

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

Contributors

Southwark (London, England). Metropolitan Borough.
Stott, William.

Publication/Creation

[1957?]

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METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK



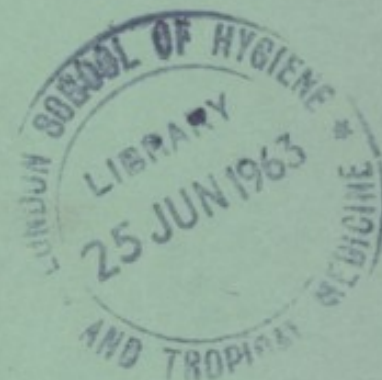
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956



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 1956.

As will be seen from the various statistical tables in the body of the report, the year was comparatively speaking a healthy one. Apart from the Dysentery epidemic, which commenced at the end of last year and slowly faded away by late Summer, there were no major epidemics of infectious diseases.

It will be noted that the population figure as estimated by the Registrar General has again fallen by as much as 1,500 persons to 92,300. This downward swing has been continuous since the Census in 1951, but I believe it has about reached bottom and that there will be a reversal to an upward swing in the next year or two when the many cleared sites in the Borough are re-developed and new flats and houses become occupied.

The Crude death rate of 12.9 remains more or less stationary, but the adjusted death rate of 11.6 compares favourably with the rate of the country as a whole, namely 11.7. Two-thirds of the 1,196 deaths, occurred in the 65 and over age groups, the principal causes being diseases of the heart and blood vessels. On the other hand, one quarter occurred in the middle age groups 45-64, the principal causes again being diseases of the circulatory system, closely followed by Cancer, the chief organs affected being the lungs.

Looking to the bright side of the statistics, we find that the Infant Mortality rate of 16 per 1,000 live births creates a new record for the Borough and compares well with the 23.8 rate for the country as a whole. Furthermore, unlike any previous year, not a single illegitimate baby died.

It is highly satisfactory to record that not a single mother lost her life as a result of childbirth.

Towards the end of the year, I followed up the 41 paralytic Polio cases which occurred in 1955: I was able to trace 37 of them, four having left the district. Of the 37, 14 had completely recovered and five had some slight muscular weakness remaining but were well and attending school. The remaining 18 had some paralysis left either in arms or legs. Many of them were at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, whilst a few were attending local hospitals wearing irons and receiving physiotherapy.

The work of the Old People's Welfare Committee again shows further expansion in every branch of their activities. Meals-on-Wheels served to the home-bound increased to 27,537.

20,460 meals were served in the Gate House Restaurant; 6,131 at the Nelson Square Club and 1,548 at Lady Margaret Club—a total of 55,676 meals.

Towards the end of the year, Miss Morris, our first organising Secretary, was appointed to a similar position in the Borough of Stepney, and we unfortunately lost her valuable services. Our thanks are due to Miss Morris for her untiring efforts in building up this service for old people from the very difficult time of its inception to its present state of popularity and efficiency.

In December, the Committee were fortunate in obtaining the services of Miss Doris M. Beer to replace Miss Morris. Miss Beer comes to us from the County Borough of East Ham, where she is a Welfare Officer and has a wide experience in the welfare of the aged: she commences her duties in Southwark on 1st January, 1957.

Some important legislation was passed during the year, including the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the new Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations. These two Acts and sets of Regulations are designed that in due course we shall be able to breathe clean air and eat clean food prepared and served in a cleanly manner.

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

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. STOTT.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (As at 31st December, 1956).

Mayor—D. C. LOW, 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*), Mrs. L. Booker, J. Bruce, Mrs. C. Clunn, F. W. Combes (*Ex-Officio*), H. G. Coppen, G. Darvell, Mrs. E. G. Doswell, W. J. Fewtrell, D. Fifer, W. Hansell, G. Lawrence, Mrs. G. Luetchford, S. McCulloch, W. A. Miller, G. M. Nottage, Miss J. Randall, H. A. W. Ray, E. H. Ridge, H. Stillman, L.C.C., J. A. Tallon, Mrs. M. Wright.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, 1956

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 Public Health Inspector

H. Archer, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Senior Clerk

E. A. Clark.

Public Health Inspectors :

E. Adamson
J. Ashmore
R. Bishop (T)
R. Charnick (from Oct. 10)
E. Dunn
R. French (T)
Miss G. Gourley
G. Heath (T) (from Mar. 1)
A. Johnson
D. Knight (from July 25)
T. Lloyd, T.D.
E. Potts (T) (to April 2)
K. Rapley
F. Saunders
D. Smith
G. Stubbs
J. Syms (T) (to Oct. 31)
R. Warboys
R. Worden (to Oct. 7)

Clerical Staff :

E. Davies
F. Goddard
H. Holman (from Oct. 22)
Miss M. Kelly (T) (to Feb. 12)
G. Marsden Webb
A. Purdom
Mrs. F. Robertson (T)
J. Robertson
Mrs. B. Stevens (T) (from July 23)
R. Stevens
A. Stock (T) (from April 16)
W. Wilcox (from Feb. 6)

(T)—Temporary

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

Public Health Inspectors' Assist. : C. Husk

Mortuary Attendant : H. West

Hall-Keepers : R. Witten, W. Bishop

VITAL STATISTICS

This is the third successive year with a decrease of 1,500 in the population, which is now reduced to only 230 more than in 1947.

There was a slight increase in the birth rate. The death rate fell after last year's increase.

The infant death rate is the lowest recorded ; the legitimate infant rate and the still birth rate were the lowest since 1950. Whilst there was little change in the illegitimate birth rate, it is gratifying to record that there were no illegitimate infant deaths during the year.

Area	1,132 acres
Estimated Number of Dwellings (March, 1956)	24,677
Dwellings Erected by Borough Council During Year ..	149
Approximate Rateable Value (TOTAL)	£1,928,945
(DWELLINGS)	£543,875

Population :

Registrar General's estimate (mid-1956), including members of Armed Forces stationed in area	92,300
Estimated population, 1955 (mid-year)	93,820
Census, 1951	97,191
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.5
Adjusted by comparability factor	15.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births	18.7
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.9
Adjusted by comparability factor	11.6
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	nil

Infant Death Rate :

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	17.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	nil

	Estimated Population	Crude		Infant Death Rate (To nearest unit)			Still Birth Rate
		Birth Rate	Death Rate	Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	Total	
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
1956	92,300	17.5	12.9	17	—	16	18.7

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Live Births									
1955	789	715	1,504	71	59	130	860	774	1,634
1956	744	758	1,502	66	55	121	810	813	1,623
Still Births									
1955	13	21	34	1	2	3	14	23	37
1956	13	15	28	1	2	3	14	17	31
Infant deaths (under 1 year)									
1955	28	10	38	5	3	8	33	13	46
1956	9	17	26	—	—	—	9	17	26

DEATHS

Male and Female Age Groups.

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Total 1956	Total 1955
Males ..	9	3	3	39	200	387	641	686
Females	17	5	5	20	81	427	555	614
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	8	8	59	281	814	1,196	1,300
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infant Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 26, the causes of death being as follows :

Pneumonia	4
Congenital malformations	9
Other defined and ill defined diseases ..	13

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1955	Total Deaths 1956	Age Groups 1956 :—							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
All causes—Males, Females										
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	23	21	—	—	—	—	5	4	9	3
Tuberculosis—other forms	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm stomach	39	34	—	—	—	—	—	11	13	10
" " lung, bronchus ..	57	61	—	—	—	—	2	31	22	6
" " breast	12	18	—	—	—	—	2	7	3	6
" " uterus	8	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	98	113	—	1	2	1	5	33	42	29
Leukaemia, Aleukemia	6	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Diabetes	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	171	129	—	—	1	1	3	22	37	65
Coronary disease, angina	140	148	—	—	—	—	7	43	48	50

Classification of Deaths (continued)

Causes of Death	Total Deaths 1955	Total Deaths 1956	Age Groups 1956 :—							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
All causes—Males, Females										
Hypertension with Heart disease ..	42	28	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	14
Other Heart disease	138	161	—	—	—	—	6	15	27	113
Other Circulatory disease	75	61	—	—	—	—	1	9	16	35
Influenza	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Pneumonia	106	79	4	2	—	—	3	15	13	42
Bronchitis	95	100	—	—	—	—	1	23	39	37
Other diseases of Respiratory system ..	14	21	—	—	—	1	2	8	8	2
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ..	19	17	—	—	—	—	—	6	8	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	4	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	11	—	—	—	—	2	7	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	8	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	10	14	9	—	1	—	2	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	165	101	13	4	1	1	4	19	22	37
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
All other accidents	17	24	—	1	1	1	5	7	4	5
Suicide	7	13	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	2
Homicide and operations of war ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	1,300	1,196	26	8	8	5	54	281	339	475

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Despite a very heavy incidence of Dysentery during the year, the confirmed cases of infectious diseases in Southwark residents were 1,190 fewer than in 1955, due chiefly to substantial decreases in Measles and Poliomyelitis.

Food Poisoning and Pneumonia also declined but there was an increase in Scarlet Fever.

There was one death from Whooping Cough in the 5-15 age group.

IMMUNISATION

<i>Immunisation</i>	<i>Under 5 years of age</i>			<i>Over 5</i>
Diphtheria	43			67
Whooping Cough ..	19			—
Combined	1,406			8
" Booster " injections (all ages)		797		—
Total				2,340

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

3,959 faeces specimens were taken by the Department for pathological examination in connection with Dysentery cases. 944 were from notified home cases of which 402 proved positive, and 1,085 from contacts of which 268 were positive. 449 of the remaining 1,930 " follow-up " specimens were also positive.

FOOD POISONING

7 of the 9 confirmed cases (including those for Southwark residents notified to other Boroughs from hospitals in their areas) were individual cases, as follows :—

Salmonella Typhi-murium ..	5
Salmonella Anatum	1
Salmonella Derby	1

The remaining 2 cases were in " outbreaks " (more than one case in a family) due to Salmonella Typhi-murium.

CANCER OF LUNG AND BRONCHUS

Deaths From:	Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	Respiratory Tuberculosis	All Causes
1953	62	21	1209
1954	65	22	1098
1955	57	23	1300
1956	61	21	1196

The highest mortality rate from neoplasm of the lung and bronchus occurred in the 45-64 age groups ; that of tuberculosis between the ages of 65 and 74.

TUBERCULOSIS

Including inward transfers, there were 19 fewer pulmonary cases than last year, and 9 more non-pulmonary.

				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary (all forms)
Cases at end of 1955	..	..	..	1421	172
New cases 1956	..	..	..	140	16
Inward transfers 1956	..	..	..	78	5
Less removals from Register	..	..	..	171	15
Cases at end of 1956	..	..	..	1468	178

Deaths were four less than in 1955—2 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary

		Age Groups											Total
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total
Pulmonary :													
Primary	{ M.					1	4	2	12	17	35	17	88
Notifica- tions				1	-	1	1	4	13	13	12	7	52
*New cases other than by formal notification	{ M. F.												
Totals 1956 ..				1	-	2	5	6	25	30	47	24	140
Non-Pulmonary													
†Primary	{ M.					1	1	1	-	3	1	-	7
Notifica- tions						1	-	1	2	4	1	-	9
†*New cases other than by formal notification	{ M. F.												
Totals 1956 ..		-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	7	2	-	16

* Local and inward transferable Death Returns and posthumous notifications.

† Include meninges and Central Nervous System.
Primary notifications : 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, 1956.												
			Total 1955	Total 1956	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65—
Anthrax	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Dysentery	1,263	162	231	716	29	64	55	49	68	250	64	30	85	13	9
Encephalitis :															
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	10	2	14	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	1
†Food Poisoning :															
Bacterial	47	9	26	9	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	3	1	—
Toxic			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	450	63	2,142	447	23	70	63	55	61	166	4	3	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	3	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, 1956.												
			Total 1955	Total 1956	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65—
Pneumonia	52	28	86	64	2	1	1	—	2	6	3	3	19	16	11
Poliomyelitis :															
†Paralytic	2	3	41	5	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
†Non-paralytic ..	3	5	23	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	69	36	39	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	20	—	—
Scabies	38	—	33	38	—	—	1	1	1	7	6	5	8	5	4
Scarlet Fever	264	28	185	259	—	4	12	20	25	156	30	7	4	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	145	16	141	144	21	20	20	16	21	39	6	—	—	1	—
†Zymotic Enteritis ..	7	7	4	5	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(July-Sept.)															
TOTALS	2,356	360	*2,971	*1,743	84	160	157	141	181	627	114	67	142	45	25

Cases notified include 52 non-Southwark residents.

*Confirmed cases include 36 Southwark residents notified to other Boroughs. (74 in 1955).

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

TREATMENT AND BATHING CENTRE

(Superintendent—Mr. T. Lloyd)

There was a slight increase during the year in the number of schoolchildren treated for head and body vermin due to the fact that children from Bermondsey schools are now sent to this centre, in addition to those from Southwark and Lambeth Schools.

There has been, however, a very considerable reduction in the numbers of both male and female occupants of Common Lodging Houses and Hostels who have received treatment during the year. This is a welcome indication that the incidence of louse infestation amongst homeless people is now comparatively slight. The heaviest individual infestations of body vermin noted, have occurred with some old people living alone in one or two rooms.

Infestations of premises with the usual type of domestic pests, i.e., bed bugs and fleas, have again shown a considerable reduction during the year, although infestations of other types of insects have again increased. This department has been called upon to deal with a number of wood boring beetle infestations, some of which have been found to be dispersed throughout the ground floors of premises. Other infestations dealt with included Beetles, Ants, Silver fish, Clover Mites and flies of various species. In one block of flats a particularly heavy infestation of " Blow flies " (" Blue Bottles "—*Calliphora vomitoria*) resulted when the death of a lone occupant of one flat was not discovered until a period of some six weeks had elapsed.

Commercial premises dealt with have included a heavy infestation of " Crickets " in a factory, Common Cockroaches (*Blatta orientalis*) in a number of bakeries and German Cockroaches (*Blattela germanica*) in a cafe.

A considerable amount of disinfection has been carried out during the year—not only in domestic premises. During the Dysentery epidemic of the early part of the year, all schools where there had been a number of notified cases of Dysentery were disinfected. A hospital situated in the Borough requested help in reducing an infection passing through one of its wards. The wards and annexes were disinfected with " Formalin " and the contents were removed for steam disinfection.

During the early part of the year, a considerable strain was placed on the resources of the Centre in dealing with the extremely heavy notifications of Dysentery. In a period of less than five months over 700 notifications were received. On notification of infectious disease the home conditions are investigated, details of the case and contacts noted, arrangements made for the collection

of bacteriological specimens and disinfection that may be necessary, schools notified and details of how the disease is spread and precautions to be taken, are given to the family.

An increasing number of aged and infirm people of both sexes in need of bathing, are collected from their homes in our transport, bathed and returned home. Although it is often difficult to persuade some to agree to accept this service, it has been found that once the initial reluctance is overcome, they are generally very willing to attend on subsequent occasions.

Infectious Disease Cases : Enquiries and Visits.

Total—1,219 as under :

Tuberculosis deaths and removals : 8

Scarlet Fever	249	Food Poisoning	35
Diphtheria	2	Erysipelas	10
Poliomyelitis	21	Meningococcal infections	5
Enteritis	4	Dysentery (bacillary)	883
Anthrax	1	Paratyphoid " B "	1

Disinfection following infectious diseases.

Rooms treated (Formalin solution)	..	..	..	..	187
Schools treated (Dysentery epidemic)	..	..	..	..	15
Library books treated	..	..	..	..	297
Other disinfection, Tuberculosis, etc.	..	..	..	..	25
Hospital Wards, etc.	..	..	..	..	8

Treatment of Verminous and Infected Articles.

	Verminous articles treated	Verminous articles destroyed	Infected articles treated	Infected articles destroyed
Beds	114	9	7	4
Palliasses	642	18	47	1
Bolsters	176	2	4	1
Pillows	1,095	9	118	2
Cushions	138	1	3	1
Blankets	1,768	3	317	4
Sheets	995	5	228	2
Quilts	836	2	93	3
Other articles (clothing, etc.)	12,299	198	923	2

Effects destroyed on request or following death.

Verminous	..	3 tons 7 cwts.
Infected	..	1 ton

Disinfestation of Premises.

Body vermin	Domestic dwellings	725	rooms
infestations	Non-domestic premises ..	8	
Cockroaches, moths,	Domestic dwellings	213	rooms
flies, beetles, etc.	Non-domestic premises ..	30	

Scabies and Vermin Treatments.

				Scabies		Vermin	
				Males	Females	Males	Females
Lambeth cases .. ..	..	..	32	46	17	93	
treatments .. ..	..	..	58	81	17	100	
Southwark cases .. ..	..	..	25	33	667	183	
treatments .. ..	..	..	39	55	667	183	
L.C.C. Schoolchildren (Male and Female) .. ..	..	..		102		1,510	
treatments* .. ..	..	..		327		1,649	
Total treatments .. ..	..	..		560		2,616	
Bermondsey schoolchildren, treatments (included in total*)				3		224	

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

<i>Males :</i>				<i>Females :</i>			
Gordon House	1			83, Blackfriars Road ..	17		
Salvation Army Hostel ..	306			78, Camberwell Road ..	4		
Rowton House, Churchyard Row	126			90, Camberwell Road ..	3		
Rowton House, Vauxhall	2			96, Gt. Guildford Street ..	15		
Marshalsea Road Common Lodging House	20			Norwood House	17		
Hungerford Club	1			Newington Lodge	8		
Southwark casuals	93			Casuals	-		
Totals	549						64

Rehousing.

Precautionary disinfestation of soft goods and bedding 179 families.

Departmental Laundry.

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

Hand towels	7,178
Roller towels	530
Dusters	443
Swabs	116
Sheets	14

Condemned Foodstuffs.

Collected and destroyed 14 tons 1 cwts.

Trade goods disinfected and disinfested.

Steam disinfection	18 mattresses, 2 feather beds, 1 bed-settee suite.
Disinfestation	3 bakeries (cockroaches, silver fish and firebrats) Industrial premises, railway canteen (cockroaches).
Formaldehyde	3 parcels of clothing for export. 108 bales of waste paper for export.

National Assistance Act.

Enquiries regarding 15 deaths.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

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

Inspections upon receipt of complaint	.. .. .	3,708
Drainage inspections (and revisits)	.. .. .	2,732
Inspection of Factories	.. .. .	695
Inspection of Outworkers	.. .. .	253
Inspection of Common Lodging Houses	.. .. .	99
Rehousing cases : Inspections	.. .. .	724
Smoke Observations and inspections	.. .. .	242
Rodent Officers inspections of Industrial premises	.. .. .	141
" " " " Dwellings	.. .. .	935
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	.. .. .	—
Inspection of Offensive Trades Premises	.. .. .	42
Inspection and food sampling visits, shops and markets	.. .. .	1,590
Inspection and sampling visits, Catering and Ice Cream Premises	.. .. .	1,494
Inspection of food at Wharves and Warehouses	.. .. .	2,186
Bakehouses—Inspections	.. .. .	74
Fried Fish Shops—Inspections	.. .. .	81
Fishmongers' premises—Inspections	.. .. .	73
Re-inspections	.. .. .	12,464
Miscellaneous	.. .. .	2,059
Pet Animals Act and Sunday Market Inspections	.. .. .	246

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

Drain additions or reconstructions	164
Drains repaired	146
Drains unstopped	172
Watercloset pans and seats repaired or renewed	579
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	533
Soil pipes repaired, renewed or provided	187
Ventilation pipes provided	98
Sinks provided	421
Baths provided	363
Lavatory basins provided	520
Waste pipes provided	1,537
Waste pipes repaired	159
Yards paved, repaired or drained	37
Dustbins provided	75
Accumulations removed	90
Roofs and gutters repaired	550
Rain water pipes repaired or renewed	328
Dwellings provided with water	308
Dampness remedied	767
Window frames and glazing sashes repaired	305
Cills and reveals repaired	272
Sashcords renewed	475
Fireplaces and flues repaired	235
Floors repaired or renewed	207
Brickwork and pointing repaired	143
Staircases repaired	81
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	882
Walls and ceilings repaired	1,009
Other sanitary works executed	322
Total ..	10,965

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

NOTICES

Intimation Notices	1,626
Statutory Notices	1,269
Defects in Council controlled property reported to Housing Manager	97
Intimation Notices complied with	1,014
Statutory Notices complied with	897
Work carried out by Local Authority in default of owner	173

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Failure to Abate Nuisances.

Nuisance Orders :

7 days	..	..	2	
10 days	..	..	1	
14 days	..	..	4	
21 days	..	..	1	
28 days	..	..	9	
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	..	..	6	Work commenced or completed
Summons withdrawn	..	..	18	
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. 99 inspections of these premises were made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year, 52 of men's lodging houses and 47 of women's. Five 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 1956, 42 inspections were made.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

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

246 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, one complaint was received. The Metropolitan Water Board was informed and a sample analysed, which was found satisfactory.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Section 98

During the year 252 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 308 new dwellings as follows :—

MIDDLETON HOUSE, LAWSON STREET	..	..	..	25 flats
ALLEYN HOUSE, LAWSON STREET	..	..	..	25 „
BOARLEY HOUSE, CONGREVE STREET	..	..	..	20 „
NELSON SQUARE, LORD NELSON P.H.	..	..	..	1 house
OLD KENT ROAD, (233A, 233B)	..	..	..	2 flats
KEMPE HOUSE, LAWSON STREET	..	..	..	25 „
MICHAEL FARADAY HOUSE, FARADAY STREET	..	..	..	10 „
PORTLAND STREET, (Reconstruction)	..	..	..	25 dwellings
APPLEGARTH HOUSE, NELSON SQUARE	..	..	..	53 flats
L.C.C. WEIGHTS & MEASURES OFFICE, HARPER ROAD	..	..	..	1 flat
JONSON HOUSE, LAWSON STREET	..	..	..	27 flats
PILGRIM FATHERS' CHURCH, GT. DOVER STREET	..	..	..	1 flat
BRONTI CLOSE	..	..	..	18 flats
DAY HOUSE, BETHWIN ROAD	..	..	..	24 „
LYLY HOUSE, LAWSON STREET	..	..	..	27 „
HARFORD HOUSE, GOSCHEN STREET	..	..	..	24 „

OUTWORKERS

Two hundred and fifty-three 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	..	..	62
	{ Cleaning and washing	..	..	—
Stuffed toys	..	..	..	3
Lampshades	..	..	..	23
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	..	..	..	76
Cosaques, Christmas crackers & stockings, etc.	..	..	..	10
Brush making	..	..	..	1
Paper bags	..	..	..	5
Sacks	..	..	..	10
Wigs	..	..	..	3
Brass and Brass articles	..	..	..	1
Household linen	..	..	..	5
TOTAL	..	..	..	199

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

(Rodent Officer—Mr. R. Warboys)

	Type of Premises			
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Business & Others	Total
I. Total properties	37	24,671	5,099	29,807
II. Properties inspected as a result of :—				
(a) Notification	—	1,504	277	1,781
(b) Survey under Act ..	—	1,534	388	1,922
(c) Otherwise	—	31	111	142
III. Total Inspections (including Reinspections) ..	—	5,207	796	6,003
IV. Properties inspected infested by :—				
Rats { Major	—	2	3	5
{ Minor	—	569	188	757
Mice { Major	—	—	—	—
{ Minor	—	877	100	977
V. Number of infested properties (IV) treated by local authority	—	1,448	291	1,739
VI. Notices served under Sec. 4 :—				
(a) Treatment	—	34	—	34
(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	59—2,857 visits (2,151 dwelling houses, 706 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	935	141
Inspections by Rodent Staff	4,966	1,043
Drains tested	271	13
Drains defective	94	5
Drains repaired	93	2
Drains opened for examination	100	3
Prebaiting laid	—	7,005
Poison baits	8,717	3,191
Bodies recovered	431	313
Works completed by arrangement	46	—

RODENT CONTROL

Coinciding with the end of the year was the termination of a three-year period of sewer treatment during which time the sewers had been treated quarterly, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The quarterly treatment had been advocated locally and from the results so far obtained, it seemed that the treatment had been most successful. More than a half of the 1,018 manholes on the sewerage system have given "No takes" and at the time of the last treatment, only in three cases was the poison bait completely taken.

Ten per cent. zinc phosphide poison bait has been used and was checked some 48 hours afterwards. This method has reduced to a minimum the cost of sewer treatment.

A very vigorous policy has been maintained in connection with the location of defective drainage, in order to ensure satisfactory repair. Dealing with the drains and sewers simultaneously has no doubt been responsible for the reduction by 14 per cent. in the number of complaints received in the Department.

VENTILATION OF SEWERS

To assist the ventilation of the sewerage system, the caps have been removed from the rodding eyes of the interceptors of the drainage of certain premises under the control of the Local Authority and in order to prevent rats gaining access to the drainage systems from the sewers, wire mesh was substituted for the removed caps.

It is understood that there has been an improvement in the ventilation of the sewers as a result of this action, but it is too early to come to a conclusion as to whether the procedure already adopted in respect of certain Local Authorities' premises could be advocated as a general principle. In any case, the caps should not be removed from any drainage system until the Local Authority is satisfied that the drains are in a satisfactory condition and would not provide egress for rats which would eventually infest the premises.

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

191 certificates of disrepair and 40 revocation certificates were issued during the year under the above Act.

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

During the year three 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.

Nine 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.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

In accordance with Section 18 of the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1954, relating to hairdressers and barbers' establishments, fourteen such premises were registered during the year, making a total of 65.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Under the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, Sanitary Inspectors are henceforth designated as Public Health Inspectors.

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936—REPAIRS

The Public Health Committee in October authorised legal proceedings to be instituted for the recovery of the cost of repairs undertaken by the Council in default of owners in accordance with the provisions of Section 286 (6)(a) of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

In certain cases where the owners were unknown, proceedings were also authorised, pursuant to Section 289 (1) of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for the recovery, if necessary, of the costs of work from the occupiers of the premises.

VACANT SITES

A comprehensive survey was made during the year of all sites in the Borough, with particular regard to their general state, nuisances requiring action, sealing off of disused drains from demolished properties, and rat infestation.

LIGHTING OF STAIRCASES

As long ago as 1946 this Council drew the attention of the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee to the lack of powers requiring owners of tenement buildings to provide artificial lighting on common staircases; these powers were formerly contained in the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1927, which was repealed by the Public Health (London) Act of 1936, as it was thought that the Housing Act of that year would enable byelaws to be made for this purpose.

In 1955 the Council again raised the matter with the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee, and as a result of their representations the London County Council inserted a clause in their General Powers (No. 2) Bill, reviving the powers of the 1927 Act.

The draft clause, however, contained certain weaknesses, and after a number of discussions with officers of the London County

Council suitable amendments were made. In its final form, the clause empowered Borough Councils to serve a notice on an owner (or, in certain circumstances, an occupier) requiring him to provide adequate means for the artificial lighting of a common staircase in a house let in lodgings or occupied by more than one family, or in a building occupied as two or more separate dwellings. In default of the owner, the work could be carried out by the Borough Council.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government drew attention to the fact that Parliament had recently passed local Acts giving the local authorities concerned powers to make bye-laws dealing with the artificial lighting of common staircases, and accordingly it was agreed that such a clause should be included in the County Council's Bill in substitution for that proposed. It was, however, feared that model bye-laws would not enable borough councils to carry out the work in default of owners, and that for this reason the bye-law making power was an inadequate substitution for the clause as finally submitted to the House.

The Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee were accordingly informed that additional powers were considered to be necessary.

PLEASURE FAIR

Careful investigations were made into arrangements for a pleasure fair to be held on a vacant site for three weeks in November and December.

The sanitary arrangements were satisfactory, and no Public Health nuisance was caused.

NUISANCE FROM FACTORY

Complaints of a nuisance arising from a local factory have been received intermittently from local residents during the last four years. In spite of modifications carried out to the plant the complaints are justified and the conditions are a contravention of Section 147 (2)(c) of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, which deals with "any trade or business which occasions any noxious or offensive effluvia, or otherwise annoys the neighbourhood or inhabitants, without using the best practicable means for preventing or counteracting the effluvia or annoyance."

The factory management have made every effort to collect the dust produced in their factory, but as they have received notice from the London County Council to vacate these premises under a Town Planning Scheme, and all the arrangements regarding compensation, etc., were concluded, they claim that it is difficult, in the circumstances, for them to undertake large-scale alterations to this factory.

The matter was discussed with the London County Council, but as the freeholder will not accept a properly negotiated purchase price, the London County Council is having to take compulsory powers. The County Council were requested to expedite the removal of this factory in order to end this nuisance.

DISPOSAL AND STORAGE OF REFUSE

Following complaints from the dust collecting teams, through their Union, of the difficulties and unpleasantness involved in making collections where the disposal of refuse was carried out by means of dust chutes a detailed inspection was made by the Public Health Inspectors of the blocks of dwellings where dust chutes are in operation. The majority of these flats are of the old type and the methods of refuse disposal have remained unaltered throughout the years.

From the discussions with the owners, it was evident that the chief objection to any scheme of modernisation or bettering existing methods of refuse disposal on the premises was the expense involved in structural alterations and difficulties in finding suitable places for the storage and emptying of dust bins or Paladin containers at the blocks of flats. Nevertheless, a number of owners co-operated readily and some schemes of reconstruction are under consideration.

The conditions of some basement ashpits are deplorable and major alterations would involve costly structural alterations and the necessity of some rehousing, but the matter is being kept under close supervision.

CLEANSING OF TENEMENT HOUSES

The attention of the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee was drawn to the fact that borough councils now have no power to require the regular periodical cleansing of rooms, etc., in tenement houses. Formerly it had been possible, under a bye-law made by the London County Council, to require owners to remedy defects in such dwellings which could not properly be included in nuisance notices under Public Health legislation. This power was repealed by Section II of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 (which empowers local authorities to require works to be carried out in houses let in lodgings to render the premises reasonably suitable for occupation by more than one family), but it was considered that the present powers are not sufficient to enable local authorities to require periodical cleansing of rooms, etc.

The Medical Advisory Body of the Standing Joint Committee were of the opinion that power on the lines of the old bye-law would in fact require a higher standard of maintenance for the rooms of houses let in lodgings than for the rooms of a house in single occupation (which does not appear to be justified), and that the main difficulty in London is to obtain the cleansing of common staircases and other parts of buildings (for example, lavatories) which are used in common. Additional powers which should be limited to such parts of a building would have to be obtained by means of a clause in a London County Council (General Powers) Bill.

It was pointed out that the suggestion refers to tenement houses (that is houses let in lodgings) and not tenement buildings such as are mainly found in this borough. The suggested powers would,

however, be useful in special cases, and the Standing Joint Committee were informed that additional powers are necessary, and should be limited to parts of buildings common in use.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

This Act received Royal Assent on 5th July, 1956, and certain sections came into operation on the 31st December, 1956.

Its main objects are to prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys, railway engines and vessels; to prohibit the installation of new industrial furnaces unless they are reasonably capable of being operated without emitting smoke; to require that the emission of grit from furnaces shall be minimised; and to empower Local Authorities to declare smoke control areas in which smoke emission from chimneys shall be an offence.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

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

The figures of deposited matter in the industrial area of the Borough showed a general improvement. This trend has been consistent over the past few years and probably is largely due to the restricted use of the old Bankside Generating Station. It is noted, however, that the figures of deposits recorded at Walworth Road, which is mainly a residential area, have shown a slight increase, principally during the winter months. The sulphur dioxide figures, both from the lead peroxide instruments and the daily volumetric apparatus, have shown a higher average than the previous year, and it is difficult to give an adequate reason for this increase especially in view of the reduced domestic coal consumption in the Borough.

During the year, several complaints were received of smoke emissions from works' incinerators burning waste products. Visits by the Inspector resulted in the installation of one new incinerator and two others being repaired. It is often found that primitive equipment and methods are used for the burning of wastes and rubbish.

Many of the smoke emissions from factory chimneys were found to be due to excessive demands on the boilers or to mechanical faults or to new personnel. In all cases the management concerned took action to abate the nuisance. One furnace which had been converted to oil burning had to return to coal because of the oil shortage, and the change over caused some smoke at the time.

On several occasions advice has been sought of the Department as to the most suitable type of heating appliance and fuel. Two talks on "Air Pollution and what the Council is Doing" have been given, and our exhibition models have been loaned to other Boroughs.

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

SULPHUR DIOXIDE (Lead Peroxide Method) (mgm SO ₃ /sq. cm./day)				Mean Daily Concentration of	
				SULPHUR DIOXIDE parts per 100 million	SMOKE mgms/m ³
	Walworth Road	St. George's	Bankside	Walworth Road	
January ..	5.81	3.73	6.01	22.0	1.17
February ..	6.06	3.97	6.07	17.7	0.65
March ..	4.52	—	4.57	18.6	0.62
April ..	4.20	2.81	3.83	—	—
May ..	2.41	1.54	2.48	4.3*	0.12*
June ..	1.35	0.98	1.61	2.3	0.19
July ..	1.74	1.01	2.00	2.8	0.13
August ..	1.99	1.16	2.35	3.1	0.09
September ..	2.66	1.63	3.20	5.2	0.16
October ..	3.92	2.36	4.10	8.9	0.38
November ..	5.4	3.5	6.4	13.7	0.54
December ..	5.1	3.2	5.3	27.7	0.52
				*Observations 14th–31st May	

Deposited matter at following sites :—

1956		Bankside (Recorded by Borough Council)	Walworth Road (Recorded by Borough Council)	Greenmore Wharf (Recorded by Central Electricity Authority)	Bankside Jetty (Recorded by Central Electricity Authority)
		Tons per square mile			
January ..	..	43.1	37.7	36.8	24.7
February ..	..	21.9	8.4	18.3	9.3
March ..	..	25.3	28.8	43.7	19.5
April ..	..	26.3	25.4	26.6	15.9
May ..	..	14.3	13.7	—	28.7
June ..	..	24.6	16.6	33.1	9.7
July ..	..	31.2	18.3	31.3	14.3
August ..	..	34.0	26.6	22.1	4.7
September ..	..	21.8	16.4	32.2	17.0
October ..	..	20.8	25.9	18.7	13.9
November ..	..	16.2	18.8	22.6	15.9
December ..	..	30.0	25.0	33.0	17.6

During the year, 14 complaints were received regarding smoke emissions: 242 observations and inspections were made by the Inspector, and 11 Intimation Notices issued.

The Council supported representations made by Islington Borough Council against the proposal of the London Transport Executive to replace trolley buses with diesel engined buses. It was contended that the resulting increase in exhaust fumes may constitute a serious danger to health in the light of recent enquiries into lung cancer.

FACTORIES ACTS

Five hundred and thirty-nine inspections of Factories were made during the year, and 21 notices were served. There are now 1,052 factories of all types on the register, comprising 253 factories without mechanical power, 746 with mechanical power, and in addition 53 building sites, for which a further 156 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	253	69	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	746	470	20	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	53	156	—	—
Total	1,052	695	21	—

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)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :—					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	32	34	—	4	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	8	10	—	—	—
Total	40	44	—	4	—

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	—
Informal notices issued (requesting voluntary action) :—	20
complied with	—

5 properties repaired upon request, without issue of informal notice.

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

Demolition Orders—

Made and sealed—8
(5 represented in 1955)

Represented for Demolition—16

3.—*Premises demolished* (Section 11)—13

Documents sealed 1953—11 properties

Undertakings previously received—2 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 1955)

Represented—2 properties (adjourned 'sine die').

5.—*Parts of premises* (Section 12)—

Closing Orders made and sealed.

145 underground rooms (3 represented in 1953, 32 represented in 1954, 72 represented in 1955)

7 other rooms

5 other rooms (sealed 1956. Order made 1955).

Closing Orders made, not sealed.

10 underground rooms (3 represented in 1955)
2 other rooms

Represented for Closure.

59 underground rooms
26 other rooms

Approval was granted for 14 underground rooms and 6 others, officially closed, to be used for specified purposes, subject to no nuisance arising.

6.—**Rooms made fit for habitation**—6 underground rooms.

7.—Clearance Areas (Section 25).

Confirmed by Minister 3 (9 properties) (2 represented 1955)
Declared, not confirmed 3 (16 properties)
Represented only —

Six areas (63 properties) represented in 1955 are included in confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders.

Premises demolished—(Sec. 25 Orders)—38.

Summary of works completed during 1956 as a result of Notices served following inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations :—

Nil

No notices served.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

No. of Dwellings in Borough 24,677

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. | 4,290 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. | 17,930 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwellings (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | 582 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. | 1,758 |
| (3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 39 |
| (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 | 1,646 |

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

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	1,019
---	-------

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

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 (20 "informal" section 9 notices were issued)	20
---	----

(2) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	—
(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 ..	1,626
---	-------

(2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	897
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	173

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
---	---

(2) Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	13
--	----

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	164
--	-----

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	6
---	---

TOTAL INSPECTIONS :

Housing Consolidated Regs. :	582
--------------------------------------	-----

TOTAL RE-INSPECTIONS	1,176
-------------------------------------	-------

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 more were rehoused than in the previous year.

There were considerably fewer cases needing medical recommendation, and more of these, also, were rehoused than for some years past.

MEDICAL

<i>Recommendations</i>	1954	1955	1956
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis	50	51	29
Cases recommended to L.C.C. on other medical grounds	75	91	19
Cases recommended to Southwark Borough Council on medical grounds	243	203	160
Cases recommended to Southwark Borough Council on grounds of Tuberculosis	12	10	10
Total cases recommended	380	355	218

<i>Rehoused</i>	1954	1955	1956
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on grounds of Tuberculosis	11	9	4
Cases rehoused by L.C.C. on other medical grounds	31	17	14
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on grounds of Tuberculosis	—	9	7
Cases rehoused by Southwark Borough Council on other medical grounds	20	19	43
Cases rehoused by other authorities on grounds of Tuberculosis	—	—	1
Medical cases rehoused by own efforts	5	—	5
Total cases rehoused	67	54	74

OVERCROWDING

	1954			1955			1956		
	<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 1953)</i>			<i>(End of 1954)</i>			<i>(End of 1955)</i>		
Remaining on register	445	546	2,506	461	564	2,540	489	593	2,652
New Cases reported and recommended	92	104	449	75	80	366	60	64	308
Total	537	650	2,955	536	644	2,906	549	657	2,960
Overcrowding abated	76	86	415	47	51	254	75	80	318
Remaining on register	461	564	2,540	489	593	2,652	474	577	2,642
<i>Overcrowding abated :</i>									
Rehoused by L.C.C.	65	72	347	32	32	175	11	11	50
Rehoused by Borough Council	3	5	22	13	17	69	11	11	49
Rehoused by other Boroughs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rehoused by owners	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moved away	8	9	46	2	2	10	53	58	219
Found own accommodation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed by overcrowding survey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	76	86	415	47	51	254	75	80	318

	1954	1955	1956
No. of visits involved	1,175	1,068	724

OTHER CASES

Referred to L.C.C. and Borough Council ... .. .	...	...	...	144
Rehoused .. .. .	...	...	...	54

FOOD

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year, 411,789 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 :—

	Description	Tonnage
Meat	58,385	
Meat Products	26,234	
Offal	8,692	
Poultry and Rabbits	1,435	
Bacon	483	
Casings	610	
Butter	56,670	
Margarine	8,919	
Lard	11,423	
Canned Milk, etc.	3,933	
Shelled Eggs, etc.	5,125	
Cheese	39,489	
Fruit	70,025	
Canned Fruit	39,672	
Purees, Pulp and Fruit Juices	3,051	
Vegetables (Fresh and Canned)	27,711	
Canned Fish	11,242	
Preserves	3,050	
Flour	14,724	
Canned Soups	193	
Cocoa Butter	1,335	
Des. Cocoa	1,256	
Palmkernel Oil	385	
Confectionery	178	
Nuts	7,186	
Licorice Paste	2,948	
Chicory	495	
Sugar	6,839	
Miscellaneous	101	
Total	411,789	

Samples Submitted :**Chemical Analysis.**

<i>Samples of :</i>	<i>Number submitted.</i>
Fruit (Fresh and Canned)	213
Canned Fish	28
Canned Meat Products	29
Canned Vegetables	3
Dried Fruit	1
Fruit Juices	1
Licorice Paste	1

Bacteriological Examination.

<i>Samples of :</i>	<i>Number submitted.</i>
Chinese Egg Albumen	1,553
Chinese Egg Powder	56
Chinese Dried Whole Egg	99
Chinese Powdered Yolk	53
Chinese Frozen Egg White	20
Dutch Dried Whole Egg	60
Dutch Pressed Veal	5
Canned German Hams	6
Canned Italian Tomatoes	6
Argentine and Australian Chilled Beef	12

PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS,

1937—1948.

Frozen Australian Minced Beef.

A consignment of 7×60 lb. cartons of Frozen Australian Minced Beef was detained at Nelson's Wharf, S.E.1, and ultimately released after a written undertaking had been received that these cartons would be held "in bond" at the Admiralty Cold Store and utilised for naval purposes only.

Lard.

A consignment of 93 cartons each 56 lb. of wet damaged lard was detained at Pickfords Wharf, S.E.1, and ultimately released to be used for technical purposes only.

Algerian Carrots.

Consignments comprising 2,594×25-30 lb. boats of carrots were found to be affected by a spreading black and white mould growth. The carrots were sorted at the British Railways Grande Vitesse Depot and approximately 27 tons were transported to the Council's Depot for disposal.

Australian Butter.

A consignment of Australian Butter comprising 18×56 lb. cartons which was contaminated by dock water and detained at New Hibernia Cold Store, S.E.1, was released for re-processing.

A consignment of Australian Butter comprising 2×56 lb. cartons containing glass fragments due to broken Thermometers was released for soap manufacture.

“Honey Dew” Melons.

A large consignment of melons imported from Spain had been in Cold Storage at Faversham and were inspected at the Distributing Depot. 1,267 boxes of melons weighing 31 tons were found to be affected by Black Mould and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners. 14 tons of these melons were removed to Honduras Wharf for destruction and the remaining 17 tons removed to be disposed of for animal feeding purposes.

UN SOUND FOOD

During the year 177 tons 12 cwt. 1 qtr. 25 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	..	..	..	—	5	2	10
Poultry and Rabbits	..			1	12	2	14
Offal	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Meat Products	..	..		15	11	—	8
Bacon	..	..	..	—	3	2	21
Cooked Hams	..	..		3	13	3	—
Canned Fish	..	..		1	12	3	3
Fruit	..	..	..	35	14	3	27
Canned Fruit	..	..		14	4	—	3
Purees, Pulp and Fruit Juices	..	..	..	26	17	3	4
Vegetables	..	..	..	30	16	2	13
Canned Vegetables	..			3	11	3	9
Cheese and Lard	..	..		1	11	2	16
Frozen Egg	..	..		—	18	1	3
Canned Milk	..	..		2	14	1	13
Preserves	..	..	..	—	9	2	13
Canned Soup	..	..		5	2	1	19
Confectionery	..	..		—	2	2	25
Miscellaneous	..	..		—	—	2	2
				144	16	1	7

Food released for Animal Feeding :—

Fruit	..	..	..	14	—	—	—
				14	—	—	—

Food released for Technical Purposes :—

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	..	..	..	11	19	2	19
Offal	..	..	..	1	6	1	4
Bacon	2	15	2	25
				16	1	2	20

Food released for Manufacturing Purposes :—

Canned Meat	—	9	—	11
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Food condemned at shops :—*Destroyed :*

Meat	—	1	1	8
Meat Products	—	5	1	22
Poultry	—	—	3	7
Offal	..	..	..	—	—	3	7
Cooked Hams	..	..	..	—	1	2	4
Fish	..	..	..	—	1	3	10
Fruit	..	..	..	—	10	2	17
Canned Fruit	..	..	..	—	11	1	17
Purees, Pulp, etc.	..	..	..	—	2	—	25
Vegetables and Canned							
Vegetables	..	..	..	—	1	1	26
Fats and Cheese	..	..	..	—	4	—	8
Canned Milk, etc.	..	..	..	—	—	—	27
Cereals	..	..	..	—	3	1	—
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	—	—	1	5
				2	5	1	15

ICE-CREAM

There are 248 ice-cream dealers and 12 manufacturers in this Borough, an increase of 7 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 32 samples of ice-cream were taken with the following results :—

- 24 samples, Grade I.
- 3 samples, Grade II.
- 4 samples, Grade III.
- 1 sample, Grade IV.

In addition :

18 samples were chemically examined for compliance with the prescribed standards of composition of ice-cream. One of those samples did not contain the requisite amount of fat and the vendor was cautioned. Samples subsequently taken at the premises were satisfactory.

Periodical inspections were made to all premises.

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.

130 Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

144 Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk.

108 Dealers' Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Supplementary Licences

18 Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk.

19 Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk.

18 Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

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

Thirty-five 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 154 registered milk distributors in the Borough, whilst the number of distributors purveying milk in the Borough from registered premises elsewhere was 20. 317 inspections of Milkshops and Dairies were made during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS

Five 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 21 Bakehouses in use in Southwark, of which 3 were Basement Bakehouses.

Seventy-four inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

A basement Bakehouse at 119, Walworth Road, was closed by the occupier.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are now no slaughterhouses in the Borough.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 420 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, 1955)

There are now 85 premises (a decrease of 6) registered for the purpose of the Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food intended for Sale.

ANALYSIS OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN FOOD PREMISES

Yards cleansed	33
Walls and Ceilings repaired	119
Kitchens, Sculleries, Food Stores, and Dining Rooms, redecorated and cleansed	206
Roofs and Gutters repaired or renewed	21
Shelves and Cupboards cleansed	151
Floors repaired or renewed	54
Staircase risers and treads repaired or renewed	31
Hot water supplies provided	26
Waste pipes provided and repaired	36
Drains unstopped	15
Drains repaired	14
Dustbins provided	37
Dampness remedied	24
Water-closets repaired or renewed	29
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	27
Walls and Ceilings to water-closets redecorated and cleansed	85
Artificial lighting provided	13
Refrigerators repaired or provided	20
Food cupboards provided	13
Covering provided for cakes and sandwiches	78
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	46
Utensils cleansed	96
Ventilation provided	18
Sinks provided	29
Miscellaneous repairs	174
TOTAL	1,395

COMPOSITION OF SAUSAGES

A report on sausages by the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food recommended that the proportion of fat should not exceed 50 per cent. of the total meat content. The Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee were asked to make representations to the Minister that in calculating the meat content of sausages regard should be had only to the amount of trimmed meat.

The General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Standing Joint Committee were, however, unable to recommend this action, following a report from the Advisory Body of Medical Officers of Health that if the meat content were based on lean meat only the proportion of " filler " material might be increased at the expense of fat, resulting in a very inferior product.

COFFEE EXTRACT

Arising from an advertisement and a report by the Public Analyst that an informal sample consisted of a dry Coffee extract and was therefore incorrectly described as 100 per cent. Pure Coffee, the manufacturer gave an undertaking to modify the label suitably.

EGG PRODUCTS

During the year considerable attention has been given to the examination of imported egg products. Two chambers were specially constructed for the heat treatment of egg albumen as a result of collaboration with the trade, and the method of heat treatment proved to be most successful.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955

Extensive steps were taken to ensure that the provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations (the main part of which became operative on 1st January) were made known to food traders. Over 1,200 booklets were sent out to catering establishments, food shops, etc., with explanatory letters offering the assistance or advice of the Public Health Department.

From 1st July all stalls selling open food for immediate consumption are required to have an adequate supply of clean hot water available. These requirements were also carefully notified to all stall holders.

The utmost co-operation has been evident from the great majority of food traders of every description in the Borough, and the general standard of hygiene has improved.

FOOD SHOPS

Public houses	..	..	..	..	..	165
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	143
Factory canteens	..	..	..	..	..	112
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	47
Fish shops (wet and dry) and fried fish shops	..					59
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	21
Greengrocers	...	...	..	..	..	222
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	158
Ice cream dealers and manufacturers	..	..				260
Schools providing food	..	..	..	..		50
Milk distributors	..	..	..	..		154

FOOD SAMPLING

During the year under review, 508 samples and 847 informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst. Of these, 9 and 10 respectively revealed adulteration or other infringements, as follows :—

	Samples Examined		Non-genuine Samples	
	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Milk	124	35	2	1
Condensed Milk.. ..	—	5	—	—
Ice -cream	32	18	—	1
Fats, cheese, etc.	60	71	1	—
Meat and fish preparations ..	47	159	2	1
Cereals, etc.	25	42	—	—
Vinegar & non-brewed Condi- ments	22	14	2	1
Herbs	8	17	—	—
Spices and condiments.. ..	18	32	—	1
Pickles, sauces, etc.	11	38	—	—
Jams and preserves	15	18	—	—
Wines, spirits, ales	14	34	—	2
Soft drinks	—	25	—	—
Medicine and drug preparations	9	83	1	1
Fruit and canned fruit.. ..	10	22	—	1
Dried fruit	18	26	—	—
Canned vegetables	2	12	—	—
Canned soups, etc.	10	6	1	—
Custard powders, jellies, etc. ..	11	38	—	—
Confectionery	30	64	—	1
Tea, coffee, cocoa, etc.	28	33	—	—
Cake and pudding mixtures ..	14	55	—	—
	508	847	9	10

NON-GENUINE SAMPLES.

Formal Samples.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Samples of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
235	Butter.	16.3 per cent. water.	Caution.
262	Beef Sausages.	120 parts per million sulphur dioxide (undeclared).	Caution.
263	Pork Sausages.	210 parts per million sulphur dioxide (undeclared)	Caution
377	Chicken Noodle Soup (canned).	Lead 4 parts per million.	Importers notified.
463	Milk.	2.2 per cent. extraneous water.	Caution.
479	Non-brewed Condiment.	4 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Caution.
547	Milk.	2.7 per cent. extraneous water.	Caution.
102	Vitamin Tablets.	Incorrectly labelled.	Caution.
107	Non-brewed Condiments.	35 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Summons.

Informal Samples.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample of</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
672a	Evaporated Milk	Tin 2.3 grains per pound.	No more in stock.
674a	Non-brewed Condiment.	4 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Caution.
749a	Pears.	Contaminated with arsenic and lead.	Supply discontinued.
810a	Whipped Cream Snowballs.	Contained no cream.	Manufacturer agreed to alter label.
17a	Fishcakes.	Deficient in fish.	Subsequent sample satisfactory.
98a	Vitamin Capsules.	Incorrectly labelled.	Formal sample taken.
147a	Cayenne Pepper.	Lead 15 parts per million.	Formal sample satisfactory.
248a	Ice cream	10 per cent. deficient in fat.	Formal sample genuine.
389a	Whisky.	41 degrees under proof.	Formal sample genuine.
391a	Whisky.	39 degrees under proof.	Formal sample genuine.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS : FOOD & DRUGS ACT

<i>Defendant.</i>	<i>Nature of Infringement.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Butcher.	Selling Minced Beef containing 2,400 parts per million of sulphite preservative.	Fined £3 0s. with £2 12s. 6d. costs
Butcher.	Selling Minced Beef containing 180 parts per million of sulphite preservative.	Fined £2 with £2 2s. costs.
Baker.	Selling a cheese roll containing part of a cigarette.	Fined £2 with £3 3s. costs.
Baker.	Selling a cream slice contaminated with rodent excreta.	Fined £5 with £5 5s. costs.
Manufacturer.	Selling Non-Brewed Condiment 35 per cent. deficient in acetic acid.	Fined £7 with £3 3s. costs.
Provisioner.	Selling fish cakes in a mouldy condition.	Fined £3 10s. with £9 9s. costs.
Manufacturer.	Selling meat pies in a mouldy condition.	Fined £5 with £2 2s. costs.

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

PHARMACY & POISONS ACT, 1933

During the year 109 inspections were made of the various premises listed by the Council for the sale of Part II Poisons under the above Act.

There are 63 names of persons on the Council's list of Sellers of Part II Poisons.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Compulsory Removals.

During the year under review, it was not necessary to invoke the powers provided by Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, or the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the compulsory removal of any persons in need of care and attention.

Burial of the Dead.

During the year the Council arranged for fifteen burials under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, at a total cost of £180 10s. 0d.