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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

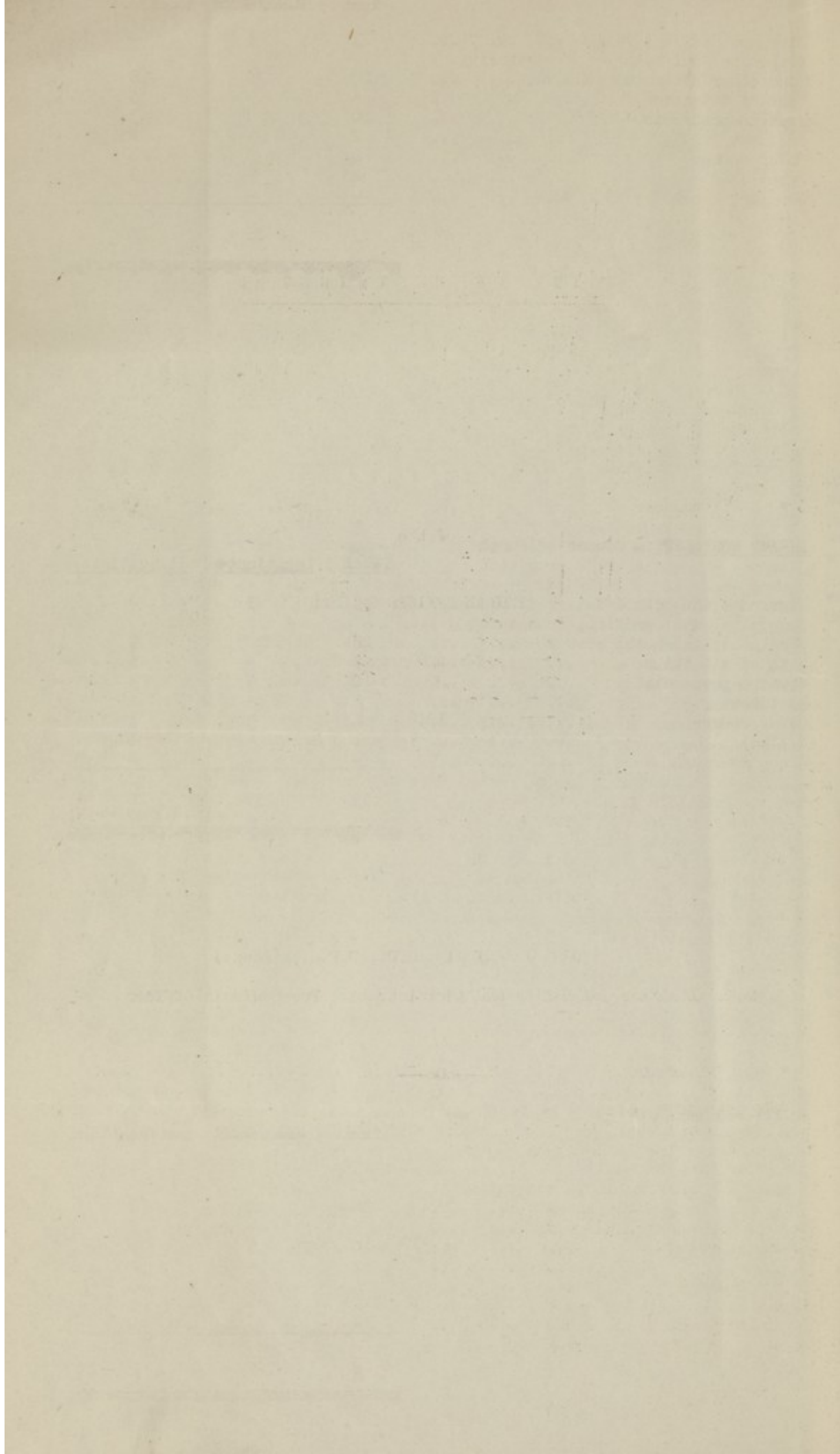
for the year

1946

ANDREW J. GREENE, M.D., D.P.H., (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health and Administrative Tuberculosis Officer

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To the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the City of Westminster.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Public Health and Sanitary conditions of the City for the year 1946. This report, the twenty second presented by me as your Medical Officer of Health, is prepared in accordance with Circular 220/46 of the Ministry of Health. The Minister requests that the report shall follow the lines of those submitted during the war, namely, an abbreviated document mainly supplying information on matters which the Minister wishes to be informed, together with certain vital statistics and a brief reference to other responsibilities of the Medical Officer of Health relating to public health and hygiene.

Among matters with which the City Council is concerned, the Minister specially mentions tuberculosis, (including the allowances scheme), the progress of diphtheria immunisation, the care of premature infants and of illegitimate children, and the steps taken to combat infestation. Particulars relating to Part I and Part VIII of the Factories Act 1937 are also called for and are duly included.

This report attempts briefly to record the work of the department under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health during the first complete year of peace. While it is true that the people enjoy the inestimable relief from bombing, threats of invasion and anxieties over members of their families on active service, yet the turmoil and stresses of living arising from the scarcities of so many things tend to obliterate the memory of their deliverance from the immeasurably more trying dangers and difficulties of the war. In spite of the chilly and cheerless summer of 1946 followed by a winter the like of which for severity has not been known since 1895, the health of the citizens was remarkably good. The general death rate was lower than in 1945; there were no outbreaks of infectious disease; the infant death rate fell from 71.5 to 40.4 per thousand births, but as last year there was one maternal death.

There have been again no deaths from Diphtheria. Twenty years ago there were recorded 229 cases and 9 deaths. There can be little doubt that this threat to the lives of children is being overcome by immunisation. Increasing advantage is being taken of the facilities available at the Welfare Centres for protection against Diphtheria. It is estimated that now some 83% of all children under 5 years of age living in the City have been given immunity against Diphtheria. Notifications of this disease though showing an increase over the previous year indicate cases of a mild nature discernible by bacteriological tests.

With a considerably increased population over 1945 as estimated by the Registrar General it is gratifying to record a marked decrease in new cases of tuberculosis, especially among the non-pulmonary (a form of disease mostly found among children and young adults).

The Maternity and Child Welfare service has again been expanded to meet the increasing demands of the rising birth rate. Reference is made to the additional maternity beds provided and to the child welfare clinic established in the Covent Garden area. Two additional Health Visitors were appointed and take up their duties in 1947.

The energies of the sanitary inspectors have mainly been directed to housing which remains and is likely to remain a primary consideration for local authorities for many years to come. Second in importance to finding suitable dwellings for those without homes or those living in very unsatisfactory conditions is the maintenance and repair of occupied dwellings. Much of the old house property in the City has suffered sad deterioration during the war years; some of it was already qualifying for demolition when the war came. Now every house that can be preserved must be kept in occupation. It follows that repairs more extensive and expensive than ever contemplated are

necessary to maintain some of the oldest and least suitable properties in a state fit for habitation.

The work of inspection of catering establishments in the City has been expedited by the appointment of an additional inspector for this purpose. Two are now engaged whole time in this work. Comment has been made in the reports for 1944 and 1945 on the importance of this industry in Westminster and the need for constant supervision of the conditions in catering establishments, and of the nature and quality of food served. There is a tendency even more pronounced than during the war years for minor cases of food poisoning to arise. This may well be associated with the growing practice imposed by the scarcity of certain foods, of keeping what in the years of plenty would with easy conscience have been discarded.

I should like to conclude by expressing my appreciation of the kindness and consideration which I have always received from members of the Council and from my colleagues. My gratitude is always due to the ready assistance and interested loyalty given me by the staff of the department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW J. SHINNIE

September, 1947

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres): 2,502.7				
Population (Registrar General's Estimate 1946)...	...	...	...	90,110
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	...	...	...	22,536
Rateable value, March, 1947	...	...	...	£10,050,000

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	1,143	616	527
Illegitimate	218	118	100
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,361	734	627

Births notified ... 1,343

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 15.1
 Rate for London: 21.5; For England & Wales: 19.1

Number of Stillbirths ... 32

Rate of Stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ... 23.0

The birth rate for 1946 has again risen substantially. Last year it was 12.8, with an estimated population of 72,850. In 1935 it was 8.3 when the Registrar General's estimate of population for 1935 was 124,400, his estimate for 1946 is only 90,110.

DEATHS

Net deaths ... 1,020 (males 568; females 452)
 Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 11.3
 (Rate for London: 12.7; for England & Wales: 11.5)

Deaths from puerperal causes ... 1
 (Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births72)

Deaths of infants under 1 year ... 55 (males 36; females 19)

Death rate of infants under 1 year:

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	40.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	30.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	91.7

Rate for London ... 41

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " whooping cough	Nil
" " diarrhoea	Nil
" " cancer	168

INFANT MORTALITY - Causes of Death

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	5	5	-
Congenital malformation, Prematurity and other neo-natal causes ...	28	20	8
Want of attention ...	5	-	5
Broncho-pneumonia ...	10	7	3
Accident ...	2	-	2
Other causes ...	4	3	1
Syphilis ...	1	-	1
Whooping cough ...	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	55	35	20

As the Infantile Mortality rate for 1945 was unusually high, a careful analysis was made of the individual deaths. It was found that certain factors arising from the central position of Westminster in London had the effect of raising the rate, as compared with that in many other districts. Although these factors continue to apply, the rate for 1946 is considerably lower than that for the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATH (At all ages)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Influenza	1	1	2
Meningitis & Convulsions	2	1	3
Diarrhoea	4	2	6
Septic Diseases	3	2	5
Syphilis	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Lungs	45	18	63
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	1	5
Malignant growths	30	38	168
Congenital debility (Malformation, Prematurity, etc)	17	12	29
Old age	15	26	41
Locomotor ataxia & general paralysis	2	1	3
Diseases of nervous system	-	1	1
Circulatory diseases	190	144	334
Bronchitis	45	24	69
Broncho-pneumonia	59	46	105
Pneumonia	12	22	34
Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
Alcoholism	-	1	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Digestive diseases	16	11	27
Bright's disease, Nephritis, etc.	25	12	37
Cystitis	2	2	4
Accidents and negligence	30	20	50
Suicide and murder	10	3	13
Other violent causes	-	-	-
Other defined diseases	1	1	2
Rheumatic Fever	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Cirrhosis	2	3	5
Abortion	-	1	1
Whooping cough	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	1	1
	563	452	1,020

Among the causes of death, those of the heart and blood vessels hold highest place; a long way behind comes malignant disease

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	-
Polio-Myelitis	2	2	-
Diphtheria	48	48	-
Erysipelas	9	7	-
Scarlet Fever	109	69	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	1	1	-
Puerperal Fever	2	2	-
Puerperal Typhemia	14	8	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	2	-
Measles	276	71	-
Pneumonia	12	1	34
Dysentery	15	9	-
Whooping cough	100	36	-
Malaria	5	-	-
Scabies	347	-	-
Typhoid	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	-

Corrected Diagnosis: Diphtheria 1

Non-notifiable diseases - removed to hospital

German Measles	3
Chickenpox	20
Mumps	24
Gastro Enteritis	45
Septic Abortion	1

The incidence of Diphtheria was markedly less.

VACCINATION

Number of Certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 received during 1946 1,153

Number of persons vaccinated by the Public Vaccinators for the City:

Primary	553
Secondary	38

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

Diphtheria - negative 306; positive 26
Tuberculosis - negative 124; positive 50

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	3	1	1	-	2	1	1	-
5 to 10 "	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
10 to 15 "	2	3	1	2	-	-	1	-
15 to 20 "	7	9	-	1	1	2	-	-
20 to 25 "	7	11	-	1	-	2	-	1
25 to 35 "	21	16	-	1	3	3	-	-
35 to 45 "	21	9	-	-	5	3	1	-
45 to 55 "	13	2	-	-	17	4	-	-
55 to 65 "	11	3	-	-	13	2	-	-
65 & upwards	7	2	1	-	4	1	-	-
	94	58	4	5	45	18	4	1

New Cases

Pulmonary: 152 new cases, including 28 transfers, 3 posthumous notifications and 24 non-notified deaths.

Non-Pulmonary: 9 new cases, including 1 transfer.

(1945 - pulmonary: 193 new cases; Non-Pulmonary: 24 new cases)

Deaths from Tuberculosis:-

Pulmonary: 63 (45 males; 18 females)

Non-Pulmonary: 5 (4 males; 1 female)

WORK OF THE TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, 1946

The work has been continued on the lines indicated in previous reports. It is still handicapped by the prevailing shortage of beds for institutional treatment, and many patients have had to wait a long time for a vacancy. During the year 470 new patients attended, 214 males and 256 females. Total attendances numbered 2,066.

137 of the new patients were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 9 from other forms of the disease. 47 patients were recommended for Sanatorium treatment, and 64 for admission to Hospital. 915 reports were made to public authorities and 178 to medical practitioners.

The number of war pensioners under Dispensary supervision is increasing and National Service Boards are continuing to refer patients for special examination.

During the year, 900 X-ray films were taken and 174 specimens submitted for bacteriological examination.

TUBERCULOSIS - MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

The Ministry of Health treatment allowances continued to be of value to patients who fall into the categories eligible and the following applications were dealt with during the year -

Applications received	...	...	...	...	52
Applications granted	...	...	...	...	47
Allowances stopped during the year for following reasons:-					
a) Returned to work	...	...	...	...	28
b) Refused treatment	...	...	...	...	2
c) Died	...	...	...	...	4
d) Left District	...	...	...	...	13
e) End of period	...	...	...	...	2
f) In Institutions and receiving National Health Insurance	...	...	...	...	4
g) In receipt of Army pension	...	...	...	...	2

An average of 46 patients are drawing allowances at any given time.

The Minister of Health intimated that as from the 16th December, 1946, having regard to increases which the Assistance Board proposed to make in the prescribed rates of assistance for dependant children, the following scale for dependents under the age of 16 under the scheme of tuberculosis allowances was authorised:

Aged 11 and under 16	...	...	10/6d.
Aged 5 and under 11	...	...	9/-d.
Under 5	...	...	7/6d.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

During the year some 324 persons working in Westminster attended the London County Council miniature radiography unit whilst it was operating in other London Boroughs. Of these 9 were referred for further examination.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There are four purpose-built maternity and child welfare centres in the City, three built by the City Council and one by the City of Westminster Health Society. They are situated as follows :-

1, Bessborough Street, S.W.1.

1, Ebury Bridge Road, S.W.1.

Marshall Street, W.1.

and the Health Society Centre at 121, Marsham Street, S.W.1.

In addition Infant clinics are held once a week in hired accommodation at :-

The German Church,

19, Montpelier Place, S.W.1.

and

The London Medical Mission,

Short's Gardens,

Endell Street, W.C.2.

MATERNITY BEDS FOR WESTMINSTER MOTHERS

In view of the acute shortage of maternity beds during the year, the City Council in their endeavour to find additional accommodation for Westminster mothers were fortunate enough to enter into arrangements with the General Lying-in-Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, which was to be re-opened after the repair of war damage, for the reservation of two maternity beds for Westminster mothers sent through the Council's maternity and child welfare centres.

Westminster Hospital, with whom the Council have for many years had an arrangement for the reservation of two maternity beds, were already booked up and were unable to allocate any further beds for this purpose.

Charing Cross Hospital, with whom the Council also has an arrangement for the admission of Westminster mothers sent through the Centres but where the Council has no definite reservation of beds, also offered to assist by admitting an increased number of Westminster mothers consequent on the reduction of the lying-in period which would enable them to admit more patients into their maternity ward.

The Council were also able to enter into arrangements with St. George's Hospital, who were re-opening their maternity ward after war-damage repairs, for the reservation of two beds for mothers sent through the Council's Centres.

This hospital accommodation is in addition to the maternity beds available to Westminster mothers provided by the London County Council at Westminster Hospital, at its own hospitals in London, and in the evacuated maternity homes in the country.

The number of Westminster mothers who had their babies in hospital or maternity homes during the year were 1,094 as compared with 249 home confinements.

DAY NURSERIES

In December 1945 the Government intimated that the reimbursement of the cost of maintaining war-time day nurseries by the Exchequer would not be continued after 31st March, 1946, but that a special grant would be made as from the 1st April, 1946, towards the cost of approved schemes of day nursery provision

submitted by Welfare Authorities after consultation with the Education Authority and the Ministry of Labour.

The City Council, after consultation with the London County Council and the Ministry of Labour, decided to continue the day nursery facilities for Westminster mothers as follows :-

- (a) No.1 Bessborough Street, S.W.1. with accommodation increased from 50 places to 70 places.
- (b) Nos. 37/39 Bloomfield Terrace, S.W.1. with accommodation for 59 children.
- (c) The war-time day nursery at the Westminster Training College with accommodation for 60 children had to be given up on the 31st March 1946 as the owners required the return of the premises for educational purposes. A thorough search for alternative premises in the area which could be adapted for nursery purposes having proved unsuccessful, the Council decided, with the consent of the Ministry of Health, to erect a hatted nursery with accommodation for 60 children on a bombed site in Regency Street, S.W.1. to serve the needs of the area formerly served by the closed nursery referred to.

Difficulties experienced in regard to the supply of materials and the allocation of a starting date by the Ministry of Works have delayed the erection of this nursery but it is hoped that it will be completed during 1947.

The City of Westminster Health Society, a voluntary organisation performing maternity and child welfare services on behalf of the City Council in the St. Margaret and St. John Wards, re-opened in May 1946 a part-time day nursery for 30 children at their premises at 121 Marsham Street, S.W.1. The City Council making a grant of £1,040 towards the cost of the nursery for the financial year 1946/47.

VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

To expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	...	2,523
To children under 1	...	...	...	...	...	4,325
To children between 1 and 5	...	...	...	...	...	5,913

ANTE AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

Number of clinics held weekly	...	...	...	7
Number of women attending	...	...	...	<u>A.M.</u> 2,361 <u>P.M.</u> 241

Weekly clinics are also held at Westminster Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital, St. George's Hospital and the General Lying-in-Hospital, Lambeth for mothers who have made arrangements for their confinements in these hospitals.

INFANT CLINICS

Number of clinics held weekly	...	...	...	10
Attendances	...	...	...	5,110

MOTHERCRAFT CLASSES

Number of mothercraft instruction classes held weekly	6
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The increasing demands on the Maternity and Child Welfare services was only to be expected from a marked increase in the birth rate.

NEW INFANT WELFARE CLINIC

In order to meet the convenience of the increasing number of mothers in the North-Eastern area, the City Council established, by arrangement with the Holborn Borough Council, a weekly Infant Welfare Clinic in the London Medical Mission, Short's Gardens, W.C.2. on the 21st February, 1946.

The Clinic has been held regularly each week and has proved very acceptable to mothers living in the North-Eastern district.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

The Ministry of Health issued a Circular in March 1944 on the subject of the care of premature infants and the problem of neo-natal mortality. The Minister suggested that a weight at birth of 5½ lbs. or less should be recorded on the notification of birth cards. This was put into operation in the City.

The City Council in accordance with the Minister's recommendation also appointed a paediatrician whose services are available for consultant visits in the home where premature infants are being nurtured. His services were not called upon during the year. Other recommendations of the Minister have been observed.

Of the 68 premature births notified in Westminster, 9 were born at home and 59 in hospital. Of these 4 failed to survive the first 24 hours of life, and another 5 died before reaching the age of one month. These nine children died in hospital.

(These figures do not include infants born to Westminster mothers outside the City. The Ministry of Health require these to be returned by the local authority in whose area the birth took place).

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

The voluntary organisations who have for so many years dealt with this problem have continued their work and have worked in close association with the Council's Health Visitors and Child Protection Visitor. The City Council in co-operation with the other London Boroughs makes an annual contribution, based on rateable value, to these voluntary organisations, the Council's contribution for 1946 being £972.

During the year the Council adopted a scheme of guaranteed payments to foster mothers who would be prepared to undertake the care and maintenance of illegitimate children in the City. Under this scheme the Council pays the foster mother 21s.0d. per week in respect of each child and recovers reasonable contributions from the natural mother. The latter is also required to provide clothing for her child and pay for any necessary doctors' fees for attendance on the child.

It has not however been possible to put this scheme into operation during the year owing to the lack of suitable foster mothers willing to undertake this service.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

The City Council gave careful consideration to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Care of Children Committee (Curtis Report - CMD 6922), and to a joint Circular issued by the Home Office and the Ministries of Health and Education, requesting authorities to review their responsibilities for children referred to in the Report. The Council, as a Welfare Authority, is responsible for one group of children referred to in that report; namely children under nine years of age, maintained for reward by persons other than their natural parents or guardians. Where such arrangements are made between the natural parents and the foster mother, the latter has to notify the Council of her intention to undertake for reward the care of a foster child, and the Council then assumes certain statutory responsibilities concerning the home and the child.

The Council had in fact reviewed their arrangements with regard to the

care of foster children during the previous year, and had already appointed a full time woman officer to undertake Child Life Protection work formerly undertaken by the Council's Health Visitors. This officer is exclusively engaged upon duties connected with the investigation and the registration of foster mothers, the supervision and the care of foster children, involving the regular and frequent visits to foster parents, and advising them on the care of the children under their control.

It is gratifying to note that the standard of child care among registered foster mothers in the area has appreciably improved. Every effort is being made to increase the number of suitable foster mothers in order that any children awaiting homes may be satisfactorily and permanently settled. It is to be regretted, however, that at present suitable foster mothers are not coming forward.

Eighteen foster mothers were accepted for registration by the City Council during the year and fifteen relinquished the care of children for a variety of reasons, e.g. removal of foster mother to another area; foster mothers who were prepared only to undertake the care of children temporarily; addition to the foster mother's own family; return of husband from H.M. Forces. In a few cases the natural parents were requested to remove their children from unsatisfactory foster mothers and the latter warned not to assume the care of other foster children. In one case, one child had to be transferred to the care of the London County Council Social Welfare Service because the natural mother failed to maintain payments to the foster mother and could not be traced. One child died whilst in the care of a foster mother and in conformity with the provisions of the statute an inquest was held by H.M. Coroner who found the cause of death to be natural causes.

At the end of the year covered by this Report, there were sixteen foster mothers on the City Council's register, having in their care eighteen foster children.

During the year forty notifications were received from local authorities in other areas of foster children being returned to their natural parents residing in Westminster, these include children returned from residential nurseries and schools. This information was verified in each case and the local authority concerned advised accordingly.

Regular visits have been made, and environmental reports prepared and sent to the recognised adoption societies on application made to these Societies by persons residing in Westminster desiring legally to adopt children. Where children are placed with prospective adopting parents for a probationary period they are kept under supervision by the Child Protection Visitor until adoption has been effected. Twenty five cases of this nature have been dealt with during the year.

SUPPLY OF SHEETS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

By arrangement between the Ministry of Health and the Board of Trade, Priority Dockets for utility sheets, on production of a medical certificate, are issued to expectant mothers who are to be confined in their own homes. These are being issued through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and 759 docketts were issued to expectant mothers in 1946 as compared with 344 for the previous year.

SUPPLY OF WELFARE FOODS

By arrangement with the Ministry of Food, national dried milk, fruit juices, vitamin tablets and cod liver oil have been distributed to expectant mothers and children at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the City.

The City Council as a Welfare Authority have for many years supplied food accessories in the way of dried milk, cod liver oil, etc. to necessitous mothers and children, and have continued to do so under the direction of the Clinic doctors.

DENTAL TREATMENT - Clinic Reports

	New Cases	Re-Appointments	Extractions	Fillings	Other operations	Anaesthetics Local	General
1945	161	560	328	271	435	61	72
1946	178	526	311	250	394	33	71

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION TREATMENT AND SCHICK TESTING

The following are particulars of children under five years of age who have been immunised against diphtheria in the City.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946

Age at 31.12.1946 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942
Number immunised	19	350	636	551	536
Estimated mid-year population 1946	3, 860				

Children Immunised in 1946:-

Under five years of age	...	...	...	...	...	721
Over five years of age	...	...	...	...	...	4
L.C.C. School Children - (Immunised by City Council's Medical Staff)	...	...	...	...	...	45
						<u>780</u>

Children Schick tested in 1946:-

Negatives	...	...	...	...	...	208
Positives	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<u>210</u>

Of children living in Westminster over one year and under five years of age at 31st December, 1946, some 83% had been immunised. There were no deaths from diphtheria during the year.

The Minister of Health in Circular 194/45 issued in November 1945 desired Welfare Authorities to adopt the procedure whereby each Health Visitor should be made responsible for securing the immunisation of children under school age in her district and placed on Welfare Authorities the responsibility for all measures designed to secure the immunisation of children under school age, and for recording success or failure to secure that the individual child receives it. The Minister gave particulars of the standardised form of records to be kept and the returns to be made.

The Minister's recommendations contained in this circular are being carried out. The procedure outlined has been substantially followed in Westminster for many years in that it was the duty of each Health Visitor to explain the advantages of immunisation to the parents of each child living in her

district and to arrange for the immunisation to be carried out.

Adequate facilities exist for immunisation at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the City which is carried out by the Council's Medical Staff.

HOME NURSING

The City Council has an arrangement with three District Nursing Associations for the nursing in the homes of children under five years of age suffering from various ailments and for certain conditions in adults. The City Council pay the Associations 2/6d. per visit for this service. During the year the District Nurses made 1,834 visits under these arrangements.

DOMESTIC AND HOME HELP SERVICE

The Domestic Help Service inaugurated in 1946 was continued throughout the year. The object of the scheme is to provide help in the home for sick and infirm who are in need of such assistance and unable themselves to obtain it. A scale is in force for the assessment of contributions by the persons assisted based on their income and outgoings.

The Government reimburse the cost of this service.

During the year some 137 persons were assisted under the scheme. In 78 cases they were aged persons and unable to attend to their household duties on account of such infirmity as paralysis, rheumatism, arthritis, etc. These received continuous assistance each week. The remaining 59 cases were not aged persons but suffered from such disabilities as blindness, heart trouble, tuberculosis, limb injuries, and temporary illnesses.

In addition to the above, assistance was also given in the home under the Council's maternity and child welfare scheme during the confinement of the mother or where the mother was otherwise incapacitated and where there were young children in the home. Some 162 households were assisted in this way during the year.

MOBILE MEAL SERVICE

The Westminster Division of the British Red Cross Society were able, in December, 1946, to start a meals delivery service for aged people who are unable themselves to get hot meals.

The meals are purchased by the British Red Cross Society from a Londoners' Meals Service Centre, at a special price of 8d. per meal for aged people, and delivered to them in a mobile van to the homes. The cost of the meal being recovered by the British Red Cross Society from the recipients.

The names and addresses of the aged people requiring the delivery of hot meals are submitted to the Society by the Medical Officer of Health weekly.

Some 120 hot dinners per week were being delivered by the Society to aged people in the City under this arrangement at the end of the year, and the Society were hopeful of expanding the service.

INSULIN TREATMENT AND DIABETIC PATIENTS

During the year the Council provided, free of charge, insulin treatment for two diabetic patients in the City at a cost of £11.11.0d.

POPULATION SURVEY IN CONNECTION WITH CHILD BEARING

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in conjunction with the Population Investigation Committee carried out a survey throughout the country relating to certain social and economic aspects in connection with child-bearing. With the consent of the Council some 20 women who had given birth during the week 3rd - 9th March, 1946 in Westminster were interviewed by the

Council's Health Visitors who carried out the survey on behalf of the Royal College. The report of this survey is awaited with interest.

HUNGERFORD CLUB

During the war the City Council, with the consent of the Civil Defence Regional Commissioners, instituted a club for the peculiar and mentally abnormal outcasts who were huddling in arches, stables, wine vaults, etc. in the City. Premises were adapted in Hungerford Lane and the Club was operated and managed by the West London Mission under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. In 1946 the West London Mission secured new premises in Lambeth and the Club was transferred to that area in March 1946 where it continues the useful work it had previously performed in Westminster.

DISINFESTATION

The number of persons treated at the Council's Disinfecting Station during the year for head lice, body lice, or scabies were :-

Children	...	...	...	463
Adults	...	...	...	781
				<hr/>
				1,244
				<hr/>

Number of treatments given: 2,025.

A trained nurse is employed at the Disinfecting Station to supervise all the work connected with the cleansing of women and children. Schoolchildren are dealt with by nurses employed by the London County Council, but co-ordination between the staff of the City Council and those of the County Council is very satisfactory, so that families can be treated at the same time.

The Council's Health Visitors have continued to give the subject of personal hygiene, including infestation by head lice, special observation and instruction both in the home and at the Centres. Where necessary, suitable combs for use in the home have been supplied.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES

The cyanide treatment of furniture and effects of families to be rehoused has been carried out where necessary and 38 cases were treated in this manner during the year. Occupied rooms are disinfested by the spray method, whilst bedding and other fabrics are submitted to steam disinfection. The effects of 257 households were dealt with during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

As in the previous year the sanitary circumstances for 1946 continue to relate in a marked degree in housing. The programme of adaptation of empty houses, repair of damaged property, and maintenance of repairs has been continued, the Sanitary Inspectors having dealt with the following aspects of the housing problem.

Difficulties and delays due to shortage of essential materials and building labour have been numerous and unavoidable but steady progress has been maintained.

- (1) Survey and inspection of empty properties with a view to requisitioning
1,562 inspections and 467 re-inspections of properties.
- (2) 1,997 inspections of premises for certification of building licences mostly arising from war damage, all in relation to the provision of housing or business premises of special character, e.g. catering establishments.
- (3) Special inspection relating to plans of drainage and sanitary fittings.

WATER

The quality and quantity of the water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board is in safe hands. No cases arose of any complaints in premises where drinking water was drawn from intervening storage tanks.

No fewer than 99 premises, mostly large buildings, flats, offices, etc. are supplied from private deep wells. Periodic examination and analysis of water from these wells are made. The owners generally submit copies of reports of their own analyst, and in a few cases confirmatory analysis are obtained by the City Council. During 1946, 125 certificates were submitted by owners, 110 of them showing satisfactory results. In a number of instances, particularly the older well supplies, chlorination is in use mainly as a result of conditions found during the war years. 10 certificates were submitted in relation to 2 deep wells where the water was found to be unsatisfactory for some months, but following reconstruction works and the installation of suitable chlorinating equipment, satisfactory supplies have been restored. During the period these 2 wells were out of use, supplies were obtained from the Metropolitan Water Board. No question of plumb solvency arises in the deep well water drawn from the London basin.

All the dwelling houses in the area apart from those blocks of flats supplied from deep wells, derive their piped supplies from the Water Board. All are provided with internal water taps.

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY WORKS

Plans submitted	...	...	...	...	492
Combined Drainage Orders made	...	...	...	...	33
Applications for Building Licences	...	...	...	...	1,997

DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTION

Inspection of Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	11,705
" " other premises	...	...	...	...	8,090
" " sanitary works	...	...	...	...	3,746

NUISANCES

Intimation Notices served	...	...	...	...	1,330
Statutory " "	...	...	...	...	88
Prosecutions (under Statute & Byelaws)	...	...	...	...	5
Orders made	...	...	...	...	4
Fines: £9.9.0d.		Costs: £15.6.0d.			

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	434
Notices served	...	...	...	...	58

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

No. of visits to Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	1,629
Visits to outworkers' premises other than factories	...	...	...	...	21
Workrooms measured	...	...	...	...	51
Visits of enquiry re employment of women	...	...	...	...	49
Visits of enquiry re employment of Outworkers	...	...	...	...	177
Notices served for defects	...	...	...	...	183

RATS

Rat complaints	...	...	...	...	1,178
Total number of rats destroyed	...	...	...	...	7,666
Total number of visits to premises re rat infestation, etc.	...	...	...	...	8,257

In addition to the normal rat repression work following complaints, etc. and at the suggestion of the Ministry of Food, two surveys were started in the

City, one in the residential area of Finsbury, and the second in the Covent Garden Market area. The ratcatching staff was increased by eight to a total of twelve to deal with the work arising from these surveys. By the end of the year 34 blocks of houses had been surveyed and disinfested in Finsbury out of a total of 109 blocks, and in Covent Garden Market where the work was started in November, 187 premises had been dealt with. The surveys were being carried out with the full co-operation of the occupiers both of dwelling and business premises and the ratcatching service firms were willing collaborators.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Total number of visits to catering establishments	...	...	2,511
Number of Notices served	...	...	376
Legal Proceedings	...	...	8
<u>Fines: £91.0.0d.</u>		<u>Costs: £54.1.6d.</u>	

Good progress has been made towards bringing the standard of these establishments to comply with that prescribed by the Food and Drugs Act. One Inspector has again devoted his full time to this specialised work, and arrangements have been made for another Inspector to assist in the coming year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Samples purchased for analysis	...	...	1,858
Visits to premises	...	...	2,649
Notices served	...	...	171
Samples found to be adulterated	...	...	84
Prosecutions	...	...	25
Convictions	...	...	23

A sentence of 6 months imprisonment was imposed in connection with one prosecution for the illegal sale of Horseflesh.
Fines: £277.2.6d. Costs: £137.11.0d.

ICE CREAM

Premises on Register at 31st December, 1946	98
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The problem of the sale and distribution of ice cream has given rise to anxiety throughout the year, and in order to keep a check on the quality of ice cream, 45 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. During the course of inspections unregistered premises were discovered in which ice cream was stored and made, and where the standard of the premises fell far short of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act. In 5 cases registration was refused and the applicants appeared before the Public Health Committee to state the cause why their applications for registration should not be refused. Proceedings were taken against two persons for failing to apply for registration and failure to comply with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act. Fines amounting to £30 were inflicted with £6.6.0d. costs. During the year the Minister of Health issued draft regulations dealing with the sale and treatment of ice cream and the City Council made representations through the Metropolitan Standing Joint Committee suggesting amendments to these draft regulations. Regulations were ultimately issued but unfortunately the Minister found it impossible at the present time to include all the suggestions made by the Local Authorities.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 and 1938

Licences issued	48
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REGISTRATION OF DAIRYMEN AND DAIRIES

			<u>Premises</u>	<u>Persons</u>
On Register at 31st December, 1946	82	159
New Dairies registered during the year	...	...	1	1
Inspections made	...	...	165	-
Notices served	...	...	36	-

PRESERVED MEAT ETC. PREMISES

Premises on Register at 31st December, 1946 90

DISINFECTION

Rooms: 426; Articles: 40,397; Articles washed: 9,921;
Articles destroyed: 511; Books disinfected: 273; Vehicles: 14.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Complaint received 27 Nuisances reported 4
Observations 514 Preliminary Notices 5

The City Council has continued its pre-war activities regarding the recording and measuring data of atmospheric pollution at three sites in the City. The records show an increase in pollution as compared with pre-war, particularly in the Southern part of the City.

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY

Bodies received 312

Causes of death:-

Drowning 11
Street accidents 18
Other accidents 31
Murder 4
Suicide 23
Natural causes 199
Misadventure 10
Miscellaneous causes 16
Inquests held 120
Post Mortem examinations 267