

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Westminster, City of].

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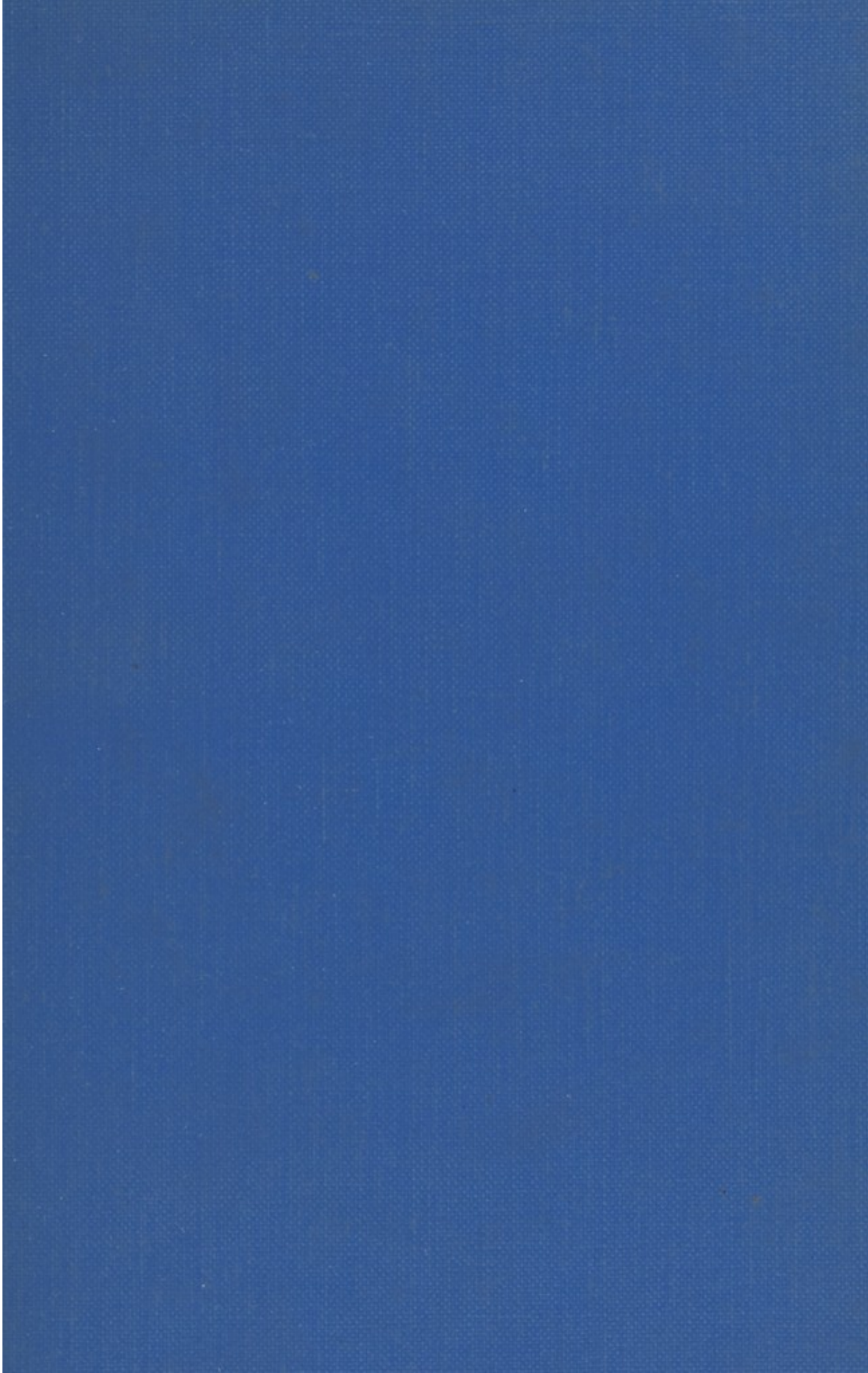
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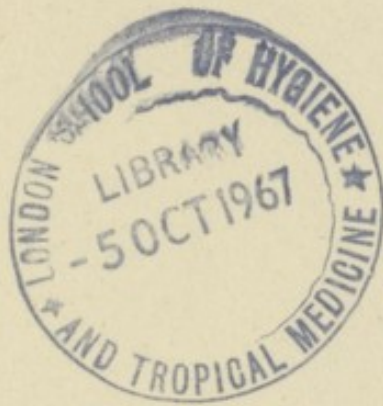
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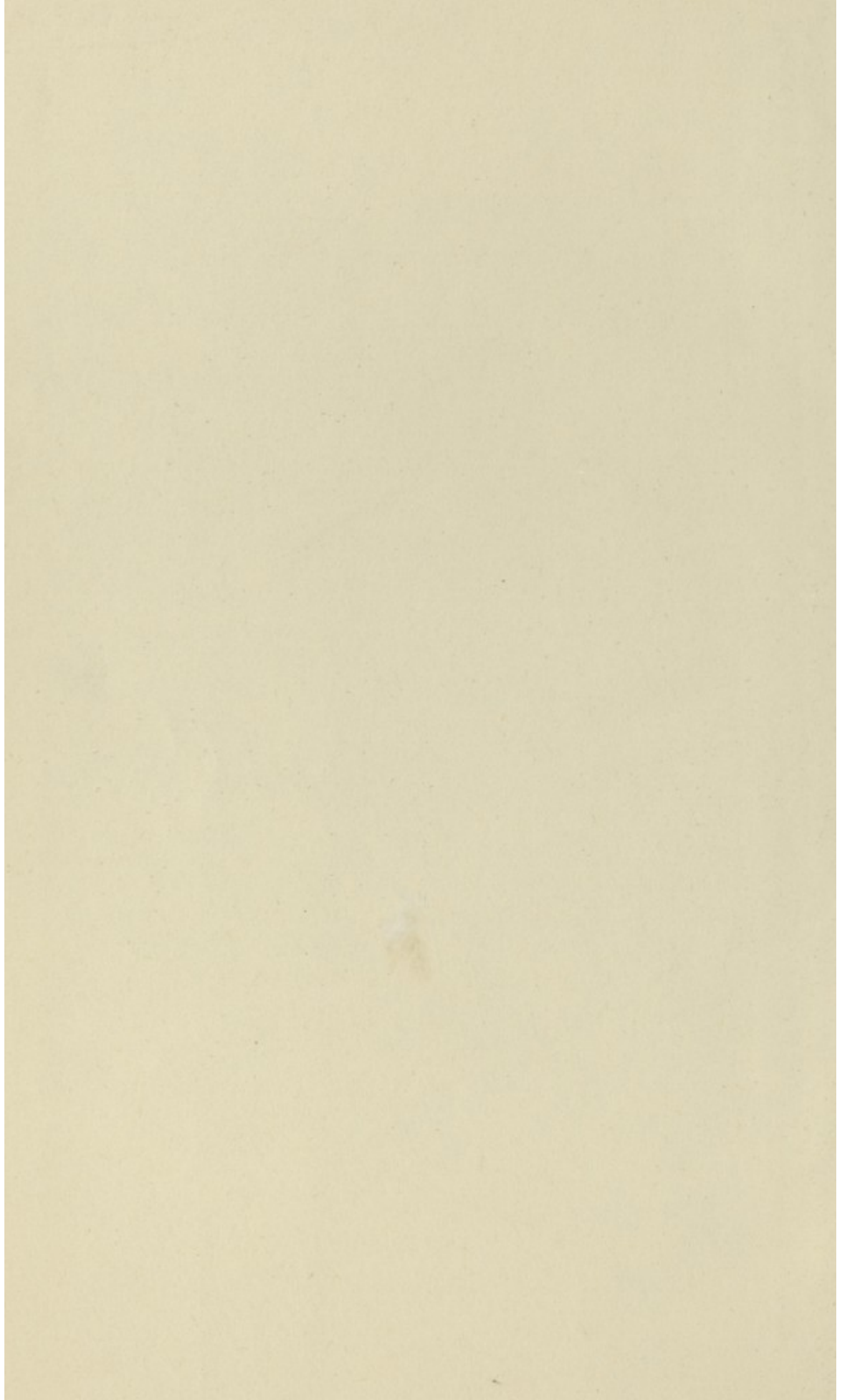
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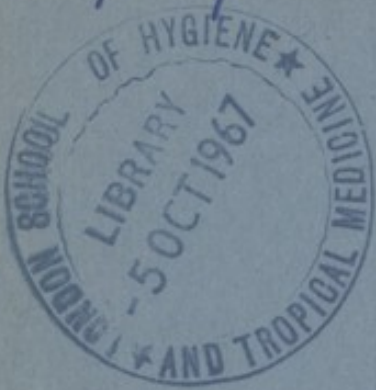


REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1950

ANDREW J. SHINNIE, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. (LOND.).
Medical Officer of Health.

LONDON:
HARRISON AND SONS, LTD.,
PRINTERS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C.2.

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City of Westminster.



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REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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THE DEPUTY MAYOR (*ex-officio*) :

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- „ Mrs. Arthur Rye.
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- „ The Countess Winterton.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Andrew J. Shinnie, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., &c.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

(jointly for Westminster and Holborn),

P. G. Roads, M.D., D.P.H., &c.

(Appointed 1.4.50).

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(Part time)

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T. McLachlan, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

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H. E. White.

CHIEF CLERK :

W. D. Sambrook.

DEPUTY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

W. G. J. Sutton.

(Theatres, Cinemas and other places of amusement).

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

District :

S. G. Bennett (Inspector for Rodent Control). (Seconded to
Civil Defence 16.11.50.)

J. M. Burbridge.

W. J. Davies.

W. L. French (Inspector for Disinfection, Disinfestation, &c.).

D. W. Saunders.

F. E. Siddle.

R. F. Stubbs.

Housing :

C. F. Brockett (Inspector in Charge).

A. G. Bates.
 J. W. Baxter.
 J. J. Coveney.
 J. E. Drake.

Food :

P. A. Lloyd.
 H. D. Luke.

Catering Establishments :

J. H. Brownlee.
 M. J. Flynn.

Atmospheric Pollution :

R. Roper.

Women's Factories :

Miss C. Hughesdon.

Clerical Staff :

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R. L. Booker.	G. Lyness (temporary).
S. J. Chamberlain (to 23.4.50).	L. J. Nunn.
C. E. Clark.	J. M. Shotbolt.
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P. Cox (temporary).	E. A. Taylor.
Miss P. M. Illman.	E. W. Tyler (from 15.5.50).
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CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

SUPERINTENDENT :

A. W. Nicholls.

1ST MORTICIAN :

L. M. Swanston.

MORTICIANS :

C. H. Lorraine.

N. J. Marchant.

A. E. Mould (to 28.3.50).

Miss E. S. Dunford (Nurse Attendant).

Mrs. E. Williamson (Cleaner).

DISINFECTING STAFF :

N. Heathcote (Foreman).

G. Lawrence.

L. C. Clarke.

J. A. Lovelock.

C. J. Daniels.

J. Shillingford.

J. R. Doyle (Motor Driver).

Miss H. McWilliam (State Registered Nurse).

Miss I. M. Newman (Woman Attendant).

RODENT STAFF :

Rodent Officer :

J. W. Brown.

H. J. Felstead (Foreman).

A. Howell (to 1.9.50).

H. Brown (from 20.3.50).

G. Murray.

D. G. Cadlock.

F. C. Smellie.

J. Carter (to 18.3.50).

J. Vidal.

A. C. Dale.

H. Wise (to 31.10.50).

J. J. Devine (from 2.10.50).

Assistants in the Department :

A. J. Jones	} Assistants to Sanitary Inspectors.
A. Murkin	

J. Byworth	} Messengers.
J. W. Spooner	

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN
AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1950.

I beg to present my twenty-sixth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the City of Westminster. The Report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 112/50 in which it is stated that the information to be supplied should be on similar lines to that specified for the Annual Report for 1949.

In a preamble to that report written in August, 1950, reference was made to the Jubilee of the Metropolitan Boroughs then being celebrated and the opportunity seemed appropriate to comment on the changes that had taken place in the City over the previous fifty years. For this purpose records such as the Annual Reports of my predecessor for 1900-1924 were consulted, followed by the results of my own observations of the past twenty-five years. The planning of the City in some areas had undergone such fundamental changes as to be unrecognisable from the City of 1900. The Kingsway and Aldwych improvement had swept away acres of decrepit properties while in the Millbank area, acres of municipal dwellings, together with lofty office buildings and privately owned flats had replaced the old cottage properties abounding in that district. The transformation is still proceeding in another district of the City. There, between Lupus Street and the river whole streets of terraced houses will be cleared to make room for the new estate of 1,621 flats to be known as Churchill Gardens. 151 of these have already been completed, and are now occupied. These terrace houses are in the main obsolescent in structure and layout. The basements in all of them are unsatisfactory for living in and the houses generally speaking are sadly lacking in essential amenities. But the whole of this 33 acre site was not occupied by dwelling houses; approximately one-third was taken up with industrial buildings most of them war damaged or otherwise dilapidated. Therefore while ultimately the families from the cleared site will be offered accommodation, there will be available new housing for a number of families already living in the City but inadequately housed or in conditions otherwise unsatisfactory.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population 105,100 has since to be amended for the preliminary report of the Census has been issued while this Report was being prepared. This gives a population of 98,895 (46,061 males and 52,834 females), a percentage fall of 23·7 as compared with 1931. In the neighbouring City of London the population has been halved.

As has frequently been stated the predominating activities of life in this City, both business and social, are centred on its day to day non-residential population. In 1948 a rough estimate of the non-resident population was submitted based on the number of main meals provided in catering premises in the City. No other method of measurement seems in any degree practicable, for the day population consists primarily

of those who though living in other districts have their place of work in Westminster. There is also the considerable and fluctuating body of tourists and other visitors which, with those who come into the City for occasions such as shopping not being regarded as "non-resident citizens," should not figure in any estimate of the day population. The numbers who flock into Westminster for amusement and pleasure in the evenings or at week-ends are likewise so variable and so variously distributed that no attempt to compute them is possible. Nevertheless the Public Health service of the City has definite responsibilities towards these non-residents as it has towards the resident population. It is important that good standards should be maintained in the restaurants where these thousands of people have meals and, equally important, that the food consumed should be wholesome and of good quality. It is also a duty of the Public Health Department to ensure that conditions in places of amusement, including catering arrangements, are satisfactory as regards hygiene and sanitation.

The birth rate has fallen again from 12·2 to 11·9. This corresponds to the falling birth rate throughout the country after the high peak of the first three post-war years. Infantile mortality at 35·17 is slightly higher than in 1949 (33·7). Whereas the death rate for legitimate infants had improved slightly over 1949, 33·12 per thousand as compared with 33·3. There was a higher mortality among the illegitimate, namely 52·2, compared with 36·8 in 1949. One hundred and thirty-four illegitimate infants were born in 1950, but during that year seven died. In 1949, 136 illegitimate children were born and 4 infants under one year of age died. This accounts for the rise in the illegitimate infantile mortality from 36·8 to 52·2.

The general death rate at 10·16 is again lower than in the previous year (10·9). Diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for 344 deaths as compared with 412 in 1949. In this group 233 were persons of 65 years and over; the corresponding figure for 1949 was 279. Deaths from malignant disease were 241, last year 218, and more than half occurred in persons of 65 years and over. The tuberculosis death rate ·37 per 1,000 was less than that for 1949 (·5 per 1,000).

Maternal Mortality: Last year two women died from puerperal causes (the result of illegal abortion). In 1950 one woman, aged 42 years, died. The death certificate was in these terms, "uraemia, malignant hypertension following toxæmia of pregnancy in 1945." Five years seems a long time for this to be attributable to her confinement. Apart from this case there were no deaths recorded following childbirth.

Measles notifications numbered 356, about half of those notified in 1949 which was a measles year. Six cases of diphtheria were notified, but of those four were re-diagnosed as tonsillitis and as regards the remaining two, a man of 60 years and a child of 5 years, there was no record of immunisation. There were no fatalities.

Two hundred and forty-two confirmed cases of whooping cough were notified and one child under one year of age died. Nineteen cases of poliomyelitis were notified, but of these six were subsequently re-diagnosed as not suffering from this infection. Last year there were

29 notifications. Of the 13 remaining confirmed cases 8 were paralytic and 5 were non-paralytic. All were removed to hospital and none died. A further 8 cases were removed to hospital as suspect poliomyelitis but were not notified. In none of these cases was information received that the diagnosis was confirmed. Gastro enteritis accounted for 71 cases. This disease is not officially notifiable, and the number of cases is generally ascertained through notices of removal to hospital or other information. There were six deaths, three of them among infants under one year of age.

Food Poisoning: During the year information was received of 15 separate outbreaks of food poisoning in which the total number of persons affected was 324. Most of those were only mildly affected, and among the total only six were officially notified, three of whom were removed to hospital. There were no deaths from food poisoning.

As a result of the changes imposed by the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Council's Deputy Medical Officer of Health was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board as Chest Physician. This has naturally added to the work of your Medical Officer of Health who had no deputy for more than a year. The situation has been to some extent eased by the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the Borough of Holborn. Dr. P. G. Roads who is joint Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the City of Westminster and to the Borough of Holborn took up his appointment in April, 1950. He has added this note on some of the aspects of Public Health and its future, viewed generally and locally.

During the era preceding 1900 the emphasis of English public health had been on the control of epidemic diseases by improvements in environmental hygiene. As a result much progress was made in the provision of a safe water supply, paving and cleaning the streets, disposal of sewage and the prevention of nuisances. In fact without the reforms advocated by sanitary science, large urban populations would have had constantly recurring epidemics. It might even have been impossible to have had such a conurbation as London. Without the intensive industrialisation thereby made possible, the economic condition of the country would not have developed to its present position.

In Westminster this tradition of sanitary reform resulted in improvements which are noted in the foreword and referred to in greater detail in last year's report. But public interest throughout the country had begun to focus on individual health for the limitations of such environmental improvements were becoming apparent. The high rejection rate of Army recruits on medical grounds during the South African war had created concern in many quarters and there were those who doubted whether public health as then understood was fulfilling its full obligation to the community.

It was realised by progressive committees and individual pioneers that Public Health had responsibilities beyond those of

environmental hygiene and that many persons were missing the benefits which the expanding medical sciences were able to bestow. An Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration was appointed. This Committee reported in 1904 and made recommendations from which the personal health services developed. Their value is seen in the falls in the infantile and maternal mortality rates and the attack rates of infectious disease (*e.g.*, Diphtheria). The booklet, "The Personal Health Services of the Westminster City Council, 1903-1948," describes their evolution in Westminster. In this it can be seen how rapidly and fully the City Council met its responsibilities.

Simultaneously with the development of the personal health services, the sanitary condition of the City was continuously being improved. With the advances of technology and the extension of legal safeguards the standards of the environmental health services have continued to rise. This can be seen in the comparison between the Council's first housing scheme of Regency Street and their post-war schemes of Russell House and Churchill Gardens, both in the quality and the size of the undertakings. There are many other examples, improvements in restaurant kitchens, factories, street cleanliness, dairies, bakehouses, and the great decrease in food adulteration, particularly milk. All this has not been achieved without hard and continuous work on the part of many people. Just as the benefits of earlier sanitary reform were not at first obvious, so the value of the later improvements is not always realised now.

During the past quarter of a century the peoples in many lands have suffered much affliction both physical and psychological. The fever of ideological warfare and nationalist aspirations does not tend to further the promotion of public health and well being in the countries so affected. Fortunately in this country a freer atmosphere has enabled measures for improving public health to develop steadily. Social legislation has created a framework by which the economic consequences to the individual of sickness, continued incapacity, bereavement and unemployment can be mitigated. Such misfortunes have a retarding influence on public health as well as the psychological disturbance caused by the fears of war, and the associated threats of physical and moral destruction.

In this country the fall in the birthrate and the very success of preventive medicine has resulted in an ageing population with a rapidly increasing proportion of old people. Meanwhile in some other countries the populations are rapidly increasing but without comparable increases in food production. This situation is ominously occurring in countries where many people already live on a starvation diet. In addition to these problems, great social changes are accompanying the economic and industrial

development of almost all countries. It is therefore not surprising that the ordinary man reacting to these changes shows many signs of stress and strain.

Sanitary reform and improvement will continue to require much patient and unobtrusive work not only to maintain standards but to incorporate advances in knowledge and resources. Only when hygiene has removed the various causes of diseases attributable to defective environment will sanitarians come in sight of their Utopia. The personal health services will need further development not only to extend and improve its present activities, but to integrate them more closely with the other branches of the National Health Service.

The promotion of health is the certain way of reducing the mounting expenditure of the Medical Services. As so often in the past, voluntary agencies are mapping out channels through the seas of human unhealthiness and unhappiness where the more ponderous galleons of governmental action may eventually sail. And now, in addition to the many voluntary societies who have traditionally charted the passage ahead, there are a number of official bodies which are slowly exploring these seas.

In common with many other local authorities Westminster has lost some of its functions during the last few years. As a consequence a pessimistic view has sometimes been taken of its future as a public health authority. This view does however leave out of account certain aspects. Even without local government reform Westminster will remain a great City and fortunately possesses high traditions of municipal enterprise, a strong civic sense and the resources necessary to execute any reasonable projects. These present problems of our civilisation affect the citizens of the City in common with the rest of their countrymen. P.G.R.

The City Council by the death of Lord Jessel in 1950 lost a very distinguished Alderman of great experience in local government and who always evinced a special interest in public health.

The sudden death of Alderman W. Stanley Edgson likewise deprived the Council of one of its leading and most enterprising members.

One has also to record with regret the death of two retired members of the staff who had played notable parts in the public health service of the City for more than forty years, namely, John Sanderson, Senior Inspector, and Alex Wheal, Superintendent of Disinfection.

In conclusion I would wish to express my gratitude and appreciation of the kind consideration and help always given me by the Chairman, Councillor C. R. Purnell, and the Vice-Chairman, Lt.-Col. Norman Edwards, M.B.E., and my warm thanks to a most loyal and industrious staff.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	2,502·7
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year, 1950)	105,100
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	22,536
Rateable Value	£10,839,372

BIRTHS.

Live Births (registered)—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	1,117	576	541
Illegitimate	134	70	64
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,251	646	605
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTHS NOTIFIED—1,246.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11·9
(Rate for London, 17·8 ; for England and Wales, 15·8)	
Number of stillbirths (males, 24 ; females, 12)	36
Rate of stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	27·9

DEATHS.

Net deaths (males, 554 ; females, 514)	1,068
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	10·16
(Rate for London, 11·8 ; for England and Wales, 11·6)	
Deaths from puerperal causes	1
(Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births)	0·7
Deaths of infants under 1 year (males, 30 ; females, 14) ...	44
Death-rate of infants under 1 year—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	35·17
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	33·12
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	52·2
Rate for London for infants under 1 year	26·3
Deaths (all ages) from measles	Nil
" " whooping cough	1
" " gastritis, diarrhoea and enteritis	6
" " cancer	241

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Legitimate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate.</i>
Whooping Cough	1	1	—
Bronchitis	1	1	—
Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	3	3	—
Congenital Malformations	9	7	2
*Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	22	4
All other Accidents (other than motor vehicles)	1	1	—
Homicide	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	44	37	7
	—	—	—

* This is the Registrar-General's classification ; but such conditions as prematurity, birth injuries and other fatal conditions relating to the process of birth are included under this heading.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	<i>Notifica- tions.</i>	<i>Removed to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4	4	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Dysentery	38	38	—
Enteric Fever	3	3	—
Erysipelas	8	2	—
Food Poisoning	6	3	—
Malaria	1	—	—
Measles	356	43	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—
Paratyphoid	1	1	—
Pneumonia	12	—	—
Poliomyelitis	13	13	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	11	—
Scabies	17	—	—
Scarlet Fever	75	47	—
Whooping Cough	242	44	1

The above table includes correction on revision of diagnosis.

DEATHS, 1950.

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the City.

<i>Causes of Deaths.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Years of Age.</i>								
		<i>All Ages.</i>	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75+
All Causes	M.	554	30	5	3	5	46	172	146	147
	F.	514	14	2	2	3	27	124	115	227
Grand Totals ...		1,068	44	7	5	8	73	296	261	374
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M.	30	—	—	—	—	8	11	9	2
	F.	7	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	M.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	17	—	—	—	—	3	7	6	1
	F.	14	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	27	—	—	—	—	—	17	6	4
	F.	8	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	26	—	—	—	—	2	13	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	12	—	—	—	—	2	8	2	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	77	—	1	—	1	6	22	26	21
	F.	60	—	1	—	—	2	22	14	21
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M.	7	—	1	—	1	2	1	2	—
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Diabetes	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F.	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Diphtheria—Negative, 142 ; positive, Nil.

Tuberculosis—Negative, 184 ; positive, 73.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	5	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	5	2	4	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	32	24	1	3	—	—	—	—
25 to 45 years	70	40	2	1	8	3	—	—
45 to 65 years	43	5	—	3	11	4	—	2
65 to 75 years	7	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
75 and over	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
	163	79	8	9	30	7	—	2

New Cases.

Pulmonary—242 new cases, including 74 transfers and 13 non-notified deaths.

Non-Pulmonary—17 new cases, including 3 transfers and 1 non-notified death.

(1949—Pulmonary, 219 new cases ; Non-Pulmonary, 16 new cases.)

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary—37 (30 males, 7 females).

Non-Pulmonary—2 (2 females).

SMALLPOX INVESTIGATIONS.

On five separate occasions during the year, general practitioners asked the Medical Officer of Health for advice on cases which they suspected might be smallpox. Such requests are given priority and the Medical Officer of Health, or his Assistant, immediately visited the suspect. In three instances, the services of a Regional Smallpox Consultant was called for a confirmatory opinion ; in two of these cases the patients were removed, as a precautionary measure, to an Isolation Hospital for observation and investigation. Fortunately, in every case, smallpox was finally excluded.

On five occasions information was received that passengers, who were coming to Westminster, had been in contact with a case or suspected case of smallpox, whilst travelling by sea or by air to this country. All these contacts, in one instance numbering 60, were traced by officers of the Department, who kept in daily touch with them until the period of danger was passed.

BORNHOLM DISEASE.

During June and July, a small outbreak occurred of Bornholm Disease (Epidemic Pleurodynia) which is not a notifiable condition. This disease was first fully described in 1932 following an outbreak on the Island of Bornholm. The disease has an acute onset with symptoms which may simulate severe cardiac, pulmonary or abdominal disease. It fortunately has a rapid course with a low mortality and the patients are usually fully recovered within a few days.

Twenty-two cases were reported amongst the patients, staff and their families of a children's hospital. The Medical Officer of Health informed the general practitioners in that area of the presence of the disease. Some further cases were reported but there was no general epidemic.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AND INOCULATION.

Arrangements continued during the year for the authentication by the Medical Officer of Health of International Certificates of Vaccination and Inoculation completed by medical practitioners in Westminster. These certificates are required by passengers proceeding abroad from this country, and the purpose of the authentication is to provide proof to those health authorities abroad who desire it that the signature of the person issuing the certificate is that of a registered medical practitioner. Some 1,344 certificates were authenticated during the year.

CARE OF THE AGED AND INFIRM.

There were 60 new cases brought to the notice of the Department during the year by medical practitioners, district nurses and others, on account of illness, inability to care for themselves and insanitary conditions. Altogether, 327 old people living alone have been the subject of visits by Sanitary Inspectors.

There were no cases in which it was necessary to invoke the provisions of the National Assistance Act in regard to compulsory removal.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The Minister of Health in Circular 11/50 outlined suggestions for developing better collaboration between local authorities and local voluntary organisations in promoting the welfare of old people.

The Minister referred to the provision under the National Assistance Act, 1948, of residential accommodation for old people by County and County Borough Councils and by voluntary organisations, but stated that the great majority of old people will continue to prefer to live ordinary lives in their own homes, and that many of them cannot do so in reasonable comfort without help and interest from outside.

The Minister pointed out that the Act of 1948 encouraged the provision of this help and interest. He mentions the great value to the old people of mobile meals services and social and recreational clubs and that

local authorities were enabled to contribute to the funds of voluntary organisations providing these amenities. The Minister stated that further services not covered by statute can best be provided by voluntary workers, such as regular visiting of old people in their homes and helping them with their shopping, obtaining books and magazines from local libraries, with letter writing and mending, and generally in solving minor domestic difficulties. Home Visiting can mitigate the sense of isolation and loneliness, and can draw attention to the benefits of other voluntary and local authority services.

The Minister added that all local authorities should do everything in their power to encourage further voluntary efforts to meet the needs of old people, especially those living in their own homes.

In Westminster, the City Council has worked in close association with voluntary bodies catering for the welfare of its aged citizens, namely—

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY—MOBILE MEALS SERVICE.

The Westminster Division of the British Red Cross Society have for some years been operating a service for the delivery of hot mid-day meals to the homes of aged people who are themselves unable to provide hot mid-day meals.

The service has hitherto been operated by two vans provided by the Society, and in order to meet the increasing demand for the service, a third van and equipment was purchased by the City Council for the Society and brought into use during the year. The City Council in addition makes a grant to the Society of 75 per cent. of the running costs of the three vans.

The meals are purchased by the Society from a Londoners' Meal Service Centre at a special price of 8*d.* per meal. The meals consist of meat or fish and two vegetables, and a sweet. The cost of the meal is recovered by the British Red Cross Society from the recipients at the time of delivery. Some 7,243 hot meals were delivered by the Society during the year, and the service is much appreciated by the old people.

THE WESTMINSTER OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This voluntary association formed in 1948 receives an annual grant from the City Council and is provided with office accommodation in the Public Health Department.

During the year the number of Darby and Joan Clubs throughout the City increased from 7 to 8. Apart from the recreational facilities provided at these Clubs, the old people are provided with light refreshments, summer outings and Christmas parties organised by the Association which has also successfully organised holidays at seaside resorts for the aged during out-of-season periods, while the regular home visiting by the members of the Association has brought a measure of comfort to the lonely. The Association also started a weekly foot clinic for the elderly, and for those unable to attend the clinic, treatment at their own homes is arranged.

The City Librarian conducts a mobile library service for the benefit of the aged and the increasing use made of this service is the measure of its success.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

By agreement with the Minister of Health, the City Council continued during the year the arrangements for the medical inspection of aliens arriving at Victoria Station by through sleeping car service from Paris. The inspection is carried out by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and by the medical staff from Westminster Hospital. This necessitates daily attendance at Victoria Station to inspect aliens arriving by the ferry train and to carry out medical examinations where necessary. The Government reimburse the Council the cost of this service. During 1950, 10,511 aliens were inspected, 29 were medically examined.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Duties Performed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The following statistics show the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. These figures are divided under the headings, Housing, Factories and Workplaces, Catering and Food.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF ALL TYPES OF PREMISES.

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re- inspection.</i>
Dwellings	4,665	8,934
Factories, workplaces and shops (other than food), &c.	2,293	3,501
Catering establishments and food premises ...	2,115	3,172
	-----	-----
	9,073	15,607
	-----	-----

	<i>Number of Visits.</i>
Sampling of food	594
Inspection of food	1,090
Smoke	1,374
Noise	67
Rat and mice repression	3,873

	6,998

Drainage plans submitted	623
Combined Drainage Orders made ...	69

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Dwell- ings.</i>	<i>Factories, Work- places, &c.</i>	<i>Food.</i>	<i>Catering.</i>	<i>Tota's.</i>
Public Health (London) Act, 1936 ...	482	86	9	114	691
Food & Drugs Act, 1938 ...	—	—	25	191	216
Factories Act, 1937 ...	—	67	—	—	67
London County Council (Drainage) By-laws, 1934	9	11	1	5	26
London County Council (Watercloset) By-laws, 1930	6	6	2	2	16
Shops Act, 1934	—	2	3	2	7
London County Council Houses let in Lodgings By-laws, 1938	4	—	—	—	4
	501	172	40	314	1,027
Total Notices served under the above Acts					1,027
Statutory Notices					77

DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>Analysis of Inspections—</i>	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspection.</i>
Complaint	1,560	794
House to house	426	360
Routine	294	251
Infectious disease	379	72
Underground rooms	294	707
Other parts	12	5
Housing applications	489	387
Building licences and permits	121	211
Drainage—voluntary	454	1,779
Drainage under notice	—	87
Sanitary defects—voluntary	—	53
Sanitary defects under notice	10	2,858
Aged and infirm	93	241
Common Lodging Houses	14	41
Other reasons	519	1,088
	4,665	8,934
Included in the above totals—		
Requisitioned properties	94	98
Houses let in lodgings	720	3,469

B.—*Parts of Buildings Unfit for Human Habitation.*

(a) Number of underground rooms represented for closure	34	(97 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of underground rooms	32	(91 rooms)
(b) Number of other parts of buildings represented for closure	1	(3 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of other parts of buildings	1	(3 rooms)
(c) Number of specifications submitted and approved	9	
(d) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of underground rooms	10	(28 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of other parts of buildings	1	(1 room)
(e) Number of applications made for modification of Closing Orders to permit approved use	30	(68 rooms)
Number of applications approved	26	(61 rooms)

C.—*Informal Action in respect of Parts of Buildings Unfit for Human Habitation.*

Number of instances of informal action taken to secure requirements of the Housing Act and Regulations made thereunder :—

(a) in respect of underground rooms	61
(b) in respect of other parts of buildings	3

Number of instances of such informal action taken included in (a) and (b) above :—

(a) as a result of applications for Building Licences	32
(b) on the initiative of the owner	21
(c) at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health	11

D.—*Contraventions of Closing Orders.*

Number of contraventions of Closing Orders reported...	Nil
Number of legal proceedings instituted... ..	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936.

A.—*Illegal Separate Occupation of Underground Rooms.*

Number of instances of formal action taken to secure compliance with Section 132	Nil
Number of instances of informal action taken to secure compliance with Section 132	40

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

During the year 432 properties, involving 508 dwellings, were inspected. Of these properties 225 were residential, 85 part residential, 116 business premises and 6 bombed, derelict, &c, buildings.

Inspections.

Primary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	424
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	3,025

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	161
London County Council (Drainage) Bylaws, 1934	...	...	...	1

Defects found.

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	56
Dirty, defective, dilapidated internally	...	...	...	...	...	145
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	21
Verminous	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	...	8
Families overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	8

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES, SHOPS AND OTHER PREMISES (OTHER THAN FOOD PREMISES).

Summary of Inspections.

	Primary.	Re-inspections.
Factories—Power	541	362
Factories—Non-power	308	460
Workplaces, &c	1,202	2,397
Shops (other than food)	242	282
	<hr/> 2,293	<hr/> 3,501

Analysis of Inspection.

Complaint	311	151
Routine	1,013	425
Infectious disease	146	10
Building licences and permits	21	2
Drainage—voluntary	452	2,173
Drainage—under notice	—	1
Sanitary defects under notice	—	502
Outworkers	44	171
Other reasons	306	66
	<hr/> 2,293	<hr/> 3,501

Types of premises inspected.

Laundries	78
Boot and shoe trades	27
Carpentry	16
Woodworkers (various)	8
Cigar and cigarette manufacturers	5
Dress and milliners	392
Furriers	98
Shirt makers	18
Hairdressers	60
Garages	27
Dry cleaners	10
Metalworkers (excluding gold and silver)	5
Printers and publishers	75
Packers	12
Cinemas, concert halls	32
Shops (other than food)	524
Dance halls	11
Leather goods	13
Cabinet makers	7
Upholstery and carpets	7
Corset makers	6
Embroiderers	15
Lingerie	17
Tailors	614
Film renters, &c	8
Warehouses	48
Jewellers and silversmiths	31
Opticians	4
Photographers	80
Florists, &c	5
Offices	1,980
Theatres and music halls	92
Stables and mews	15
Hat and cap makers	9
Motor tyres and rubberworks	1
Surgical goods	4
Various	1,140

Outworkers.

Inspections	372
Number of outworkers (includes workers living in areas outside the City)	3,515

Notices—Summary.

	<i>Intimation.</i>	<i>Statutory.</i>
Factories—Power	53	—
Factories—Non-power	66	—
Workplaces, shops (other than food)	53	1
	<u>172</u>	<u>1</u>

Abstracts.

Reports were made to the Factory Inspector of 121 instances for failure to display the appropriate abstracts of the Factories Act, 1937.

Notices—Analysis.

	<i>Factories. Power.</i>	<i>Factories. Non-Power.</i>	<i>Workplaces. Shops &c.</i>
Public Health (London) Act, 1936	21	24	41
Factories Act, 1937	28	39	—
London County Council (Drainage) Bylaws, 1934	2	2	7
London County Council (Water- closet) Bylaws, 1930	2	1	3
Shops Act, 1934	—	—	2
	—	—	—
	53	66	53
	—	—	—
Total ... ..	...	... 172	—

Defects found.

	<i>Factories. Power.</i>	<i>Factories. Non-Power.</i>	<i>Workplaces, Shops, &c.</i>
Dirty, defective internally ...	11	36	37
Dampness	—	1	2
Drainage defective	4	12	27
Roofs, defective	—	3	1
Sanitary accommodation in- sufficient	3	3	5
Sanitary accommodation, in- sufficient ventilation and light	22	15	7
Sanitary accommodation defective	29	30	16
Sanitary accommodation, direct approach... ..	11	6	—
Sanitary accommodation not sepa- rate for sexes	14	3	1
Sanitary accommodation unsuit- able	—	—	2
No indicating notices on doors of waterclosets	26	14	—
Overcrowding	—	1	—
Smells	—	—	2
Rubbish	2	13	105
Ventilation, want of	—	13	11
Failure to fix abstracts	73	48	—
Water supply insufficient... ..	1	1	1
Absence of washing accommoda- tion	—	2	1
Temperature	—	1	—

Common Lodging Houses.

There are three common lodging houses in the City, two for men and one for women.

Fifty-five visits were made during the year, and conditions were reported satisfactory.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Summary of Inspections.

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Catering establishments	1,468	2,690
Food shops and other food premises ...	647	482
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,115	3,172
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Analysis of Inspections.

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Complaint	334	167
Routine	1,310	237
Infectious disease	47	14
Building licences and permits	27	5
Drainage—voluntary	172	489
Drainage—under notice	—	52
Sanitary defects—voluntary	—	1
Sanitary defects—under notice	4	1,723
Food licences	1	—
Catering licences	212	473
Other reasons	8	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,115	3,172

Summary of Notices Served.

	<i>Food Shops and other food premises.</i>	<i>Catering establish- ments.</i>
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	25	191
Shops Act, 1934	3	2
Public Health (London) Act, 1936 ...	9	114
London County Council (Drainage) By- laws, 1934	1	5
London County Council (Watercloset) Bylaws, 1930	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40	314
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

During the year, two Inspectors continued to devote all their time to the supervision of catering establishments, licensed premises and bakehouses. Both the amount and the complexity of the work involved

in this section of public health administration has had the effect of reducing the number of regular routine visits to restaurants. This rather regrettable circumstance is due to a variety of causes, some of which are outlined below :—

- (a) The continuous flow of applications for new catering licences, which must necessarily receive prior consideration. The gradual transformation of Mayfair into a business area has resulted in the construction of many new staff canteens where, in every instance, the inspectors of the department have been called to give advice on the best practicable layout, design and construction. Examples of different problems put to them especially in the smaller canteens, include the technical details of the installation of considerable mechanical ventilation plant, and the efficient arrangements for the supply of adequate running hot water.
- (b) Owing to a change in the law, the old type "bottle party" has developed into the "members' club," where in order to comply with the new statute meals must be provided, and this in turn requires a catering licence. This evolution has, fortunately, been the cause of comprehensive improvements in these premises; particularly encouraging results have been, in every case, the provision of efficient kitchen arrangements.
- (c) As many of the alterations and improvements required in existing restaurants have proved to be very costly (in some cases exceeding £20,000), the work involved has often extended over a period of ten to twelve months. The nature and extent of the work has inevitably limited the number of premises with which it has been possible to deal. In some other instances the standard of workmanship has not been quite satisfactory, and has proved to have been a retarding factor in securing speedy compliance with notices. In several instances work has had to be repeated and restaurant proprietors have had occasion to take action in the County, and even the High Court, mainly because of duplicated costs. This is mentioned because the sanitary inspector dealing with the work is invariably sub-poenaed to give evidence, and many hours of his time are spent waiting for the cases to be heard.
- (d) The proprietors of new restaurants encounter many difficulties in obtaining building licences for work specified by the inspector before the restaurant is opened for business. The Regional Food Office, though fully appreciative of the need for the licence, cannot always, because of national financial restrictions imposed on them, endorse the full extent of the proposed work. In consequence, sometimes "make-shift"

arrangements have had to be made by reducing the amount of work originally required. This no doubt has been unavoidable under present supply conditions, but it is unfortunate because the high standard originally striven for has not always been attained. The Ministry of Works, so far as it concerns that department, have also been co-operative in issuing building licences for work considered essential in catering establishments.

Again, occasional lengthy delays, involving considerable correspondence, have occurred before the Ministry were satisfied that the case for "essentiality" had been made out for the issue of a licence in any given case. It will be seen, therefore, that the combined effect of these various factors (most of which are inevitable at the present time) has been markedly to interfere with routine inspection of catering establishments, and has to some extent retarded the degree of improvement which could reasonably have been effected had circumstances been more propitious.

On the whole, the Catering Trade has been very co-operative, as is shown by the fact that during the year under review it was not necessary to institute legal proceedings in a single case. Whenever attention has been drawn to unsatisfactory conditions there has been a genuine desire and attempt to meet the criticisms made, and one is glad to record that in some instances, caterers themselves have taken the initiative in effecting very desirable improvements in unsatisfactory conditions. The difficulties of the trade are fully realised, particularly in regard to the frequently changing and untrained staffs carrying out certain kitchen duties. The inspectors, during their visits, have noted in some cases, staff engaged on washing-up operations, unable to read the indicating thermometer attached to the washing-up machine. Nevertheless, it is felt that there is a greater interest, perception and growing appreciation of the importance of hygiene by the higher executive staff, resulting in the regular inspection of kitchens and staff quarters by responsible personnel of the management staff. If this practice were more widely adopted the beneficial results would be obvious.

Another difficulty which affects some of the smaller establishments is the incidence of heavy purchase tax for such essential equipment as refrigerators, water heaters, &c. This acts as a discouragement to those willing and anxious to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act.

Whilst further improvements are still necessary and desirable in many establishments, supervision of conditions under which food is prepared and stored must continue to exercise the active attention of your inspectors. But it should nevertheless be borne in mind that the number of cases of food poisoning which have been notified during the year is infinitesimal in relation to the number of meals served in the City each day.

FOOD SHOPS AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES (OTHER THAN CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS).

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Bakehouses	40	78
Dairies and milkshops	227	55
Fried fish shops	3	7
Ice cream premises—Sale	40	23
Ice cream premises—Manufacture	31	25
Meat shops	37	29
Other meat shops (preserved food, &c.)	4	3
Stalls	28	32
Confectioners	28	12
Fruit and greengrocery	20	17
Provision shops	60	118
Other food premises	111	74
Fish and poultry	18	9
	—————	—————
	647	482
	—————	—————

Included in the above totals are visits in connection with the sale of horseflesh and inquiries into food poisoning outbreaks.

Other Food Premises.

Under this heading are included :—

- (1) Off-licences.
- (2) Food factories.
- (3) Bonded warehouses.
- (4) Chemists' shops.
- (5) Visits made in connection with applications for entry on the List of Persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List.
- (6) Visits to various offices in connection with inquiries regarding adulterated samples.

BASEMENT BAKEHOUSES.

There now remain only nine underground bakehouses in respect of which Certificates of Suitability have been renewed. Of the nineteen reviewed, at the end of the quinquennium, ten had been closed.

VISITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING SAMPLES AND INSPECTING
FOODSTUFFS.

	<i>Sampling.</i>	<i>Inspection of Food.</i>
Bakehouses	—	2
Dairies and milkshops	211	18
Ice cream premises—Sale	36	5
Ice cream premises—Manufacture	13	2
Meat shops	6	134
Other meat shops	—	1
Confectioners	7	7
Fruit and greengrocery	15	198
Provision shops	173	449
Other food premises	57	94
Staff canteens	4	26
Hotels, restaurants, clubs	8	79
Cafes, teashops, &c.	1	17
Public houses	62	5
Fish and poultry	1	53
	—————	—————
	594	1,090
	—————	—————

FOOD SHOPS AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Notices served.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	25
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	3
Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	9
London County Council (Drainage) Byelaws, 1934	...	...	...	...	1
London County Council (Watercloset) Byelaws, 1930	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					40
					—

Defects found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	...	5
Defective internally	...	...	...	...	2
„ externally	...	...	...	...	1
„ drainage	...	...	...	...	3
„ floors	...	...	...	...	3
Preparation tables and equipment—worn and insanitary					1
Food storage accommodation inadequate, unsuitable, &c.	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	...	2
Washing facilities for staff, insufficient, unsuitable	...	...	...	...	5
Rubbish, fuel and other extraneous materials in food preparation rooms	...	...	...	...	1
Waterclosets, insufficient	...	...	...	...	3
„ insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	...	2
„ defective	...	...	...	...	1
„ direct approach	...	...	...	...	2

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Analysis of Inspections.

			<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Hotels, restaurants, clubs	...	...	1,029	1,597
Cafes, teashops, &c.	...	...	284	664
Staff canteens	...	...	93	109
Public houses	...	...	62	320
			—	—
			1,468	2,690
			—	—

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	114
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	191
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	2
London County Council (Drainage) Byelaws, 1934	...	...	...	5
London County Council (Watercloset) Byelaws, 1930	...	...	...	2
				—
				314
				—

Defects found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	...	...	154
Defective internally	...	...	...	...	...	80
„ externally	...	...	...	...	...	26
„ drainage	...	...	...	...	...	45
„ area paving	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ floors	...	...	...	...	...	56
Preparation tables and equipment, worn and insanitary						69
Food storage, inadequate, unsuitable	...	...	...	...	...	42
Vegetable preparation and washing up facilities—						
Worn and insanitary	...	...	...	...	...	69
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	34
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	76
Staff washing facilities, insufficient, unsuitable	...	...	...	...	...	48
Staff changing rooms, insufficient, unsuitable	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fuel, rubbish and other extraneous materials in food preparation rooms	...	...	...	...	...	26
Accommodation unsuitable (re-designing and re-siting of equipment necessary), &c.	...	...	...	...	...	12
Vermin—						
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fuel storage accommodation insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waterclosets—						
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	17
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	...	...	30
Defective	...	...	...	...	...	31
Dirty and dilapidated	...	...	...	...	...	33
Direct approach	...	...	...	...	...	9
Not separate for the sexes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Unsuitable	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water supply inadequate	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	3

SAMPLES PURCHASED UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SHOWING
RESULTS OF ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

<i>Articles of Food.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Samples Purchased.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>
Bacon	5	1	4
Baking powder	11	—	11
Butter	15	—	15
Cake and pudding mixture	69	8	61
Cereals	42	6	36
Cheese	11	—	11
Cocoa	1	—	1
Coffee preparations and essences	17	—	17
Condiments and spices	17	1	16
Confectionery	80	9	71
Cooking fat	9	—	9
Culinary flavours	52	—	52
Dried fruit	5	—	5
Drugs	28	—	28
Fish preparations	92	11	81
Fruit (canned and preserved)	36	5	31
Gelatine	14	2	12
Jams and preserves	61	1	60
Margarine	10	—	10
Milk	632	4	628
Milk, condensed and evaporated	33	—	33
Milk, dried	1	—	1
Pickles and sauces	45	1	44
Meat and meat preparations	55	2	53
Salad oils and dressings	24	6	18
Sandwich spread	1	—	1
Sausages	20	3	17
Soft drinks, cordials, &c.	34	2	32
Soup	32	1	31
Spirits	187	2	185
Suet	3	—	3
Sugar	2	—	2
Tea	9	—	9
Vegetables	55	3	52
Vinegar	24	4	20
Wines	6	2	4
Ice cream	62	—	62
Totals	1,800	74	1,726

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
MANUFACTURE, SALE OR STORAGE OF ICE CREAM.

On 1st January, 1950, 151 premises were registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. During the course of the year applications were received in respect of 22 further premises and these were duly registered, making a total of 173 registered premises at the end of the year.

At the commencement of the year 12 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice cream. There were no further registrations during the course of the year.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

During the year 82 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test. The samples were classified in the provisional grades, as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

The above grading is based upon the method of examination recommended by the Ministry of Health. In this test the grading is consequent upon the time taken for a measured volume of the ice cream to reduce the colour of a measured volume of methylene blue dye.

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	Over 4½ hours.
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	Between 2 and 4½ hours.
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	Between ½ and 2 hours.
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	Under ½ hour.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

At the 31st December, 1950, the following were entered in the City Council's Registers of Dairies and Distributors of Milk:—

Premises used as dairies	...	...	...	...	59
Distributors of milk (premises in Westminster)	...	...	...	...	51
Distributors of milk (premises outside Westminster)	...	...	...	...	21

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949. Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following are particulars of licences granted during 1950 to dealers in respect of the sale of milk under prescribed or special designations:—

					<i>Principal. Licence.</i>	<i>Supple- mentary. Licence.</i>
Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	...	20	14
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	100	20
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	76	20

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.

At the end of the year the number entered on the List of Persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List was 167. During the year 14 persons had been removed from the List, because they were no longer in business or had moved out of the City, and 11 new applicants had been duly entered on the List.

UNSOOUND FOOD.

The following table shows the amount, and method of disposal, of food condemned by the inspectors as unfit for human consumption during the year 1950 :—

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Amount</i>			<i>Amount</i>			<i>Tons. Cwt. Lb.</i>		
	<i>Destroyed.</i>			<i>Salvaged.</i>			<i>Total.</i>		
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>
Canned food ...	16	10	66	1	8	29	17	18	95
Meat ...	1	3	59½	—	5	103	1	9	50½
Fats ...	—	—	60½	—	1	41	—	1	101½
Fish ...	1	19	40	—	—	—	1	19	40
Fruit and vegetables ...	329	16	96	—	—	30	329	17	14
Cereals ...	—	4	67	—	12	69	—	17	24
Confectionery ...	—	6	26½	—	6	35	—	12	61½
Miscellaneous ...	2	0	58	—	6	4	2	6	62
Total ...	352	2	25½	3	0	87	355	3	0½

FOOD POISONING.

During the year 15 incidents of food poisoning occurred in the City. In 9 of the outbreaks only one or two people were affected, but nevertheless thorough investigations as to the cause were made in each.

The other 6 outbreaks affected larger numbers of people, and the following details are given in regard to these particular incidents. Unfortunately, delay often occurs before any notification is received. During this interval, any remainder of the meal is usually thrown away and the patient becomes well again, so that no specimens of vomit and other discharges can be obtained.

Here are notes of six outbreaks which indicate some of the difficulties encountered in trying to trace the causes of food poisoning.

(1) This outbreak involved some 95 people who had partaken of lunch in a staff canteen in the City. The suspected food was the meat pudding prepared at the canteen the evening before. A specimen of this meat was recovered and submitted for bacteriological examination. Fifteen stool specimens were submitted from various persons, but these were only obtained after the persons concerned had recovered from the illness. Four members of the kitchen staff were swabbed in an effort to isolate the possible cause. In all cases the specimens failed to show

the cause. The illness was of very short duration and occurring as it had, just before the week-end, it was not possible to obtain vomit and stool specimens from patients during their illness.

(2) An outbreak occurred at a residential hostel and restaurant where 15 residents, two members of the hostel staff and one member of the kitchen staff were affected. The organisms responsible for this outbreak of food poisoning could not be isolated despite the fact that 28 stool specimens were submitted to the bacteriologist. It was not therefore possible to determine the immediate cause of this outbreak. Examination of the kitchen staff revealed that two food handlers with lesions on their hands were infected with *proteus vulgaris* and *staphylococcus pyogenes* respectively. Both were employed as general kitchen hands and, as a precautionary measure, were referred for treatment. Suggestions were made for many improvements in kitchen management and there has since been no recurrence.

(3) An outbreak occurred in a public restaurant where 16 members of the staff and 9 customers were known to be affected. No food remained from the suspected meal. Seventeen specimens of urine and 18 of faeces from persons affected were examined but no causative organism was isolated. Only in one case were the symptoms very severe, and that case was notified as dysentery, and removed to hospital. The diagnosis was subsequently amended to that of non-specific enteritis. Attention was called to unsatisfactory conditions in the kitchen, and no further outbreak has occurred.

(4) A series of small outbreaks affecting in all 21 people occurred at an hotel. The information was collected as opportunity presented, and it is summarised here under three headings relating to the patients, the food, the kitchens and the staff of food handlers. The investigations of each outbreak were inconclusive individually; but in March, 1951, another outbreak occurred when nine persons were affected. The information derived from this outbreak, taken in conjunction with the shreds of evidence from the previous outbreaks, enabled the cause to be identified with reasonable certainty. Most of the patients had severe vomiting and diarrhoea; but they recovered quickly, usually within 12 hours. The recovery was so rapid that on only very few occasions was a specimen of vomit obtained and from one of these a *staphylococcus* of a recognised enterotoxogenic phage type was isolated. Sauces, either hollandaise or mushroom, were suspected both because they were consumed by all affected persons and because they were a very suitable medium for staphylococcal growth. Such of the suspected foods as remained were examined bacteriologically. A *staphylococcus* was isolated on two occasions from sauces and identified as belonging to the same phage type.

The kitchens are large and have recently been renovated and are kept in a good state of general cleanliness. Fifteen chefs are employed and these were swabbed for bacterial cultures. The investigations of these food handlers, simultaneously conducted, yielded these results.

Several as might be anticipated, carried staphylococci and this group included the two sauce chefs. None of the staphylococci carried by the ordinary chefs belonged to the enterotoxogenic phage types, and the staphylococci from one of the sauce chefs were found to be of an indefinite phage type. The other sauce chef was found on two occasions to be carrying the same phage type as was found in the sauces or vomit. On the first occasion he had a septic finger. This man was kept off food handling until he had recovered and until three subsequent examinations failed to show staphylococci. The second occasion followed an outbreak in March, 1951, and is included to complete the story. The same chef was taken off food handling and referred to hospital and bacteriological laboratory for clearance of his staphylococci by antibiotics and chemotherapy and for simultaneous bacteriological control of this treatment. This was done with the concurrence of his own general medical practitioner who had throughout given the most helpful co-operation. At the time of writing this report the man is apparently clear of enterotoxogenic staphylococci.

As noted in the Catering Trade Working Party Report, carriers of the food poisoning staphylococcus are not covered by any present regulations. In this case, the hotel management and the chef concerned co-operated in all the many tests and precautions. If, however, such co-operation had not been forthcoming, it would have been difficult to reach a satisfactory solution.

(5) At a large Government department canteen 96 people were affected by food poisoning following the mid-day meal. Approximately 180 lunches were served in the canteen, but only 96 consumers were traced, and the only article of food on the menu which had been eaten by all the sufferers was a meat pudding. None of the meat pudding was left, but some of the meat and pastry was recovered from the waste bin. This was submitted to the bacteriologist but the result of his examination did not reveal the presence of any causative organisms. All the food handlers in the canteen were swabbed and stool specimens were taken with a view to finding a possible carrier. The results, however, were negative. It was therefore not possible to establish the actual cause of this outbreak. The history of the outbreak and the clinical cause of the attack in this instance suggested the presence in the boiled meat of a bacterial toxin at the time of consumption. Advice was given for the proper storage of boiled meat for future consumption.

(6) Approximately 60 members of the staff of a large commercial undertaking suffered from an attack of diarrhoea after eating a meal consisting of beef steak and mushroom pie. The pie was made at the canteen from fresh meat and mushrooms. On investigation the following day nothing of the original pie remained but two samples were taken from another pie which had been made from the same consignment of meat. The bacteriologist reported that the two specimens submitted were bacteriologically satisfactory. With no further material available the cause of this outbreak remained undetected.

RATS AND MICE REPRESSION.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,316
Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,662
Inspections by the Rodent Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,873
Inspections by the Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Notices served to 31st March, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Notices served from 31st March to 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings received from 31st March to December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	279
<i>Rodents destroyed.</i>							
Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,302
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	924
Mice...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,463
							13,689
							13,689

PIGEONS.

Under the provisions of Section 121 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, the City Council as a Sanitary Authority is empowered for the purpose of abating or mitigating any nuisance, annoyance or damage caused by the congregation of pigeons in the City, having no owner, or for preventing or minimising any such nuisance, annoyance or damage to reduce the number of such pigeons.

The following action was taken during the year in this connection :—

Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
Pigeons destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	639

NOISE NUISANCES.

Complaints were received in respect of 36 nuisances arising from very varied causes. 67 investigations were made and the co-operation of the persons concerned in all cases was obtained and the nuisances abated.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Investigation of atmospheric pollution in the City was continued throughout the year at the Pimlico and Mayfair Stations, and an additional deposit gauge was installed in the Charing Cross district at Alhambra House.

The following tables give the results of the monthly analysis of the impurities collected in the deposit gauges.

Analyses of Deposited Impurities (tons per square mile).

1950.	Mayfair.		Pimlico.		Charing Cross.	
	Total Solids.	Sul-phates.	Total Solids.	Sul-phates.	Total Solids.	Sul-phates.
January ...	24·64	3·03	34·07	3·82	—	—
February ...	24·07	2·62	30·12	3·90	—	—
March... ...	19·84	1·84	19·38	1·75	—	—
April	35·47	2·80	31·16	3·22	—	—
May	22·40	2·44	19·46	2·49	—	—
June	14·90	1·70	22·34	2·77	21·56	2·16
July	17·56	2·37	21·95	3·40	—	—
August	16·47	1·50	22·34	1·79	20·00	1·81
September ...	14·87	1·74	21·97	2·05	21·67	2·44
October	19·30	2·21	20·80	2·60	22·47	2·69
November ...	46·51	5·45	45·72	5·59	55·03	5·74
December ...	20·94	2·15	28·16	2·74	40·59	3·22

ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR ACTIVITY BY THE LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD.

The lead peroxide cylinders for the estimation of sulphur activity are sited at Farm Street Depot, Mayfair, Bessborough Street Clinic, Pimlico and Alhambra House, Charing Cross Road. The following tables indicate the daily absorption of sulphur due to active sulphurous gases in the atmosphere.

Sulphur Dioxide in Milligrammes per 100 sq. cms. per day.

	Mayfair.	Pimlico.	Charing Cross.
1950.			
January	3·55	3·62	3·17
February	3·15	3·63	2·90
March	2·57	2·46	2·62
April	1·97	2·28	2·42
May	1·68	1·98	2·01
June	1·66	1·30	1·79
July	1·09	1·62	1·59
August	1·28	1·54	1·46
September	1·40	1·74	2·07
October	2·62	3·46	3·12
November	4·12	4·81	4·82
December	3·54	4·83	4·78

Owens Automatic Smoke Recorder.

An hourly record of suspended impurities in the air was continued by the Owens Method at the laboratory, Monck Street.

Estimation of Sulphur Dioxide by the Hydrogen Peroxide Method.

An estimation of sulphur gases in the atmosphere was made on alternative days, at the laboratory, Monck Street.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations were continued throughout the year, and the following table summarises the action taken in mitigation of smoke nuisances:—

Complaints	85
Observations	1,374
Notices issued	37

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Prosecutions instituted	40
Convictions	30
Cases dismissed on plea of guilty and payment of costs by defendant	3
Cases withdrawn on plea of guilty by consent	2
Cases withdrawn	3
Cases dismissed	2

ANALYSIS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

	<i>Fines.</i>			<i>Costs.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
DWELLINGS.						
<i>Public Health (London) Act, 1936.</i>						
Failure to comply with an Abatement Order—						
One conviction	35	0	0	15	15	0
Failure to abate a nuisance—						
Six convictions	20	0	0	17	13	0
CATERING.						
<i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</i>						
Failing to take precautions against the contamination of food						
One conviction	8	0	0	2	0	0
Selling food intended for, but unfit for, human consumption						
One conviction						
FOOD.						
<i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</i>						
Selling milk deficient in fat—						
One conviction	10	0	0	15	15	0
<i>Merchandise Marks Act, 1887.</i>						
<i>Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943.</i>						
<i>Labelling of Food Order, 1946.</i>						
Applying a false description and label to wine.						
Plea of guilty entered, but defendant discharged absolutely on three summons on payment of costs, under provisions of Criminal Justice Act, 1948						
Twelve convictions	—			31	0	0
Three cases withdrawn.	1,200	0	0	42	0	0
<i>Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943.</i>						
<i>Labelling of Food Order, 1946.</i>						
Applying a false label to wine.						
Two summonses withdrawn on plea of guilty by consent.						
<i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</i>						
Selling ice cream from a container without having name and address of vendor legibly and conspicuously displayed thereon.						
Eight convictions	11	10	0	4	13	0
Two summonses dismissed.						
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£1,284 10 0			£128 16 0		

WATER.

Water for drinking and commercial purposes is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, and has proved throughout the year to be satisfactory in quality and quantity. Six complaints of contaminated drinking water were received, and all concerned the presence of algae or other foreign matter in the storage cisterns. In all cases the tanks were cleansed.

The resident population (enumerated in 1951 at 98,895) in 22,695 houses receive water from the Metropolitan Water Board's mains or from deep wells. Ninety deep wells were in use at 31st December, 1950, and 90 bacteriological and 26 chemical reports of analysis were received on supplies drawn from these sources. Only one such report indicated an unsatisfactory supply bacteriologically. Chlorinating equipment is being installed at the premises concerned. Seven bores were sealed off owing to the supplies being insufficient, and their pumping machinery removed during the year. One new bore was sunk, this being at premises maintaining a 24-hour national service. There were already two wells at these premises just maintaining the necessary supplies. This third installation, which has been sunk to a total depth of 560 feet, has a standing water level of 239 feet although this level drops to 321 feet during pumping operations. This enables essential maintenance work on pumping equipment being undertaken without diminution of supply.

In all but 3 of these 90 deep wells, the water is used for domestic purposes. In those 3 :—

- 1 supply is used for cooling purposes ;
- 1 for supplying boilers ; and
- 1 is a standby in case of fire.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

	<i>Rooms.</i>	<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Articles</i> <i>Destroyed.</i>	<i>Articles</i> <i>Washed.</i>	<i>Vehicles.</i>	<i>Books.</i>
Disinfection ...	524	13,445	1,064	—	34	493
Disinfestation ...	1,212	4,018	1,977	—	5	—
Laundry towels	—	—	—	6,860	—	—
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	1,736	17,463	3,041	6,860	39	493
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TREATMENTS.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Children</i> <i>(under</i> <i>school age).</i>	<i>Children</i> <i>(School).</i>	<i>Articles.</i>
Scabies ...	46	33	22	81	2,667
Head lice ...	—	18	9	356	399
Body lice ...	326	41	—	—	6,696
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	372	92	31	437	9,762
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BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD.

Under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, it is the duty of the City Council as a Sanitary Authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or is found dead in the area, where no other arrangements have been made for the disposal of the body.

The Council is empowered to recover the cost of burial from the estate of the deceased, and as from the 5th July, 1949, is eligible to receive payments in respect of the cost of such burial from death grants payable under the provisions of the National Insurance Act, 1946. Some 70 per cent. of the cost of all burials carried out during the year has been recovered from these sources.

Where persons without known relatives die in the City, it is frequently necessary not only to arrange for their burial, but to dispose of the contents of their homes. This course is necessary to enable the proceeds to be applied towards the cost of burial and also to avoid rent accruing and to release the accommodation for housing purposes as early as possible.

During the year 36 burials were undertaken by the City Council in its cemetery at Hanwell, the requests for such burials being received from the following sources :—

H.M. Coroner's Officer	...	...	...	...	22
Relatives of the deceased	...	...	...	...	7
Hospitals in the City	...	...	...	...	7
					—
					36
					—

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

In all 317 bodies were received in the Mortuary on Coroner's Warrants by Police or Undertakers. There were 4 bodies admitted to await burial.

	<i>Number of Cases.</i>
Inquest cases	89
Non-inquest cases	228
Post mortem examinations held	290

Causes of death in the foregoing were as under :—

Accidental drowning	2
Found drowned	7
Suicide by drowning	4
„ by other means	25
Accidents—	
Street	15
Domestic	12
Others	13
Natural causes	229
Misadventure	2
Murder	Nil
Miscellaneous cases	8

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