

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

Contributors

City of Westminster (London, England). County Council.
Shinnie, Andrew J.

Publication/Creation

[1952]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/c8wennqq>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Arch. 10 - 10 - 52.

AC 4384
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.
REPORTS COLLECTION COPY

WES 61

City of Westminster.



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1951

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

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



City of Westminster.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951

ANDREW J. SHINNIE, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., (LOND.).

Medical Officer of Health.

LONDON:

HARRISON AND SONS, LTD.,
PRINTERS TO THE LATE KING GEORGE VI,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C.2.

City of Cincinnati



REPORT

HEALTH OFFICER OF HEALTH

1891

FOR THE YEAR 1891

W. H. WATSON, M.D.,
HEALTH OFFICER OF HEALTH

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
Abstracts—Factory Act	31
Aged and Infirm—care of	17
Area of the City	12
Atmospheric Pollution	43
Bacteriological Examinations	17
Births... ..	12
British Red Cross Society	18
Burial or Cremation of the Dead	47
Catering Establishments	32, 35
Clean Food Campaign	32
Closing Orders	25, 28
Common Lodging Houses	32
Coroner's Court and Mortuary	48
Deaths	12, 15, 16
Disinfection and Disinfestation	46
Drainage	23
Dwelling Houses	22
Factories, Workplaces, Shops and other Premises	29
„ Defects and Nuisances	31
Food, Inspection and Supervision	32, 34, 36
„ Legal Proceedings	45
„ Poisoning	39
„ Shops and Premises	33
„ Unsound	39
Fumigation of Furniture	47
House to House Inspection	29
Houses, number of	12
„ unfit	25
Housing	22, 25
„ Informal and Voluntary Action	25, 28
„ Statistical Summary of 20 years	27
Ice Cream	37
Infantile Mortality	13
Infectious Diseases	13, 14
„ „ Certificates	14
International Certificates of Inoculation and Vaccination	19
Introduction	9
Legal Proceedings	45

	<i>Page</i>
Manufactured Meat Products Working Party	32
Medical Attention	18
Medical Inspection of Aliens	19
Medical Research Council	14
Milk and Dairies	38
Mobile Meals Service ("Meals on Wheels")	18
Noise Nuisances	43
Notes on Housing	26
Notices	22, 23, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 42, 44
Notices, Statutory	23, 33, 44
Outworkers	30
Overcrowding	26
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	39
Pigeons	42
Poliomyelitis	13, 14
Population	12
Premises	21, 22, 23, 30
Private Deep Wells	46
Public Health Committee	5
Public Health Staff	6, 7, 8
Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act	46
Rateable Value	12
Rat and Mice Repression	42
Rehousing	26
Rodents destroyed	42
Samples, food	34, 36
Sanitary Circumstances	21
Slaughterman's Licences	20
Smallpox	14
Smoke Abatement	44
Staff, Public Health Department	6, 7, 8
Starlings	42
Statistics and Social Conditions	12
Tuberculosis	15, 17
Underground Rooms	25, 29
Unfit Premises	25
Unsound Food	39
Water	46
„ additional supplies to premises	23
Welfare of Old People	17
Westminster Old People's Welfare Association	19
Workplaces, Shops, etc.	29

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*) :

Councillor Albert Seiver, J.P., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (*ex-officio*) :

Councillor Wilfred Eric Rice, C.B.E., J.P.

CHAIRMAN :

Councillor C. R. Purnell.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Councillor Lt.-Col. H. Norman Edwards, M.B.E.

MEMBERS :

Alderman G. F. Jerdein, D.L.

Councillor Dr. T. Anwyl-Davies.

„ A. L. Burton.

„ G. F. Davies.

„ J. C. R. Durran, J.P.

„ J. G. Elsworthy, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I., M.R.San.I.

„ R. L. Everest, F.R.I.C.S., F.I.Arb.

„ D. E. Havinden.

„ L. E. Johnson.

„ W. Charles Norton, M.B.E., M.C.

„ Miss P. C. Paton Walsh.

„ Dr. G. Rewcastle, O.B.E.. (Died 18.2.51.)

„ Mrs. Arthur Rye.

„ Mrs. Francis Storrs.

„ The Countess Winterton.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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.

PUBLIC ANALYSTS :

(Part time)

F. W. Edwards, F.I.C.

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

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

H. E. White.

CHIEF CLERK :

W. D. Sambrook.

DEPUTY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

(and with special duties relating to Theatres, Cinemas and other places
of amusement),

W. G. J. Sutton.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

District :

A. G. Bates.

J. M. Burbridge.

W. J. Davies.

J. E. Drake.

D. W. Saunders.

F. E. Siddle (Inspector for Rodent Control).

R. F. Stubbs. (To 30.6.51.)

W. L. French (Inspector, with special duties
relating to the care of old people, for Disinfection, Disinfestation, &c.).

Housing :

C. F. Brockett (Inspector in Charge).

J. W. Baxter.

A. R. Cook (from 9.7.51).

J. J. Coveney (to 15.5.51).

J. W. M. Meston (from 16.7.51).

Food :

J. J. Coveney (from 16.5.51).

P. A. Lloyd.

H. D. Luke (to 15.5.51).

Catering Establishments :

J. H. Brownlee.

M. J. Flynn (to 30.6.51).

R. F. Stubbs (from 1.7.51).

Atmospheric Pollution :

R. Roper.

Women's Factories :

Miss C. Hughesdon.

Clerical Staff :

J. W. Anderson (to 4.5.51).	G. Lyness (temporary).
R. L. Booker.	L. J. Nunn.
C. E. Clark.	J. M. Shotbolt.
A. H. Cole.	B. Shrensky (from 1.9.51).
A. R. Cook (to 8.7.51).	W. E. F. Simmons.
P. Cox (temporary).	W. H. Smith.
Mrs. P. M. Crump (<i>née</i> Illman).	E. A. Taylor.
W. F. C. King.	E. W. Tyler.
D. Levitton.	B. S. Weaver.

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

SUPERINTENDENT:

A. W. Nicholls.

1ST MORTICIAN:

L. M. Swanston.

MORTICIANS:

S. J. Buckingham (from 10.12.51).

C. H. Lorraine (to 4.12.51).

N. J. Marchant (to 24.2.51).

S. E. Salisbury (from 17.12.51).

Miss E. S. Dunford (S.R.N.).

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. MacWilliam (S.R.N.).

Miss I. M. Newman (Woman Attendant).

RODENT STAFF:

Rodent Officer:

J. W. Brown.

H. J. Felstead (Foreman).

J. J. Devine.

H. Brown.

G. Murray.

D. G. Cadlock.

F. C. Smellie.

A. C. Dale (to 30.7.51).

J. Vidal.

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.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1951.

I beg to present my twenty-seventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the City of Westminster. This Report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51. The Circular indicates generally the matters on which the Minister would wish information, *e.g.*, the nature and extent of any outbreaks of food poisoning.

The year 1951, after a cold and wet spring followed by a summer rather deficient in sunshine may have had some effect in increasing the deaths from such respiratory conditions as pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia and bronchitis where the number of deaths rose from 92 to 138.

There were 19 separate outbreaks of food poisoning, ten of which were instances concerning single individuals. In investigating these outbreaks it is the endeavour to reconcile the type of infective organism recoverable from the suspected food with that from the sufferer and with that from any person known to have prepared or handled the food suspected. In many instances the three lines of inquiry cannot be joined up in a final conclusion. It may be that none of the food suspected remains unconsumed, or less frequently no pathogenic organisms are traceable in those who handled the food. In most cases, however, organisms capable of causing food poisoning are recovered from the persons affected. Sometimes two of the three lines of inquiry seem to achieve a common result as for instance when none of the food consumed is available but the same type of organism is found in the patient and in the suspected food handler, and it can reasonably be assumed that here is an instance of cause and effect. In others where a contaminating organism is found in the food and recovered from the patient, likewise a reasonable assumption of cause and effect can be made. But where nothing can be recovered from the suspected food handler or the specimen of food itself shows no pathogenic organisms, investigations become most disappointing for they involve long and patient effort by those engaged on an inquiry, including the bacteriologist.

From the details of some of the outbreaks outlined on page 39 it may be noted that in only seven of them were the results of investigations in any degree definitive. This is in no way surprising in view of the absence of remainders of food consumed and the transitory infectivity of suspected human conveyors.

The incidence of other notifiable infectious disease was low. There were no cases of Diphtheria, the very first year in the history of the City when none has been notified. Immunization against this very insidious and mortal disease was begun in 1925, Westminster being the second sanitary authority in London to introduce this preventive measure—Holborn was the first. Very few authorities throughout the country, with the exception of Scottish towns, had adopted it before 1930. Its use

became widespread during the war when there was much massing of children for evacuation, and crowding in shelters. The clear and persuasive broadcasts of Sir Wilson Jameson, then Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, were largely responsible for the general adoption of immunization. In the country generally in 1925 there were 47,684 cases of Diphtheria notified and 2,774 deaths; in 1938 65,008 notified cases and 2,931 deaths; in 1946 11,601 notified and 455 deaths. The provisional figures for 1951 are 699 notified cases and 34 deaths. Much attention has been given to german measles and whooping cough. As regards the former it is because of the alleged influence on malformations of the child when the mother is infected during the first three months of pregnancy. Whooping cough remains still an infection of high incidence among young children leading sometimes to serious consequent respiratory complications. Some useful work has been done in co-operation with the Westminster Children's Hospital in furthering preventive measures among contacts by means of chemical antibiotics. As in 1950 there was one death from whooping cough in infants of under one year of age. There were 1,018 notifications of measles but no deaths.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population at 30th June 1951 was 100,000 all ages, a slight decline throughout on the estimate for 1950. When the Registrar General published his preliminary report of the Census in 1951, the persons enumerated were 98,895. The birth rate at 12.35 has risen from 11.9 last year, but this is due to the decline in total population as estimated by the Registrar General. The actual number of births has fallen from 1,251 to 1,235, the fall among illegitimate births being most notable. Infantile mortality was 34 per 1,000 births compared with 35.17 last year but there was a greater mortality among illegitimate infants. The general death rate at 11.87 compares with 10.16 in 1950. As already mentioned more citizens died of respiratory diseases but deaths from cancer were fewer, 241 in 1950 compared with 232 in 1951. Cancer of the lung however claimed more victims, 42 as compared with 35 in 1950, the increase being confined to males. There are some grounds for believing that cancer of the lung and air passages is more common in industrial areas subjected to considerable atmospheric pollution, for in some areas in these islands where the country is largely agricultural, cancer of the lung seems to be considerably less common. There were no deaths from confinements or conditions associated with childbirth.

As regards notifications of infectious disease, there was, as expected, a much larger incidence of notified cases of measles, 1,018 compared with 356 in 1950, and 685 in 1949. In spite of this large incidence there were no deaths from measles. There were four cases of poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis and no deaths. Tuberculosis shows a small increase in the total number of cases notified, but slightly fewer deaths. The recent tuberculosis regulations have rather shifted the responsibilities of the local sanitary authorities and placed them on the local health authority, the London County Council. The net result is that notification as an instrument of engaging the services of the local sanitary authority on behalf of the patient has been restricted.

In this Report the various activities of the department are reported

and they cover the wide field of Food and Drugs administration, including the supervision of catering establishments, the conditions of dwelling houses and details of administrative action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts, progress in measures to safeguard the atmosphere from pollution, and a variety of other activities. Since the transfer of the maternity and child welfare and other personal services to the London County Council by the Health Service Act in 1948, it is true that a number of matters of much local interest find no place in this report, but the City Council's representatives on the London County Council Divisional Committee are able to maintain some measure of contact with the services for which the City Council was formerly responsible.

One is sometimes asked what effects on the health services have been observed since 4th July, 1948. From a somewhat limited observation post it is difficult to discern any real advantages during the past four years. In such essentially local affairs as the birth and care of children, the home care of the consumptive, the home help service which safeguards the welfare of old citizens whose energies and faculties are failing, centrally administered control must always be at some disadvantage. The London County Council in this division has striven to preserve the customs and traditions of the services formerly under the control of the City Council and no higher compliment could have been paid. Relations with the officers of the London County Council have been uniformly happy. As officers of a very large administrative machine they have shown themselves very understanding in adapting the pre-existing local methods into the complex structure of the County administration.

As an *obiter dictum* one is led to reflect on the traditional common sense of the British people. What chaos might have resulted in a less experienced democracy or one without the advantage of a stable and well-trained Civil and Local Government Service in view of the rapid succession of revolutionary changes which Parliament has brought about since 1945. It is almost entirely due to the ability and great experience of the officers of all ranks already engaged in those services that the vast new machines of publicly-owned undertakings such as the National Health Service have rumbled onwards so smoothly.

There will appear sooner or later some curtailment in the activities of the department. This is due to the extreme difficulty in obtaining sanitary inspectors of suitable ability and experience to fill vacancies. These difficulties are not exclusive to Westminster but are being experienced throughout most of the London Boroughs.

I would again wish to thank the Chairman, Councillor C. R. Purnell, for his active interest in all matters relating to the staff and work of the department. The Vice-Chairman, Lt.-Col. Norman Edwards, and all members of the Public Health Committee have shown great appreciation and consideration of the staff who have carried out their duties with their accustomed loyalty and high sense of duty.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW J. SHINNIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	2,502·7
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year, 1951)	100,000
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931)	22,536
Rateable Value	£11,016,000

BIRTHS.

Live Births (registered)—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	1,110	573	537
Illegitimate	125	71	54
	1,235	644	591

BIRTHS NOTIFIED—1,217.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12·35
(Rate for London, 17·8 ; for England and Wales, 15·5)	
Number of stillbirths (males, 9 ; females, 11)	20
Rate of stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	15·93

DEATHS.

Net deaths (males, 624 ; females, 563)	1,187
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11·87
(Rate for London, 13·1 ; for England and Wales, 12·5)	
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil
(Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births)	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year (males, 21 ; females, 21) ...	42
Death-rate of infants under 1 year—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	34·00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	31·53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	56·00
Rate for London for infants under 1 year	26·4
Deaths (all ages) from measles	Nil
" " whooping cough	1
" " gastritis, diarrhoea and enteritis ...	7
" " cancer	232

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Legitimate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate.</i>
Whooping Cough	1	1	—
Meningococcal infections	1	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	—
Influenza	1	1	—
Bronchitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia	5	5	—
Congenital Malformations	2	2	—
*Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	22	4
All other Accidents (other than motor vehicles)	3	1	2
Homicide	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	42	35	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>Disease.</i>	<i>Original Notifica- tions.</i>	<i>Removed to Hospital.</i>	<i>Re- diagnosed.</i>	<i>Corrected Notifica- tions.</i>
Dysentery	210	88	24	186
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	—
Erysipelas	11	7	2	9
Food Poisoning	59	4	—	59
Malaria (origin unknown)	1	—	—	1
Measles	1,022	73	4	1,018
Meningococcal Infection ...	2	2	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	1	—	1
Pneumonia—				
Acute Primary	6	—	—	6
Influenzal	76	—	—	76
Poliomyelitis—				
Paralytic... ..	3	3	2	1
Non-Paralytic	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia... ..	12	10	—	12
Scabies	35	—	—	35
Scarlet Fever	62	21	2	60
Typhoid Fever	2	2	—	2
Whooping Cough	380	40	8	372

No cases of the following diseases were notified during the year: Anthrax; Cholera; Continued Fever; Diphtheria; Encephalitis; Glanders; Hydrophobia; Membranous Croup; Ophthalmia Neonatorum; Plague; Relapsing Fever; Smallpox; Typhus Fever.

SMALLPOX.

On eight separate occasions during the year, the Medical Officer of Health was called to see suspected cases of smallpox. Fortunately in every case, the disease was excluded.

On two occasions, information was received that passengers who were coming to Westminster, had been in contact with a case of smallpox whilst travelling by sea to this country. These contacts, in one instance numbering 96, were visited or telephoned by officers of the department until the period of danger was past.

At the beginning of the year, smallpox at Brighton considerably increased the work of the department. The original case, while suffering from the disease, had travelled through Westminster and as large numbers travelled daily from Brighton to Victoria, the department was immediately concerned. Many hundreds of requests for advice were received from these and other persons. Arrangements for vaccination facilities were made with Charing Cross and St. George's Hospitals and with the London County Council and plans were made to supplement these if necessary.

Officers of the department who might come into contact with cases were offered, and in almost all cases, accepted vaccination. Fortunately, however, no cases occurred.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL. RESEARCH ON POLIOMYELITIS.

The City Council readily agreed to their Medical Officer of Health collaborating with the Medical Research Council in the latter's virological and epidemiological research into this disease in 1951. Accordingly the required particulars of the four notified cases of the disease in the City were furnished to the Medical Research Council. Three of these cases were, however, subsequently re-diagnosed as not suffering from poliomyelitis and left one confirmed case of the paralytic type.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR 115/48—CONTACTS AND CARRIERS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE—SICKNESS BENEFIT.

This circular empowers the Medical Officer of Health to issue certificates to persons who have been in contact with or are carriers of infectious disease, thus enabling them to claim sickness benefit under the National Insurance Acts during the period of exclusion from their work.

Certificates were issued by the Medical Officer of Health during the year to two persons engaged in the food trade who had been in contact with cases of dysentery. Both were allowed to return to work as soon as they were found to be clear of infection.

DEATHS, 1951.

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

Causes of Deaths.	Sex.	All Ages.	Years of Age.								
			0-1	1-5	5-15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65- 75	75+	
All Causes	M.	624	21	3	3	12	49	204	185	147	
	F.	563	21	3	1	1	26	137	144	230	
Grand Totals		1,187	42	6	4	13	75	341	329	377	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M.	30	—	—	—	—	3	18	8	1	
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	
Tuberculosis, Other	M.	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Syphilitic Disease	M.	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infections ...	M.	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	
	F.	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	10	—	—	—	—	1	6	2	1	
	F.	15	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	3	
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	37	—	—	—	1	1	20	13	2	
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	32	—	—	—	—	5	13	9	5	
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	11	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	3	
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	69	—	—	1	3	14	20	18	13	
	F.	53	—	—	—	—	6	21	15	11	
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M.	6	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	
Diabetes	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	1	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	43	—	—	—	—	1	12	20	10	
	F.	60	—	—	—	—	—	15	14	31	
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M.	111	—	—	—	—	5	34	44	28	
	F.	59	—	—	—	—	—	14	16	29	

DEATHS, 1951—*continued.**Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the City—continued.*

<i>Causes of Deaths.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>All Ages.</i>	<i>Years of Age.</i>							
			0-1	1-5	5-15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65- 75	75+
Hypertension, with Heart Disease	M.	20	—	—	—	—	—	8	6	6
	F.	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	8
Other Heart Disease ...	M.	59	—	—	—	2	—	10	19	28
	F.	80	—	—	—	—	1	7	22	50
Other Circulatory Disease ...	M.	14	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	9
	F.	22	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	14
Influenza	M.	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	5
	F.	12	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	5
Pneumonia	M.	35	4	—	—	—	1	9	8	13
	F.	31	1	—	—	—	—	5	7	18
Bronchitis	M.	44	1	—	—	—	1	12	20	10
	F.	28	—	—	—	—	1	6	4	17
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	5	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—
	F.	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M.	15	—	—	—	—	1	5	5	4
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	M.	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
	F.	13	—	1	1	—	1	5	3	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M.	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	M.	7	—	1	1	—	2	3	—	—
	F.	5	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M.	41	14	—	—	—	5	11	7	4
	F.	66	12	1	—	1	4	15	15	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M.	5	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
All other Accidents ...	M.	17	1	1	1	2	3	6	—	3
	F.	11	2	—	—	—	1	2	1	5
Suicide	M.	16	—	—	—	—	5	8	1	2
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Homicide and Operations of War	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

				Negative.	Positive.
Nasal and Throat Swabs	...			171	Nil
Faeces	...	...	...	230	66
Urine	...	...	...	4	Nil
Skin Swabs	...	...	...	64	33
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	244	81

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	4	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	5	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	15	21	—	4	—	—	—	—
25 to 45 years	52	58	2	4	3	2	2	—
45 to 65 years	65	7	—	—	18	2	—	—
65 to 75 years	6	2	—	—	8	1	—	—
75 and over ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	152	95	4	10	30	5	2	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

New Cases.

Pulmonary—247 new cases, including 51 transfers and 18 non-notified deaths.

Non-Pulmonary—14 new cases, including 2 transfers.

(1950—Pulmonary, 242 new cases; Non-Pulmonary, 17 new cases.)

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary—35 (30 males, 5 females).

Non-Pulmonary—2 (2 males).

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

Aged Persons in need of care and attention.

Under the provisions of the National Assistance Acts, a Medical Officer of Health is empowered to apply to the Courts for an order for the compulsory removal to a hospital or other suitable place, of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from others, proper care and attention.

Fortunately it has not been found necessary to invoke these powers during the year because aged persons are often quite willing to enter

hospitals or homes where they could receive treatment. Difficulties are still being experienced however, in obtaining admission of urgent cases into hospitals or homes and all too frequently all that can be done is to enter their names on a waiting list. Pending admission, the resources of the family doctor, District Nurses, the Home Help Service and the Old People's Welfare Association are brought to bear and the Meals on Wheels Service employed to ease the lot of these old people.

In those cases where conditions are aggravated by neglect and the home is found to be dirty and verminous, cleansing is carried out by the Council's disinfecting staff. Also fouled and unwholesome bed linen is cleansed and disinfected by the Council's staff to render it acceptable by commercial laundries.

Close co-operation has always been maintained between the officers of this department and those of the Welfare Department of the London County Council and hospitals in trying to alleviate the hardships of the aged.

An indication of the increasing problem of these cases may be gauged from the fact that some 785 visits by the Sanitary Inspectors to 214 aged persons were necessary during the year as compared with 23 in 1938.

Medical Attention.

Following receipt of a report by the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee that in some London Boroughs some old people had not registered under the National Health Service Acts, 1946-49 and were without the services of a doctor, the Medical Officer of Health inquired into the position in Westminster and found that it was not a serious problem in the City although it sometimes happens at common lodging houses that only when an inmate becomes ill it is found that he is not registered with a doctor. In such emergencies, the patient is referred to the out-patients' department of the nearest hospital, or if seriously ill, is removed by ambulance to hospital.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY—MOBILE MEALS SERVICE.

The Westminster Division of the British Red Cross Society have continued the service which they established in the City in 1945 for the delivery to their homes of hot mid-day meals to aged people who are themselves unable to prepare meals of this sort.

The service is operated with three vans, two provided by the Society and one by the City Council. The City Council also provides the equipment for the vans and makes a grant to the Society of 75 per cent. of the running cost of the vans.

The meals are purchased by the Society from a London County Council Civic Restaurant and consist of meat or fish and two vegetables and a sweet. The cost of the meal is 1s. 2d. but the old people are charged 8d., the London County Council bearing the difference of 6d. per meal. The meals are obtained in bulk from the Civic Restaurant and placed in thermostatic containers on the vans and served at the homes of recipients.

The City Council in collaboration with the Society were in consultation with the London County Council Catering and Restaurant Department as to the possibility of introducing a system of delivery of meals in individual containers, which has the merit of securing a greater variety of meals more suited to individual requirements. This system will be introduced in 1952.

Some 7,325 meals were delivered by this service during the year.

It cannot be sufficiently emphasized that providing attractive hot meals at home to these aged and needy people may be the means of fortifying them and with the attention of the family doctor, keeping them at home while obviating or postponing admission to hospital or other institution.

Having regard to the present-day cost of in-patient treatment this is a sound and beneficial economy.

THE WESTMINSTER OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This Association, formed in 1948, continued its activities for the welfare of aged persons in the City. Assisted by a number of active voluntary assistants the Association's sphere of activities includes the conduct of eight Darby and Joan Clubs throughout the City where recreation and light refreshments are provided. Regular home visiting of the aged by members of the Association has also brought comfort to the lonely. Holidays at seaside resorts have been arranged as well as Christmas parties and summer outings. A foot clinic is held weekly under the auspices of the Association and treatment at home provided for those who are home bound, a small charge being made for this treatment. Increasing use has been made of the mobile library service, which brings books to their homes and to the clubs. This has been organized and conducted by the City Council's Librarian, in collaboration with the Association.

The City Council make an annual grant to the Association and office accommodation is provided for them in the Public Health Department.

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 1,733 certificates were authenticated during the year.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The City Council on behalf of the Minister of Health continued during the year arrangements for the medical inspection of aliens arriving daily at Victoria Station by the 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. The Government reimburse the Council the cost of this service. During the year 10,807 aliens were inspected and 41 medically examined.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933—SLAUGHTERMAN'S LICENCES.

The Council during the year granted Slaughterman's licences to ten men who had been accepted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to act as their inspectors in different parts of the country.

These licences are required to be held by the pupils while undergoing training in humane slaughtering as inspectors of the R.S.P.C.A.

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.

	Primary.	Re-inspection.
Dwellings	6,025	8,258
Factories, workplaces and shops (other than food), &c.	3,396	4,768
Catering establishments and food premises ...	2,236	3,412
	11,657	16,438

	Number of Visits.
Sampling of food	452
Inspection of food	1,884
Smoke	1,501
Noise	123
Rat and mice repression	4,232
	8,192

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>Dwell- ings.</i>	<i>Factories, Work- places, &c.</i>	<i>Food,</i>	<i>Catering.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Public Health (London)					
Act, 1936	388	66	5	72	531
Food & Drugs Act, 1938 ...	—	—	12	139	151
Factories Act, 1937 ...	—	71	—	—	71
London County Council (Drainage) By-laws, 1934	3	6	1	1	11
London County Council (Watercloset) By-laws, 1930	1	5	1	3	10
Shops Act, 1950	—	1	—	—	1
London County Council (Houses let in Lodgings) By-laws	3	—	—	—	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	45	234	23	43	345
	440	383	42	258	1,123

DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>Analysis of Inspections—</i>	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspection.</i>
Complaint	1,525	876
House to house by Housing Inspectors	642	376
Routine	375	276
Infectious disease	356	102
Underground rooms	348	863
Other parts	6	17
Housing applications	451	298
Building licences and permits	91	165
Drainage—voluntary	915	1,620
Drainage under notice	—	18
Sanitary defects under notice	—	1,682
Aged and infirm	139	646
Common Lodging Houses	3	61
Rodent control	658	329
Other reasons	506	929
	6,015	8,258

Included in the above totals—

Requisitioned properties	283	133
Houses let in lodgings	1,017	2,334
Council properties	115	16

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	388
London County Council (Drainage) Bylaws, 1934	...			3
London County Council (Watercloset) Bylaws, 1930	...			1
London County Council (Houses let in Lodgings) By-laws, 1938	...	...	...	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...		45
				440
Statutory notices	...	...	...	34

Nuisances and Defective Conditions found.

Defective, dirty internally	...	...	...	224
Damp	...	...	...	274
Inadequate underfloor ventilation	...	...	...	8
Defective drainage	...	...	...	192
" roofs	...	...	...	156
" area paving, &c.	...	...	...	27
" exteriors	...	...	...	29
Waterclosets—insufficient ventilation and light	...			21
" defective	...	...	...	65
" insufficient	...	...	...	3
Water supply insufficient	...	...	...	5
" absence of in upper floors	...	...	...	1
" cisterns dirty, uncovered	...	...	...	4
Absence of food storage accommodation	...	...	...	13
Staircase lighting, tenements	...	...	...	3
Ventilation	...	...	...	15
Smells	...	...	...	62
Rubbish	...	...	...	47
Other nuisances	...	...	...	1
Vermin	...	...	...	10

Water supply in tenement houses.

Under the powers of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, six additional water supplies were provided to working class tenement houses during the year.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage plans submitted, 517. Combined Drainage Orders made, 64.

The examination of drainage plans submitted to the Council and the subsequent inspection of the works set out in these plans form part of the duties of the Sanitary Inspectors. Drainage works included in these plans may have to be reconciled with the provisions of the Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, the Food and Drugs Act, the Factories Act and the Shops Act, according to the type of premises. Many provisions of these statutes fall to be administered by the Public Health Department

and there are also the detailed requirements of the London County Council Drainage and Water Closet Byelaws which must be observed and the inspector, in examining plans, necessarily takes cognizance of the intended user of the building. For instance, in a canteen, methods of ventilation, siting of apparatus, etc., must have relationship to the drainage layout.

During 1951, 517 plans were submitted for approval by the Council requiring some 4,200 visits by the Inspectors. These visits do not include the numerous consultations with architects, surveyors, and property owners at the office in regard to proposed or actual building, rebuilding, alteration, conversion or repair of premises of all types. The plans submitted cover works ranging from the installation of a single lavatory basin to the complete drainage and sanitation of large modern office buildings, complete with canteen facilities and rest rooms, mechanically ventilated sanitary accommodation and basement rooms, often with a garage included.

In consequence of two wars with an economic disturbance in the interval, changes have taken place in the character of the City of Westminster, more particularly noticeable in the Mayfair, Belgravia and Knightsbridge districts. Enemy bombs destroyed indiscriminately and after the destruction both living and business accommodation was needed by those whose homes and businesses had been destroyed. The empty town houses and mansions of Mayfair and Knightsbridge have, subject to the sanctions of the Town Planning Authority, fairly adequately filled the needs of those in search of office accommodation. These houses, with their numerous large rooms, are capable of housing large office staffs, and the elegant Victorian and Edwardian ballrooms are now converted into board rooms for which purpose they are most eminently suitable. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

The original sanitary accommodation of these mansions falls far short of the needs of the increased number of occupants and in the conversion from house to office the decorated toilet and sanitary ware, adorned with its glazed blue flowers and substantial mahogany surrounds, have departed to make way for the more functionally designed modern appliances. The plumbing that went with the old, rather elaborate appliances, the pride of the craftsman who installed it, has been supplanted by more streamlined and modern fittings.

The scarcity of materials, in particular lead, has brought changes in plumbing practice. There has been a greater use of screw-jointed iron piping, a more intractable material than lead, and therefore not so appreciated by the real craftsman. The use of copper piping is increasing. A different technique to that needed for lead and iron is required and when skilfully handled, copper provides a strong, durable and unobtrusive plumbing system with almost the flexibility in installation of lead plumbing.

Restriction in the supply of some building materials and the high cost of others have inevitably led manufacturers to produce substitutes. For example, various types of plastic impervious material are used in place of tiles for wall surfaces, reconstituted wood waste and composite

material of metal and wood are prefabricated in sections and erected for partition walls in place of timber or breeze partitions. Although such materials were not conceived when the byelaws were drafted, many of them have proved quite suitable in regard to strength, durability, ease of cleaning and of sound insulation.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 TO 1949.

A.—*Individual Houses Unfit for Human Habitation.*

Number of houses represented for demolition ...	...	Nil
Number of Demolition Orders made ...	...	Nil

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

(a) Number of basements represented for closure ...	...	34	(90 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of underground rooms ...	...	34	(94 rooms)
(b) Number of other parts of buildings represented for closure ...	...	1	(2 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of other parts of buildings ...	...	1	(2 rooms)
(c) Number of specifications submitted and approved ...	...	19	
(d) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of underground rooms ...	...	11	(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 ...	...	26	(46 rooms)
Number of applications approved ...	...	26	(46 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 Acts and Regulations made thereunder:—

(a) in respect of underground rooms ...	...	79
(b) in respect of other parts of buildings ...	...	7

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

(a) as a result of applications for Building Licences...	24
(b) on the initiative of the owner ...	25
(c) at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health	37

D.—*Contraventions of Closing Orders.*

Number of contraventions of Closing Orders reported	4
Number of legal proceedings instituted... ..	2

Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Section IV).

Cases coming to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year	106
Cases in which overcrowded families have been rehoused during 1951.	
Westminster City Council	17
London County Council	28
	— 45

A NOTE ON HOUSING AND A RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN IN RELATION TO INDIVIDUAL UNFIT BUILDINGS AND PARTS OF BUILDINGS—1930 TO 1951.

If any proof were needed of the importance of housing in national affairs it lies in the fourteen statutes which Parliament has passed in the past sixty or seventy years relating to this ever-expanding problem with its protean features. Successive governments came to realise that the provision of new dwellings, the standard of fitness of existing houses and the clearance of those where defects were irremediable were responsibilities too massive for private ownership to discharge and could only be adequately borne by the whole community. Moreover, the population of the country (England and Wales) had increased from 32,527,843 in 1901 to 43,744,924 in 1951. But full credit at the same time must be given to many private owners, housing corporations and charitable bodies for their notable contributions in dealing with housing problems from the days of the monastic Orders, the Elizabethan almshouses and many benefactors till the time of George Peabody and others who made charitable trusts in Victorian times.

The City Council under the powers of the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890 made its first contribution in new housing in 1903 by the erection of three blocks in Regency Street. Prior to the last war under the powers granted by successive Housing Acts some 1,557 flats had been erected in the City and when Churchill Gardens programme is completed the Council will have provided for 3,252 families exclusive of the projected scheme at Warwick Way where 280 flats are proposed.

The difficulty of providing alternative accommodation for the persons displaced by closure or demolition was a serious handicap in the early years of the period under review and during 1930 and 1931 only three Closing Orders were made.

In 1932, however, the City Council considered that, as the housing situation had become easier, the provisions of the statutes in relation to underground dwellings and sleeping rooms should be more rigorously enforced. In that year, although only one formal Closing Order was made, owners and other persons having control of underground rooms were communicated with warning them against reletting contrary to

the Act and Regulations and, as a result, written undertakings not to relet or use as sleeping places were given in respect of 91 houses.

In the next few years many more such undertakings were given and the number of formal Closing Orders gradually increased.

In each of the subsequent years an increasing number of Closing Orders was made until in 1937 and 1938 they totalled 203 and 232 respectively. During this period, and increasingly in the years immediately preceding the war, many owners were prepared to recondition basement rooms to secure conformity with the City Council's Regulations and between 1936 and 1938 some 250 Closing Orders were determined and something like 600 rooms were rendered fit for human habitation and brought back into use as dwellings.

At that time the average cost of the works necessary to make three basement rooms fit was £150, a figure which many owners considered justified and not unreasonable in the hope of future recoupment.

During the War reprobated basements recovered their attraction and, Closing Order or no Closing Order, they were much in demand during periods of air raids. In the immediate post-war period there was inevitably little activity towards the closure or reconditioning of properties and it was not until 1948 that Closing Order procedure was restarted because people who had been thankful to live in basements in time of danger, when danger had passed became clamant for rehousing. In that year 65 Closing Orders were made in an effort to deal with the worst of the basements.

The cost of building works in the post-war years has increased enormously and so few owners have felt disposed or able to undertake the reconditioning of basement or other rooms that have fallen under condemnation. The average cost of bringing three rooms up to the standard of the statute and regulations is now £450, but, nevertheless, since 1948, works have been carried out in some 80 instances and an equivalent number of Closing Orders have been determined.

With building costs still advancing it is not possible to forecast to what extent or for how long such reconditioning works will continue to be carried out, because the length of interest in a property will always remain a determining factor, and this doubtless influenced leaseholders in the years of activity before the War. Few leaseholders in Pimlico—which is still the principal residential area—have long unexpired terms.

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF 20 YEARS ACTIVITY.

(a) In the 20 years since 1931, 1,532 unfit dwellings as parts of buildings—primarily basements—have been dealt with by formal and informal methods as follows:—

By means of Closing Orders	...	...	...	951
By means of Informal Action	...	...	...	526
By Undertakings given in lieu of Closing Orders	...	...	...	55
				1,532

(b) Of this total, reconditioning works to secure conformity have been carried out in 862 cases:—

Formally after Closing Orders	...	...	314 (Closing Orders determined).
Formally after Undertakings	...	...	22 (Undertakings cancelled).
Voluntarily following informal Action	...		526
			862

(c) In 216 cases, Closing Orders have been modified to permit approved uses other than human habitation, e.g., washhouses, stores, workshops, offices, etc.

(d) Some 452 Closing Orders remain fully operative and outstanding, some of the rooms, because of the difficulty of rehousing, remain occupied.

(e) In two instances where properties were completely demolished the Closing Orders in each of them cancelled themselves.

(f) In addition, during the same period 19 individual unfit properties were dealt with:—

By means of demolition	...	...	...	8
By means of Undertakings given in lieu of				
Demolition Orders	...	...	...	11
				19

of this total six premises have been demolished.

INFORMAL AND VOLUNTARY ACTION.

Throughout the whole of the 20 years under review excluding the war years, voluntary reconditioning of unfit parts of buildings has gone on side by side with the work of reinstatement which has followed formal closure.

Up to 1939, such voluntary works totalled rather more than one half of those carried out to determine Closing Orders. By the end of 1951, informal or voluntary works had been carried out in 526 instances against 327 instances of formal reconditioning.

The requirement to obtain licences for building operations, including the restoration of war damage, has stimulated the process of reconditioning of dwellings and owners have seen the advantage of including basement rooms which formerly did not comply with the law in their scheme of rehabilitation so that the properties may be fully occupied.

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	17

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

(by Housing Inspectors).

During the year 240 properties, involving 642 individual dwellings were inspected. Of these 240 properties, 173 were wholly residential in character, 19 part residential, 17 business premises and 31 bombed, derelict, etc., buildings.

Inspections.

Primary inspections (dwellings)	642
Reinspections	1,544

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	88
---	----

Nuisances and defective conditions found.

Defective roofs	28
Dampness	40
Dirty, defective, dilapidated internally	64
Defective drainage	8
Insufficient water supply	4
Absence of food storage accommodation	1
Insufficient water closet accommodation	1

The above statistics are included in the totals shown on page 22.

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

*Summary of Inspections.**Primary, Re-inspections.*

Factories—Power	695	719
Factories—Non-Power	465	647
Workplaces, &c.	1,790	2,890
Shops (other than food)	446	512
	3,396	4,768

*Primary. Re-inspections.**Analysis of Inspection.*

Complaint	423	330
Routine	911	714
Infectious disease	193	19
Building Licences and permits	2	2
Drainage—Voluntary	794	1,719
Drainage—Under Notice	—	10
Sanitary defects under Notice	—	436
" " Voluntary	4	7
Outworkers	226	53
Rodent Control	765	1,374
Other Reasons	78	104
	3,396	4,768

Types of premises inspected.

Places of Public Entertainment	209
Carpentry, joinery, &c.	94
Wearing apparel	1,576
Furriers	132
Garages, motor tyres and rubberworks	74
Boots and shoes and other leather goods	125
Jewellers, precious and other metal workers	125
Cigar and cigarette manufacturers	2
Hairdressers	99
Laundries and dry cleaners	38
Printers and publishers	172
Warehouses and packers	69
Shops (other than food)	958
Upholstery and carpets	56
Photographers, film renters	156
Opticians	3
Florists	25
Offices	2,443
Stables and mews	27
Surgical goods	13
Various	1,415

Outworkers.

Inspections	279
Number of outworkers (includes workers living in areas outside the City)	3,699

Notices—Summary.

Factories—Power	76
Factories—Non-power	78
Workplaces, shops (other than food)	229
	383

Abstracts.

Reports were made to the Factory Inspector of 67 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	12	14	40
Factories Act, 1937	31	39	1
London County Council (Drainage) Bylaws, 1934	1	—	5
London County Council (Water- closet) Bylaws, 1930	1	3	1
Shops Act, 1950	—	—	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	31	22	181
	—	—	—
	76	78	229
	—	—	—
Total ...	383		

Nuisances and defective etc., conditions found.

	<i>Factories, Power.</i>	<i>Factories, Non-power.</i>	<i>Workplaces, Shops, &c.</i>
Dirty, defective internally ...	12	23	25
Dampness	8	3	24
Drainage defective	6	5	47
Roofs defective	1	4	—
Sanitary accommodation—			
Insufficient	1	1	5
Insufficient ventilation and light	13	9	5
Defective	20	23	14
Direct approach	6	2	4
Not separate for sexes	8	—	4
Unsuitable	2	—	—
No indicating notices on doors of waterclosets	16	15	2
Overcrowding	—	8	—
Smells	4	1	65
Rubbish	4	3	96
Ventilation, want of	—	7	4
Failure to fix abstracts	45	22	—
Water supply insufficient... ..	2	—	—
Absence of washing accommoda- tion	—	2	—
Temperature	—	4	—

Common Lodging Houses.

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

Sixty-four visits were made during the year for infectious disease, chronic illness and other reasons.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

REPORT OF MANUFACTURED MEAT PRODUCTS WORKING PARTY.

The Report of this Working Party was published during the year, and contained recommendations for securing that conditions in the meat manufacturing trades are clean and sanitary and that the products and materials used are wholesome in all respects.

The City Council expressed general agreement with the tenor of the Report.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Hygiene in Catering Establishments.

In view of the importance of the catering industry in Westminster, the City Council gave consideration to the Report of the Catering Trade Working Party which was published on the 31st January, 1951. The City Council welcomed the Report and considered that it would make a substantial contribution to focussing public attention on the essential need for high standards of hygiene in kitchens and in the serving of food.

It considered that the Report would be of the utmost value to the Council's Sanitary Inspectors in securing compliance with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and in controlling standards of hygiene in places where food is prepared and sold to the public as meals.

Summary of Inspections.

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Catering establishments	1,523	2,909
Food shops and other food premises ...	713	503
	<u>2,236</u>	<u>3,412</u>

Analysis of Inspections.

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Complaint	399	173
Routine	853	224
Infectious disease	57	8
Building Licences and permits	29	9
Drainage—Voluntary	323	469
Drainage—Under Notice	1	43
Sanitary defects—Voluntary	6	11
Sanitary defects—Under Notice	1	1,223
Food Licences	13	1
Catering Licences	210	467
Rodent Control	337	769
Other Reasons	7	15
	<u>2,236</u>	<u>3,412</u>

Summary of Notices served.

	<i>Food Shops and other food premises.</i>	<i>Catering establish- ments.</i>
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	12	139
Public Health (London) Act, 1936 ...	5	72
London County Council (Drainage) By- laws, 1934	1	1
London County Council (Watercloset) Bylaws, 1930	1	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	23	43
	42	258
Statutory Notices served... ..	1 (smoke)	

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

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Reinspections.</i>
Bakehouses (underground included) ...	29	38
Dairies and milkshops	133	36
Ice cream premises	84	39
Meat shops	79	30
Other meat shops (preserved food, &c.)	15	3
Stalls	20	17
Confectioners	37	18
Fruit and greengrocery	89	146
Provision shops	103	78
Fish and poultry	27	31
*Other food premises	97	67
	713	503

Included in the above totals are 16 visits in connection with the sale of horseflesh, and 81 inquiries in relation to food poisoning outbreaks were made.

**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.

VISITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING SAMPLES AND INSPECTING
FOODSTUFFS.

					<i>Sampling.</i>	<i>Inspection of Food.</i>
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	—	2
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	149	52
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	37	26
Meat shops and stalls	...	...	...	...	2	222
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	10	7
Fruit and greengrocery	...	...	...	...	6	220
Provision shops	...	...	...	...	130	679
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	26	132
Staff canteens	...	...	...	...	1	100
Hotels, restaurants, clubs	...	...	...	...	14	224
Cafes, teashops, &c.	...	...	...	...	6	80
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	71	80
Fish and poultry	...	...	...	...	—	60
					452	1,884

Notices served.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	12
Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	5
London County Council (Drainage), Bylaws, 1934	...	...	...	...	1
London County Council (Watercloset), Bylaws, 1930	...	...	...	...	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	23
					42

Nuisances and defective conditions found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	...	4
Defective internally	...	...	...	...	1
„ externally	...	...	...	...	—
„ drainage	...	...	...	...	3
„ floors	...	...	...	...	1
Preparation tables and equipment worn and insanitary	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	...	1
Washing facilities for staff, insufficient, unsuitable	...	...	...	...	1
Waterclosets:—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	...	1
Defective	...	...	...	...	1
Rats/Mice	...	...	...	...	7

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Analysis of Inspections.

				<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-inspections.</i>
Hotels, restaurants, clubs	...	...	...	915	1,795
Cafes, teashops, &c.	...	...	...	316	588
Staff canteens	...	...	...	114	160
Public Houses	...	...	...	178	366
				<u>1,523</u>	<u>2,909</u>

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	72
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	139
London County Council (Drainage), By-laws, 1934	...	...	...	1
London County Council (Watercloset), Bylaws, 1930	...	...	...	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	43
				<u>258</u>

Nuisances and defective conditions found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	87
Defective internally	...	...	...	60
„ externally	...	...	...	11
„ drainage	...	...	...	56
„ floors	...	...	...	38
Preparation tables and equipment, worn and insanitary	...	...	...	28
Food storage, inadequate, unsuitable	...	...	...	26
Vegetable preparation and washing up facilities—				
Worn and insanitary	...	...	...	38
Insufficient	...	...	...	33
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	51
Staff washing facilities, insufficient, unsuitable	...	...	...	16
Staff changing rooms, insufficient, unsuitable	...	...	...	11
Fuel, rubbish and other extraneous materials in food preparation rooms	...	...	...	22
Accommodation unsuitable (re-designing and re-siting of equipment necessary), &c.	...	...	...	17
Vermin—				
Cockroaches	...	...	...	19
Rats/Mice	...	...	...	52
Fuel storage accommodation insufficient	...	...	...	3
Waterclosets—				
Insufficient	...	...	...	11
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	10
Defective	...	...	...	23
Dirty and dilapidated	...	...	...	29
Direct approach	...	...	...	3
Not separate for the sexes	...	...	...	6
Unsuitable	...	...	...	2
Dampness	...	...	...	8
Water supply inadequate	...	...	...	8
Lighting	...	...	...	1

SAMPLES PURCHASED UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SHOWING
RESULTS OF ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR 1951.

<i>Articles of Food.</i>					<i>Number of Samples Purchased. Adulterated. Genuine.</i>		
Bread	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Bacon	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Baking powder	...	...	...	...	9	2	7
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Butter	...	...	...	...	18	—	18
Cakes, cake and pudding mixture, custard powders	...	...	...	...	126	3	123
Cereals	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
Cheese	...	...	...	...	13	1	12
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	11	—	11
Coffee preparations and essences	...	...	...	...	37	—	37
Condiments and spices...	...	...	...	...	68	—	68
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	60	—	60
Cooking fat	...	...	...	...	9	—	9
Cream and synthetic cream	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Culinary flavours	...	...	...	...	53	—	53
Dried fruits	...	...	...	...	11	1	10
Drugs	...	...	...	...	50	5	45
Fish canned and fish preparations	...	...	...	...	46	3	43
Flour	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Flour—self-raising	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Fruit, canned bottled and preserved etc.	...	...	...	...	28	9	19
Fruit	...	...	...	...	9	7	2
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	10	2	8
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	58	—	58
Jam and preserves	...	...	...	...	71	—	71
Jelly	...	...	...	...	43	—	43
Macaroni product	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Margarine	...	...	...	...	11	—	11
Milk	...	...	...	...	569	1	568
Milk condensed and evaporated	...	...	...	...	13	4	9
Milk beverages	...	...	...	...	5	—	5

<i>Articles of Food.</i>					<i>Number of Samples Adulterated. Genuine. Purchased.</i>		
Pickles and sauces	...	...	...	55	1	54	
Meat, canned meat and meat preparations	...	...	...	55	12	43	
Poultry, and poultry canned, chopped and sliced	...	...	...	8	1	7	
Salad oils and dressings	...	...	...	21	—	21	
Sandwich spread	...	...	...	5	—	5	
Sausage and sausage rolls	...	...	...	3	1	2	
Soft drinks, cordials, etc.	...	...	...	59	—	59	
Soup	...	...	...	23	3	20	
Spaghetti in tomato sauce and beans in tomato sauce	...	...	...	3	—	3	
Spirits	...	...	...	142	2	140	
Suet	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Sugar	...	...	...	12	—	12	
Tea	...	...	...	19	—	19	
Vegetables, canned vegetables and vegetable spreads	...	...	...	14	—	14	
Vinegar	...	...	...	20	—	20	
Wines	...	...	...	1	1	—	
Rabbit and chicken canned	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Totals	...	...	...	1,800	61	1,739	

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

On the 1st January, 1951, 173 premises were registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. During the course of the year applications were received in respect of 19 further premises, and these were duly registered, making a total of 192 registered premises. By reason of 4 removals during the year, the total number now registered is 188.

At the commencement of the year 12 premises were on the Register for the manufacture of ice cream. During the year three firms discontinued to manufacture, leaving 9 premises now used for this purpose.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

During the year 79 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test. The samples were classified in provisional grades, as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

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 $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	Between 2 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	Between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 hours.
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	Under $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

At the 31st December, 1951, the following were entered in the City Council's Register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk:—

Distributors of milk with premises registered as Dairies	49
Distributors of milk with premises <i>not</i> registered as dairies	71
Distributors of milk with premises situate <i>outside</i> Westminster	46

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

The following are particulars of licences granted during 1951 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	...	...	...	...	29	17
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	103	22
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	84	21

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1951.

This Order made under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1950, specified among other places the whole of the County of London as a specified area as from the 1st October, 1951. The effect of the Order is that no milk can be sold in the specified area other than designated milk, *i.e.*, pasteurised, sterilised, tuberculin tested and, in some instances, accredited milk. All distributors of this designated milk have to be licensed with the Local Authority.

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 170. During the year 4 persons had been removed from the list because they were no longer in business or had moved out of the City, and 7 new applicants had been duly entered on the list.

UN SOUND 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 1951:—

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Amount Destroyed.</i>			<i>Amount 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 ...	30	13	62	6	7	50	37	1	0
Meat ...	1	0	106	—	2	107	1	3	101
Fats ...	—	—	6	—	1	88	—	1	94
Fruit and vegetables ...	149	13	21	—	2	0	149	15	21
Fish ...	1	3	79	—	—	—	1	3	79
Cereals ...	—	2	41	—	8	75	—	11	4
Confectionery ...	—	1	48	—	2	0	—	3	48
Miscellaneous ...	—	7	82	1	12	105	2	0	75
Total ...	183	2	109	8	17	89	192	0	86

FOOD POISONING.

A total of 19 outbreaks of food poisoning occurred in the City during the year. Of this number, 10 concerned single cases, and despite the most complete investigations, in only two cases was it possible to identify the causative agent.

Of the other 9 outbreaks concerning groups of individuals, the causative agent was traced in 5 instances. Details of these 9 are as follows:—

(1) An outbreak involving some 42 men occurred in a Police Section House. The onset was characterised by abdominal pain and blood-stained loose motions. They were suffering from Sonne Dysentery and in 10 cases the organism was recovered. Similar specimens were collected from members of the kitchen staff, comprising 13 in number, but proved negative, nor could any dysentery organism be recovered from samples of suspected food.

(2) Two families in Pimlico were affected by the consumption of ham and jellied veal purchased on the same day at a branch shop of a large chain of grocery and provision merchants. The total number of persons affected was 8 and 2 of these were sufficiently affected to require removal to hospital. Specimens of vomit and fæces, and the

unconsumed portion of the suspected food were submitted to the bacteriologist, together with swabs taken from the 4 members of the staff of the store concerned. The reports received indicated that the jellied veal and ham contained *staph. pyogenes* organisms, certain strains of which are known to cause food poisoning, and were probably the cause of the illness, although the specimens from the patients proved negative and those from the staff proved inconclusive.

The firm was subsequently communicated with and informed that the storage of this type of food, being exposed to possible contamination by customers or staff, left much to be desired. The firm was quick to adopt suggested improvements such as the provision of enclosed glass screens to protect the food exhibited for sale. The firm also gave an assurance that every opportunity would be taken to impress on the staff the necessity for personal cleanliness.

(3) A large firm of printers reported that 31 of their staff had been subjected to attacks of abdominal pain and diarrhoea after lunch, one being sufficiently ill to be removed to hospital, where he was subsequently diagnosed to be suffering from "clinical dysentery," while two received treatment at home by their own medical practitioners. Two specimens of the food served during the lunch in question were obtained and submitted for examination, as also were some faecal and vomit specimens, but the examinations failed to produce any positive result. The catering arrangements in this instance called for some improvement, while evidence of a fairly heavy rat infestation did not brighten the picture. The premises were subsequently treated and cleared of rats by the Council's Rodent Staff.

(4) An outbreak occurred during the year at the nurses' home of a large hospital where some 83 persons were affected—all members of the hospital staff. The duration of the illness was generally from 3 to 5 days and was accompanied by headache, malaise, muscle pains, fever, diarrhoea and vomiting. The causative organism was found to be *salmonella typhimurium*, a well-known cause of food poisoning, but as none of the food was available from the suspected meal, it was not possible to determine the exact vehicle of the infection. It was found, however, that the chef, who did not partake of the meal and had not previously complained of any symptoms, was a carrier of *salmonella typhimurium*. It appears highly probable the infection was transmitted by him to the food consumed.

(5) Recurrence at intervals of isolated cases of food poisoning at the same hotel has entailed prolonged investigation. The food-handling staff employed on the premises, methods of preparation and of the food storage, and any other likely source of contamination of foodstuffs in the hotel have come under careful review. The outbreaks have affected usually single individuals and have on each occasion been due to a prepared sauce. It was confidently believed that one of the chefs, presumed to be the cause of the infections, had become free as he had undergone thorough treatment. In December, however, a single case occurred in which a sauce had been specially prepared by this chef

for a customer, and it was disappointing to find that he was again a carrier, the same organism being recovered from his hands. Further safeguards were made which it is hoped will prevent any further cases.

(6) This outbreak occurred in a Government canteen wherein 13 people of a total number of 50 were affected. Five were taken to hospital. The suspected article in this case was chicken sandwich prepared from sliced galantine purchased from a source outside the City of Westminster. Bacteriological examination of the sandwich revealed the presence of *staph. pyogenes*, but the swabbing of the two sandwich handlers in the canteen kitchen and the proprietor of the shop from whence the chicken was purchased failed to reveal any of them as carriers of the organism. During the course of the investigation certain shortcomings in the food-handling process were discovered and advice was subsequently offered to the Government Department responsible for the elimination of these practices.

(7) Four people dined in a well-known restaurant and were subsequently taken ill with severe abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea. The duration of the illness was only for one day and the attack was of a moderate nature. The food eaten by each of the persons affected consisted of steak, sauce *Bernaise* and chips. No food samples were available for bacteriological examination. Three of the staff employed in preparing food were swabbed and two were found to be infected with *staph. pyogenes*, one belonging to a type capable of causing intestinal illness. Suitable safeguards were adopted. No further cases occurred.

(8) At a canteen run by a large publishing firm 22 persons were mildly affected with abdominal pain and diarrhoea, the duration of the illness being only 2 to 3 hours. The food causing this illness was thought to be boiled beef, although no absolute conclusion could be reached. The meat in question was delivered to the canteen on Friday afternoon and boiled that same afternoon for 3 hours. It was left to cool in its juice in the pan over the week-end until Monday, and the meat was then sliced and heated on trays before serving for lunch. After complaints of illness had been made, the manageress wisely withdrew the meat from the menu and placed it in the canteen refrigerator until the inspector called.

The Bacteriologist reported that it was just possible that the boiled beef from which *Clostridium Welchii* was recovered, may have been responsible for the outbreak. The presence of this organism is not so far known to be capable of being conveyed by persons and therefore does not imply any reflection on the preparation of the food.

RAT AND MICE REPRESSION.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	1,306
Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	1,072
Inspections by Rodent Officer	...	...	...	...	...	3,863
Inspections by the Sanitary Inspectors...	...	...	...	...	...	369

Notices served.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	345
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Rodents destroyed.

Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	5,676
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	1,417
Mice...	...	...	...	...	...	8,229
						15,322

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	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	120
Pigeons destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	278

STARLINGS.

In view of complaints received of nuisance and damage caused by starlings roosting on buildings in the City, the Medical Officer of Health has been exploring ways and means of preventing the birds from roosting on buildings. As many Cities in America are similarly troubled with starling roosts, the Medical Officer of Health has been in communication with the civic authorities there on the subject.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been consulted, also the London Natural History Society who have made a special study of the problem.

No ready and effective means of preventing starlings from roosting has come to light. A limited experiment was carried out on one building where a selected cornice was wired with low-power electric wiring operated by batteries similar to the methods used to prevent cattle from straying. This experiment showed that starlings avoided the portion of the building so wired. It must be pointed out, however, that this method is only capable of application to easily accessible ledges on buildings, otherwise the erection of scaffolding for comprehensive

installations would make the cost prohibitive. However adequately a building might be protected, this in no wise prevents starlings seeking other roosting places in other buildings not so protected.

NOISE NUISANCE.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Investigations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	123

Most of the complaints arose from apparatus used in road works or demolition of buildings, nuisances temporary in character. In no case was a statutory abatement necessary.

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.

Deposit Gauges.

Month.	Monthly Deposits of Impurities—Tons per square mile.								
	Mayfair.			Pimlico.			Charing Cross.		
	Total Solids.	Dis-solved.	Undis-solved.	Total Solids.	Dis-solved.	Undis-solved.	Total Solids.	Dis-solved.	Undis-solved.
January	25.44	7.81	17.63	27.51	8.55	18.96	32.29	12.58	19.71
February	33.00	11.76	21.24	44.82	17.79	27.03	59.38	24.53	34.85
March	32.74	10.95	21.79	38.12	10.10	28.02	41.49	13.28	28.21
April	29.15	11.32	17.83	31.00	11.84	19.16	33.19	13.67	19.52
May	36.28	10.23	26.05	23.37	6.64	16.73	19.35	5.58	13.77
June	23.15	6.75	16.40	27.31	7.05	20.26	22.14	6.87	15.27
July	19.06	6.10	12.96	23.06	9.24	13.82	18.19	6.87	11.32
August	24.38	10.81	13.57	25.01	10.54	14.47	24.33	11.45	12.88
September	24.11	10.37	13.74	22.96	10.85	12.11	26.05	13.41	12.64
October	30.89	11.45	19.44	25.93	7.90	18.03	29.47	11.28	18.19
November	28.92	12.69	16.23	28.20	8.76	19.44	31.83	11.09	20.74
December	26.15	7.74	18.41	36.51	14.27	22.24	35.61	10.29	25.32

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 Trioxide in Milligrammes per 100 sq. cms. per day.

	Mayfair	Pimlico.	Charing Cross.
1951.			
January	4.77	4.74	4.91
February	3.59	4.48	3.59
March	2.78	4.11	3.38
April	2.20	2.59	3.06
May	2.02	3.58	2.69
June	1.49	2.23	1.86
July	1.05	1.22	1.46
August	1.10	1.38	1.24
September	1.46	2.13	1.81
October	2.57	4.25	3.48
November	2.72	3.37	3.93
December	3.48	4.04	4.18

Owens Automatic Air Filter.

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 alternate 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	130
Observations	1,371
Notices issued	15
Statutory Notices served	1

With a view to securing so far as was reasonably practicable that a clean and smokeless atmosphere should prevail in the area of the Festival of Britain Exhibition on the South Bank of the River Thames, the Medical Officer of Health, on the instructions of the Public Health Committee, communicated with all commercial and industrial undertakings using smoke producing fuels in the City, inviting their co-operation in this matter. Generally speaking, there was appreciably less smoke

haze in the region of the river as a result of this request and credit is due to the industries concerned and particularly to masters of river vessels for their efforts.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Prosecutions instituted	...	...	...	...	...	9
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cases withdrawn on payment of costs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cases dismissed	...	...	...	...	...	1

ANALYSIS.

	<i>Fines.</i>			<i>Costs.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
DWELLINGS.						
<i>Public Health (London) Act, 1936.</i>						
Failure to abate a Nuisance. Abatement Order made	—			3	3	0
CATERING.						
<i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</i>						
Selling horseflesh for human consumption—						
(a) No notice displayed.						
(b) Not asked for.						
Two convictions	10	0	0	2	2	0
Selling ice cream from a container not showing name and address of dealer—						
Three convictions	6	0	0	—		
FOOD (Whisky).						
<i>Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations.</i>						
Dismissed on Appeal.						
Costs against the Council £210.						
FACTORIES.						
<i>Factories Act, 1937.</i>						
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.						
Withdrawn on payment of costs...	—			8	8	0
<i>London County Council Bylaws Regulating Conduct of the business of Rag and Bone Dealers.</i>						
Distributing toys in exchange for rags	2	0	0	—		
	£18	0	0	£13	13	0

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into operation on the 1st November, 1951. Under its provisions various types of premises connected with the upholstery trade or with the provision of filling materials for that trade must now be registered or licensed with the local authority.

Up to the end of the year five premises had been registered by the City Council and two premises licensed for storage purposes.

WATER.

The resident population of 100,000 in 22,914 houses received water from the Metropolitan Water Board's mains or from deep wells. Eighty-nine deep wells were in use at 31st December, 1951. In all but 3 of these 89 deep wells the water is used for domestic purposes. In these 3, one supply is used for cooling purposes, one for supplying boilers and one is a stand-by in case of fire. Seventy bacteriological and 23 chemical reports of analyses were received. Reports in relation to 3 of the water supplies showed evidence of contamination. On investigation, it was found that the water being drawn from the wells themselves was of a satisfactory quality but the storage cisterns in 2 cases were improperly covered, and in the other case a basement storage tank was found to be defective, allowing ground water to gain access. Necessary remedial measures were to be put in hand at each of the premises affected. One installation was dismantled and the bore sealed over during the year as the supply was insufficient.

Five complaints of contaminated drinking water were received during the year, one of which was substantiated upon investigation. In this instance a dirty storage cistern gave rise to the nuisance and a direct mains supply was to be provided.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

	<i>Rooms.</i>	<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Articles Destroyed.</i>	<i>Articles Washed.</i>	<i>Vehicles.</i>	<i>Books.</i>
Disinfection ...	459	18,588	1,845	1,901	23	1,193
Disinfestation ...	1,185	2,543	*16,683	—	6	—
Laundry towels	—	—	—	5,634	—	—
	1,644	21,131	18,528	7,535	29	1,193

* Articles include pieces of furniture, books, clothing, etc., found in badly infested rooms.

TREATMENTS.

		<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Children (under school age).</i>	<i>Children (School).</i>	<i>Articles.</i>
Scabies ...	...	45	46	13	91	3,941
Head lice ...	...	—	21	7	325	575
Body lice ...	...	380	11	—	—	7,346
		—	—	—	—	—
		425	78	20	416	11,862
		—	—	—	—	—

FUMIGATION OF VERMIN-INFESTED FURNITURE.

The City Council have a contract with a firm of fumigators for the disinfestation by hydrocyanic acid gas of the furniture of incoming tenants to the Council's Housing Estates where any article of such furniture has been found to be verminous. The bedding and soft furnishings of such tenants are treated by steam disinfection at the Council's disinfecting station. 9

The process of disinfestation is carried out during transfer of the furniture from the old to the new accommodation and the furniture of some 3 families was dealt with during the year.

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.

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 47 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 ...	...	...	...	23
Relatives of the deceased ...	...	...	...	12
Friends of the deceased ...	...	...	...	3
Hospitals in the City ...	...	...	...	9
				—
				47
				—

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

During 1951 344 bodies were received in the Mortuary on Coroner's Warrants, etc. Five bodies were admitted to await burial.

						<i>Number of Cases.</i>
Inquest cases	...	...	...	...	...	120
Non-inquest cases	...	...	...	...	...	224
Post mortem examinations held	...	...	...	...	...	275

Causes of death in the foregoing were as under :—

Accidental drowning	...	...	...	...	...	2
Found drowned	...	...	...	...	...	11
Suicide by drowning	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ by other means	...	...	...	...	...	29
Accidents—						
Street	...	...	...	...	...	15
Domestic	...	...	...	...	...	9
Others	...	...	...	...	...	15
Natural causes	...	...	...	...	...	235
Misadventure	...	...	...	...	...	10
Murder	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous cases	...	...	...	...	...	14