	..	..	..	..	43	34	—	—
Cake and pudding mixtures	..	..	..	..	11	37	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	584	900	13	19

Non-Genuine Samples.

Formal Samples.

No.	Sample of	Result	Action taken
496	Whisky.	41 degrees under proof.	Summons.
497	Gin.	41.5 degrees under proof.	Summons.
514	Butter brazils.	7.5 per cent. deficient in fat.	Caution.
67	Milk.	5.4 per cent. added water.	Caution.
85	Preserved pork sausages.	Sulphur dioxide 720 parts per million.	Summons.
197	Ice-cream.	4 per cent. deficient in fat.	Caution.
207	Cider vinegar.	10 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Summons.
236	Butter.	16.4 per cent. water.	Summons.
246	Butter.	17.2 per cent. water.	Summons.
247	Butter.	16.8 per cent. water.	Summons.
275	Minced beef.	Sulphur dioxide 2,400 parts per million.	Summons.
290	Minced beef.	Sulphur dioxide 180 parts per million.	Summons.
401	Non-brewed condiment.	5 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Caution.

Informal Samples.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
532a	Whisky.	37.5 degrees under proof.	Formal sample taken. (Genuine).
543a	Table jelly.	Infested with mites.	Stock destroyed.
606a	Butter brazils.	12.5 per cent. deficient in fat.	Formal sample 514
619a	Whisky.	42 degrees under proof.	Formal sample 496
207a	Ice-cream.	40 per cent. deficient in fat.	Formal sample genuine.
247a	Ice-cream.	Deficient in fat and sugar.	Formal sample satisfactory.
260a	Glauber's Salt.	Completely effloresced.	Stock withdrawn.
267a	Ice-cream.	20 per cent. deficient in fat.	Formal sample 197
283a	Semolina.	Contained moth larvae.	Stock withdrawn.
341a	Non-brewed condiment.	67 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Formal sample satisfactory.
379a	Cider vinegar.	15 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Formal sample 207
396a	Malt vinegar.	4 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Formal sample genuine.
457a	Minced beef.	Sulphur dioxide 1,300 parts per million.	Formal sample 290
477a	Minced beef.	Sulphur dioxide 200 parts per million.	Formal sample 275
530a	Lemon juice.	Sulphur dioxide 550 parts per million.	None in stock.
552a	Whisky.	39 degrees under proof.	Formal sample satisfactory.
570a	Butter.	17.3 per cent. water.	Formal sample satisfactory.
609a	Whisky.	44 degrees under proof.	Formal sample satisfactory.
611a	Whisky.	38 degrees under proof.	Formal sample satisfactory.

PHARMACY & POISONS ACT, 1933

During the year 114 inspections were made of the various premises listed by the Council for the sale of Part II Poisons under the above Act.

There are 64 names of persons on the Council's list of Sellers of Part II Poisons.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS : FOOD & DRUGS ACT

<i>Defendant.</i>	<i>Nature of Infringement.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Baker.	Selling bread containing a piece of string.	Fined £5 with £2 2s. costs.
Licensee.	Selling whisky 41 degrees under proof.	Fined £2 with £2 2s. costs.
	Selling gin 41.5 degrees under proof.	Fined £1 10s.
Baker.	Selling bun containing metal staple.	Fined £2 with £2 2s. costs.
Baker.	Selling a loaf of bread containing tobacco.	Fined £3 with £2 2s. costs.
Baker.	Selling a loaf of bread containing a hair clip.	Fined £5 with £2 2s. costs.
Baker.	Selling a fruit tart in a mouldy condition.	Fined £2 10s. with £4 4s. costs.
Manufacturer.	Selling preserved pork sausages containing excess preservative.	Fined £5 with £3 3s. costs.
Baker.	Selling a Vienna loaf containing a foreign body.	Fined £2 with £2 2s. costs.
Chemist.	Selling cider vinegar 10 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Fined £1 with £2 2s. costs.
Manufacturer.	Selling butter containing 16.4 per cent. water.	Fined £1 5s. with £5 5s. costs.
	Selling Danish butter containing 17.2 per cent. water.	Fined £1.
	Selling unsalted butter containing 16.8 per cent. water.	Fined £1.
Grocer.	Selling batter flour containing mice drop- pings.	Fined £3 10s. with £4 4s. costs.

Six cautionary letters were sent in respect of other non-genuine samples and other articles of food complained of by the Public.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Miss M. Morris, The Organising Secretary of the Southwark Old People's Welfare Committee, reports a further expansion in every Branch of the Committee's work during the year.

Nearly 50,000 meals were provided during the year. 19,591 meals were served in the Gate House Restaurant, and 4,061 in the Nelson Square Luncheon Club. A new Luncheon Club was opened in the Church of the Lady Margaret Hall, and served 653 meals. The Old People's Welfare Committee added a third van to the two already in service. The three vans supplied 13,298 meals and the two W.V.S. vans supplied 12,150 meals. The total of 25,448 Meals-on-Wheels was an increase of over 5,000 on the previous year.

The organised holiday to Southsea included 150 old people. This was an increase of 50 on the previous year, as on that occasion 50 almspeople from Norwood joined in the holiday.

There were again day outings to seaside, country and theatre for the able-bodied ; and the Rotary Club of Southwark once more arranged private car outings and parties for the frail, infirm and housebound. Twice weekly Club Meetings at the Gate House provided music, games, lectures, debates and entertainments, some of which were given also in the evenings.

The number of individual cases referred to the Old People's Welfare Committee by hospitals, doctors and others rose to 1,351, and covered the usual great variety of problems. The home visiting of these people was carried out by the Organising Secretary and a small band of voluntary visitors.

There were two new ventures. A Travelling Library was started by the Old People's Welfare Committee, with the help of Rotary Club cars, and was later taken over by the Public Library. The International Voluntary Service for Peace decided to devote their weekends to cleaning and decorating old people's flats, and an average of three flats were dealt with weekly throughout the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Compulsory Removals.

Three persons were removed to an Old People's Home under Section 47, and the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, which provide for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Burial of the Dead.

During the year the Council arranged for eighteen burials under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, at a total cost of £171 5s. 6d.

MORTUARY

Post-mortems without Inquest	1,257
Post-mortems with Inquest	172
Inquests without Post-mortems	—
Inquests, Post-mortems held elsewhere	59
Bodies brought in for convenience	—
Infectious disease deaths	—
	1,488