

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

Contributors

City of Westminster (London, England). County Council.
Struthers, J. A.

Publication/Creation

[1954]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/t78rr9ah>

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>

AC 4344

1 *the bayne DW 5B*

2 *Library*

WES 63

City of Westminster.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

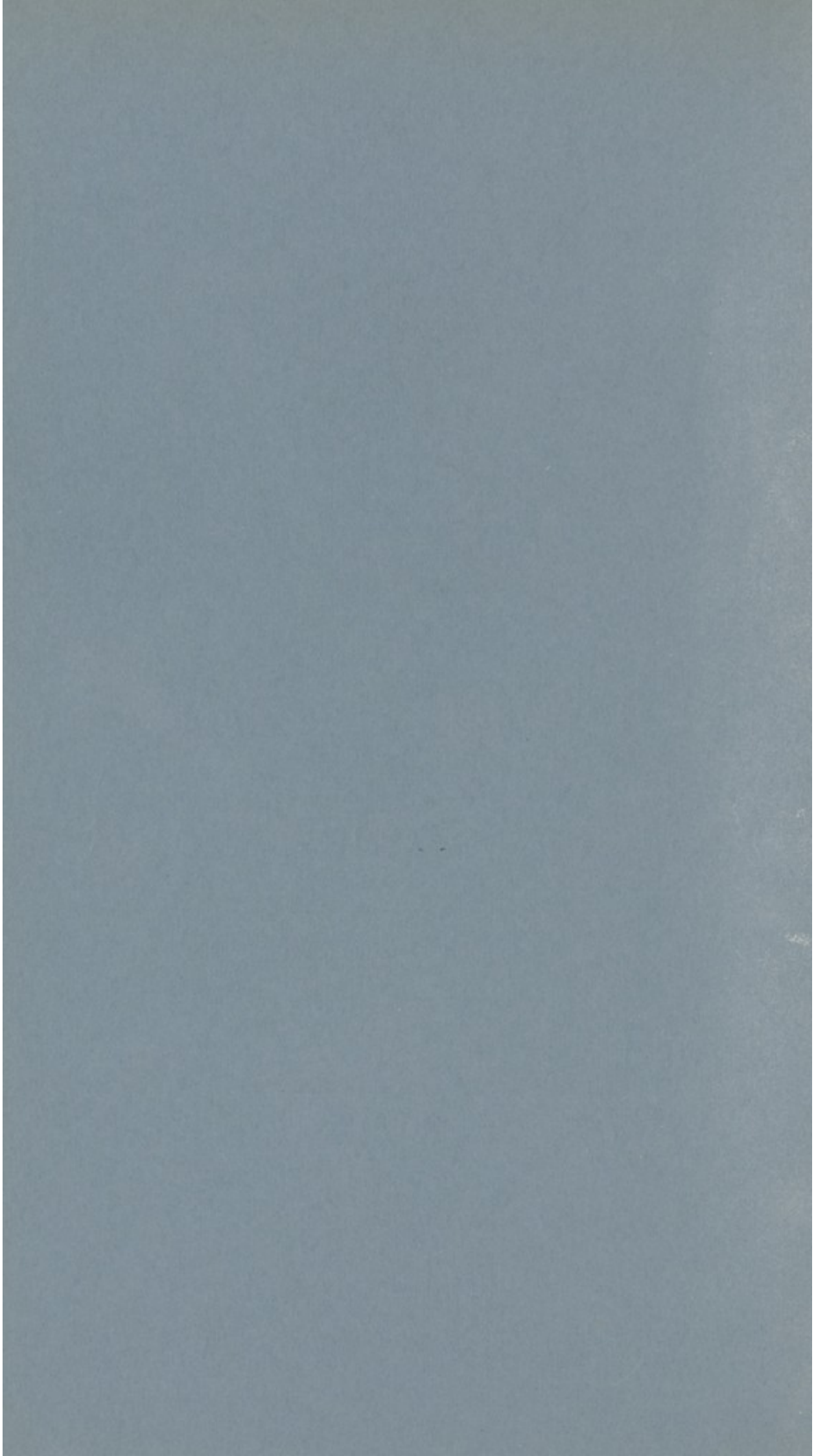
1953

J. A. STRUTHERS, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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 1953

J. A. STRUTHERS, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

LONDON:

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

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
Abstracts—Factories Act ...	24
Aged and Infirm—care of ...	17
Area of the City ...	10
Atmospheric Pollution ...	33
Bacteriological Examinations ...	16
Births ...	10
British Red Cross Society ...	18
Burial or Cremation of the Dead ...	37
Bylaws for Food Protection ...	31
Catering Establishments ...	24
Civil Defence ...	38
Cleansing of Persons ...	36
Closing Orders ...	20
Common Lodging Houses ...	21
Coroner's Court and Mortuary ...	37
Deaths ...	10, 14, 15
Diphtheria ...	12
Disinfection and Disinfestation ...	36
Drainage ...	31
Dwelling Houses ...	10, 19
Dysentery ...	12
Factories, Workplaces, Shops and other Premises ...	22
„ Defects and Nuisances ...	23
Food, Inspection and Supervision... ..	24
„ Legal Proceedings ...	35
„ Poisoning ...	30
„ Shops and Premises ...	26
„ Unsound ...	30
Heating Appliances (Fireguard) Act ...	33
House-to-House Inspection ...	19
Houses, number of ...	10
„ unfit ...	20
Housing ...	20
„ Informal and Voluntary Action ...	21
Ice Cream ...	29
Infantile Mortality ...	11
Infectious Diseases ...	11
International Certificates of Vaccination and Inoculation ...	18
Introduction ...	9

	<i>Page</i>
Legal Proceedings	35
Mass X-ray Service	16
Measles	12
Milk and Dairies	29
Mobile Meals Service ("Meals on Wheels")	18
Nuisances	20, 23, 25, 27
,, Noise	32
Notices	19, 23, 25, 26
,, Statutory	19
Outworkers	24
Overcrowding	21
Paddington Group Hospital Management Committee	18
Pet Animals Act	32
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	30
Pigeons	32
Poliomyelitis... ..	12
Population	10
Premises	22, 24
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	31
Private Deep Wells	35
Psittacosis	12
Public Health Committee	5
Public Health Department Staff	6
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act	32
Rateable Value	10
Rat and Mice Repression	31
Rodents destroyed	31, 32
Samples, food	27
Sanitary Circumstances	19
Slaughterman's Licences	18
Smallpox	13
Smoke Abatement	34
Staff of the Public Health Department	6
Statistics and Social Conditions	10
Tuberculosis	16
Typhoid	13
Underground Rooms	20, 21
Unfit Premises	20, 21
Unsound Food	30
Water... ..	35
Welfare of Old People	17
Westminster Old People's Welfare Association	17
Whooping Cough	13
Workplaces, Shops, etc.	22

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*) :

Alderman C. P. Russell, C.V.O., J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (*ex-officio*) :

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

CHAIRMAN :

Councillor Miss P. C. Paton Walsh.

VICE-CHAIRMAN :

Councillor Dr. T. Anwyl-Davies.

MEMBERS :

Alderman G. F. Jerdein, D.L.

Councillor T. Stirling Boyd.

„ A. L. Burton.

„ R. L. Everest, F.R.I.C.S., F.I.Arb.

„ D. E. Havinden.

„ L. E. Johnson.

„ Miss A. McMaster.

„ J. McMaster.

„ W. E. Rice.

„ Mrs. Arthur Rye.

„ A. Sciver, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

„ P. Sebastian.

„ Mrs. Francis Storrs.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Andrew J. Shinnie, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., &c. (to 30.9.53).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
(Jointly for Westminster and Holborn)

J. A. Struthers, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (from 1.10.53).

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
(Jointly for Westminster and Holborn)

R. L. Lindon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (from 1.6.53).

PUBLIC ANALYSTS:

(Part time)

F. W. Edwards, F.R.I.C.
T. McLachlan, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.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. Burbidge.
W. J. Davies.
J. E. Drake.
D. W. Saunders.
F. E. Siddle (Inspector for Rodent Control).
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.

J. Beagle (to 30.9.53).

A. R. Cook.

Food :

J. J. Coveney.

P. A. Lloyd.

Catering Establishments :

J. H. Brownlee.

R. F. Stubbs.

W. H. Dunstan

Atmospheric Pollution :

R. Roper.

Women's Factories :

Miss C. Hughesdon.

Clerical Staff :

R. L. Booker.

S. J. Chamberlain.

C. E. Clark.

A. H. Cole.

P. Cox (temporary).

Mrs. P. M. Crump.

Miss R. M. Fitzgerald

P. J. R. Fricker (to 31.7.53).

W. F. C. King.

D. Levitton.

G. Lyness (temporary).

L. J. Nunn.

J. M. Shotbolt.

B. Shrensky.

W. E. F. Simmons.

W. H. Smith.

E. A. Taylor.

E. W. Tyler.

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

SUPERINTENDENT:

A. W. Nicholls.

1ST MORTICIAN:

L. M. Swanston.

MORTUARY STAFF.

H. W. Allam (to 9.3.53).
 J. W. Gardiner (from 5.10.53).
 S. E. Salisbury (to 26.9.53)
 G. E. Warren (from 28.9.53).
 Miss E. S. Dunford (S.R.N.).
 Mrs. E. Williamson (Cleaner).

DISINFECTING STAFF:

N. Heathcote (Foreman).	L. A. Fleury (from 14.9.53).
L. C. Clarke.	G. Lawrence.
C. J. Daniels (to 15.8.53).	J. A. Lovelock.
J. R. Doyle (Motor Driver).	J. Shillingford.
Miss H. MacWilliam (S.R.N.).	
Miss I. M. Newman (Woman Attendant) (to 9.3.53).	
Mrs. R. E. Nicholls	do. (from 9.3.53).

RODENT STAFF:

Rodent Officer:

J. W. Brown.

H. J. Felstead (Foreman).	G. Murray.
H. Brown (to 15.8.53)	F. C. Smellie.
J. J. Devine.	J. Vidal.
E. Jacobs (from 20.4.53).	

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, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I submit for your consideration a report for the year 1953 on the health and sanitary conditions of the City of Westminster. This is the first report which I have had the honour of submitting; but as I took office on the 1st October, 1953, the report can fairly be regarded as the twenty-ninth in the series for which Dr. Shinnie was responsible. Not only was he Medical Officer of Health for the first nine months of the year, but during his long years of service with the City Council he established a pattern, and set a standard, which are and will long continue to be a guide and an inspiration to those who follow in succession to him. For those who have had the privilege of knowing him, and working with him in various capacities for many years, as I have done, a personal regard and esteem are added to the admiration which is universally felt for professional standards and attainments of the highest order, combined with that outstanding devotion to duty and to the interests and welfare of the City and its inhabitants, which so signally marked Dr. Shinnie's career in war and peace. Tributes to his work have already been paid by both members and officers of the City Council, and I feel that I am fortunate in succeeding one who has established such happy relationships with the Council and all who work for it. His example is difficult to follow; but I can assure all concerned that it will be my constant endeavour to maintain the high standards which have been established.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. STRUTHERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	2,502·7
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year, 1953)	99,380
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1951)...	27,349
Rateable Value	£11,226,000

BIRTHS.

Live Births (registered)—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	1,080	537	543
Illegitimate	143	77	66
	1,223	614	609

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12·3
(Rate for London, 17·5 ; for England and Wales, 15·5)	
Number of stillbirths (males, 20 ; females, 11)	31
Rate of stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	24·72

DEATHS.

Net deaths (males, 562 ; females, 456)	1,018
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	10·204
(Rate for London, 12·5 ; for England and Wales, 11·4)	
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil
Deaths of infants under 1 year (males, 21 ; females, 11) ...	32
Death-rate of infants under 1 year—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	26·16
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	22·22
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	55·94
Rate for London for infants under 1 year	24·8
Deaths (all ages) from measles	Nil
" " whooping cough	Nil
" " gastritis, diarrhoea and enteritis ...	Nil
" " cancer	209

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Legitimate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate.</i>
Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	1	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	1	—
Congenital Malformations	6	5	1
*Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	16	6
Accidents (other than motor vehicles)	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	32	24	8
	—	—	—

* 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>
Diphtheria	2	2	2	—
Dysentery	203	68	22	181
Erysipelas	6	2	1	5
Food Poisoning	13	5	1	12
Malaria (origin abroad) ...	2	—	—	2
Measles	495	30	2	493
Meningococcal Infection ...	5	3	1	4
Pneumonia—				
Acute Primary	16	5	—	16
Influenzal	35	3	—	35
Poliomyelitis—				
Paralytic... ..	6	5	2	4
Non-Paralytic	6	6	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia... ..	39	35	—	39
Scabies	59	—	—	59
Scarlet Fever	57	20	3	54
Typhoid Fever	1	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	318	22	1	317
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	1

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

DIPHTHERIA.

Two notifications of diphtheria were received and the patients removed to hospital, but the diagnosis was not confirmed. This is the third year in succession in which the City has been free from this disease. It must be emphasised, however, that this freedom must not give rise to complacency or lessening of vigilance. The need for protecting their infants by immunization cannot be too strongly impressed on the parents. Diphtheria was until recently a terrible scourge in this country, and it may reappear.

Facilities for immunization are available at all the child welfare clinics in the City.

DYSENTERY.

Notification was received of 181 confirmed cases of dysentery during the year as compared with 47 last year. The increase is largely accounted for by outbreaks in children attending the three day nurseries in Westminster and also to a lesser extent by a comparatively large number of sporadic cases for which no common source could be found. The majority of cases were of a mild nature and it was only found necessary to remove 19 cases to hospital.

MEASLES.

493 cases of measles were notified in the City during the year as compared with 781 in 1952. There were no deaths from this disease.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Nine confirmed cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year as compared with ten confirmed cases last year. Four of these cases were paralytic and five non-paralytic. Of the four paralytic cases, three were under 15 months of age. There were no cases in the first or last quarters of the year; and no deaths.

PSITTACOSIS.

One confirmed case of psittacosis occurred in Westminster during the year. It was ascertained that the patient, who recovered completely, owned a budgerigar and that one week before admission to hospital, she had visited bird stalls in another part of London. As her own budgerigar was apparently healthy and was not known to have suffered from any recent illness, the infection was probably derived from the latter source.

The Minister of Health was informed of the case and the patient advised as to the steps to be taken regarding her own bird.

TYPHOID.

One case of typhoid fever, in a woman of 22, was notified during the year. The alleged source of infection was a meal of oysters which she had consumed with a party of three others in a restaurant in Westminster. Specimens were obtained from other members of the party, from members of the staff of the restaurant and from contacts at her home address, and all proved negative. No other cases developed.

SMALLPOX.

The Medical Officer of Health had occasion during the year to investigate a case of suspected smallpox at the request of the medical practitioner attending the patient. The patient was a child of 10 months of age who had been vaccinated 14 days before the appearance of the rash. Generalised vaccinia was diagnosed and the child made an uneventful recovery.

Information was received on two occasions that contacts of smallpox or suspected smallpox were arriving in Westminster. These contacts, numbering 33, were kept under surveillance by officers of the department during the period of incubation and none developed the disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There were 317 confirmed cases of whooping cough in Westminster during the year as compared with 233 last year. Investigations established that there was a small, localised, epidemic during the September quarter, when, in all, 205 notifications were received as compared with 14 and 27 in the March and June quarters respectively and 24 in the corresponding quarter in 1952. There were no deaths during the year. The number of notifications received in the December quarter was 71.

DEATHS, 1953.

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

Causes of Deaths.	Sex.	All Ages.	Years of Age.								
			0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75+	
All Causes	M.	562	21	3	2	13	31	189	162	141	
	F.	456	11	3	3	5	21	108	130	175	
Grand Totals ...		1,018	32	6	5	18	52	297	292	316	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M.	24	—	—	—	1	—	16	6	1	
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	
Tuberculosis, Other ...	M.	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Syphilitic Disease	M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infections ...	M.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	43	—	—	—	1	3	19	16	4	
	F.	10	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	3	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	22	—	—	—	—	4	8	9	1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F.	10	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	—	
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	61	—	—	—	1	3	23	15	19	
	F.	45	1	—	1	2	3	13	15	10	
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M.	4	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	
	F.	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	
Diabetes	M.	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	41	—	—	—	—	1	13	13	14	
	F.	48	—	—	—	—	2	11	18	17	
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M.	98	—	—	—	—	1	51	30	16	
	F.	58	—	—	—	—	—	14	23	21	

DEATHS, 1953 —continued.

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

[illegible]

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

		<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>
Nasal and Throat Swabs	...	280	1
Faeces		164	55
Urine		2	Nil
Tuberculosis		325	64

The examination of specimens from general practitioners has for the past 50 years been undertaken on behalf of the City Council by Westminster Medical School, and they have agreed to continue to do so but without charge to the Council. The examination of material submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, including faeces, urine, food and other material in connection with food poisoning, has been carried out at the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council, opened at the County Hall, Westminster Bridge, on the 1st April, 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age Periods.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years	13	20	—	2	1	—	1	—
25 to 45 years	70	32	3	4	—	1	1	—
45 to 65 years	38	7	—	1	16	3	—	—
65 to 75 years	14	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
75 and over ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	143	64	3	7	24	4	2	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

New Cases.

Pulmonary—207 new cases, including 48 transfers and 12 non-notified deaths, and 1 posthumous notification.

Non-Pulmonary—10 new cases, including 3 transfers.

(1952—*Pulmonary*, 225 new cases; *Non-Pulmonary*, 16 new cases.)

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary—28 (24 males, 4 females).

Non-Pulmonary—2 (2 males).

MASS X-RAY SERVICE.

In the course of the year, the Mass X-Ray Service of the South-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board operated in Westminster, when 14,451 residents and people working in the City were examined. Of these, 75 persons were referred for further investigation to Chest Clinics where 15 were found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis.

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.

AGED AND INFIRM PERSONS.

Number of aged and infirm persons visited during the year							
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Total number of inspections made with regard to these							1,012
Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	815
Cases of aged and infirm persons brought to the notice of the							
Medical Officer of Health during 1953							197

THE WESTMINSTER OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This Association formed in 1947 continued its activities for the welfare of aged persons in the City. These activities include nine Old People's clubs in different parts of the City where recreation and light refreshments are provided. Two of these clubs are organised by the W.V.S., one by the British Red Cross Society, and another at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in co-operation with the Association. Holidays at seaside resorts are provided for the aged as well as summer outings, Christmas parties, and other entertainments. Valuable work is also carried out by voluntary workers of the Association in visiting the ailing and lonely in their homes. A library service is provided by the City Librarian. The chiropody service provided by the Association has proved of immense benefit to the old people who are affected with foot troubles. The Association have arrangements with two clinics in different parts of the City where the aged can attend for treatment, and home treatment is arranged for those who are home bound. The charge to the elderly patients varies from 1s. per foot per treatment to 2s., the balance of cost which varies from 3s. to 6s. per treatment is borne by the Association.

Under the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948, a local authority may make contributions to the funds of any voluntary organisation whose activities consist in or include provision of recreation or meals for old people. The City Council under this authority make an annual grant to the Association and office accommodation is provided for them in the Public Health Department.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY—MOBILE MEALS SERVICE.

The Westminster Division of the British Red Cross Society has continued this service which it 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 two vans provided by the City Council and loaned to the Society. The City Council also makes a grant to the Society of 75 per cent. of the running costs of the vans.

The meals are purchased from a London County Council civic restaurant where they are placed in individual containers. By this method a variety of meals are obtained to suit different tastes. The containers are kept hot in a heated chamber in the vans until delivered at the homes of the old people.

The cost of the meal is 1s. 6d., the old people are charged 10d. the London County Council bearing the difference of 8d. per meal. Some 8,238 meals were delivered by this service during the year. This was accomplished by the British Red Cross Society with the service of one paid driver-organiser and a band of enthusiastic voluntary workers.

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 3,388 certificates were authenticated during the year.

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

The Council during the year granted Slaughterman's licences to fifteen 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.

PADDINGTON GROUP HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

The Council at the invitation of the Paddington Group Hospital Management Committee appointed Councillor Havinden to serve on House Committee No. 1.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Duties performed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The following statistics show the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Analysis of Inspections—

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,456
House to house (by Housing Inspectors)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	761
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	540
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	630
Underground rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	912
Special inspection of premises in Compulsory Purchase Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	239
Housing applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	464
Building licences and permits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drainage, voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,085
Drainage under notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sanitary defects, voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary defects under notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
Other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	625
								7,494

Included in the above totals—

Requisitioned properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	402
Council properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Aged and infirm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

5,964 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
London County Council (Drainage) Bylaws, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
London County Council (Water Closet) Bylaws, 1930	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Westminster City Council Bylaw	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
London County Council (Houses let in Lodgings) Bylaws, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								316

Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(6636)								A 6

Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found.

Defective, dirty internally	108
Damp	240
Inadequate underfloor ventilation	4
Defective drainage	50
Defective roofs	99
Defective area paving, &c.	8
Water closets—	
Insufficient ventilation and light	2
Defective or dirty	46
Insufficient	2
Water supply—cisterns, dirty, uncovered	4
Absence of ventilation—food storage accommodation	7
Smells	81
Rubbish	68
Animals	8
Other nuisances	40
Staircase lighting, tenements	2
Ventilation	7
Verminous	145
Overcrowding	5

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 TO 1949.

A.—Individual houses unfit for human habitation.

Number of houses represented for demolition	—
Number of demolition orders made	—

B.—Parts of buildings unfit for human habitation.

(a) Number of basements represented for closure	13	(37 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of underground rooms	13	(39 rooms)
(b) Number of other parts of buildings represented for closure	—	
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of other parts of buildings	—	
(c) Number of specifications submitted and approved	11	
(d) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of underground rooms	12	(32 rooms)
Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of other parts of buildings	—	
(e) Number of applications made for modification of Closing Orders to permit approved use	10	(18 rooms)
Number of applications approved	10	(17 rooms)

(f) Number of cancellations of Closing Orders (houses demolished)	59
(g) Number of cancellations of Undertakings in lieu of Demolition Order	1 (1 room)

C.—*Informal Action in respect of parts of buildings
unfit for human habitation.*

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

(a) in respect of underground rooms	57
(b) in respect of other parts of buildings	6
Number of instances of informal action included in (a) and (b) above:—	
(a) as a result of applications for building licences...	8
(b) on the initiative of the owner	32
(c) at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health	23

D.—*Contraventions of Closing Orders.*

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

Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Part IV).

Cases coming to the notice of the Public Health Depart- ment during the year	43
Cases in which overcrowded families have been rehoused during 1953:—	
Westminster City Council	14
London County Council	28

Common Lodging Houses.

There are three common lodging houses in the City, two for men and one for women, licensed by the City Council under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

Sixty-eight visits were made to these lodging houses during the year, including those of a routine character, or following the notification of infectious disease or other illness arising amongst the occupants.

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

Factories Act, 1937.
Public Health (London) Act, 1936.
Shops Act, 1950.

	<i>Total Number of Visits.</i>					
Factories—Power	...	...	...	...	...	1,110
Factories—Non-power	...	...	...	...	...	702
Workplaces, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	2,461
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	2,397
Shops (other than food)	...	...	...	...	...	1,565
						8,235

Analysis of inspections.

Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	397
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	2,379
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	124
Building licences and permits	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage, voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	824
Drainage under notice	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sanitary defects, voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sanitary defects under notice	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	86
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	820
						4,650

3,585 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

Types of premises inspected.

Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	102
Carpentry, joinery, &c.	...	...	...	...	21
Wearing apparel	...	...	...	...	1,436
Furriers	...	...	...	...	173
Garages, motor tyres and rubberworks	...	...	...	...	41
Electricity sub-stations	...	...	...	...	12
Boots and shoes and other leather goods	...	...	...	...	89
Jewellers, precious and other metal workers	...	...	...	...	87
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	103
Laundries and dry cleaners	...	...	...	...	42
Printers and publishers	...	...	...	...	124
Warehouses and packers	...	...	...	...	65
Shops (other than food)	...	...	...	...	1,565
Upholstery and carpets	...	...	...	...	19

Photographers, film renters	...	...	...	...	81
Opticians	...	...	...	...	9
Florists	...	...	...	...	7
Chocolate manufacturers	...	...	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	...	...	2,397
Stables and mews	...	...	...	...	9
Surgical goods	...	...	...	...	2
Various (schools, hospitals, halls, stations, &c.)	...	...	...	...	1,850
					8,235

Notices served.

	<i>Factories, Power.</i>	<i>Factories, Non- Power.</i>	<i>Workplaces, Offices, Shops, &c.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Public Health (London) Act, 1936... ..	12	2	8	22
Factories Act, 1937	36	50	2	88
London County Council (Drainage) Bylaws	—	—	3	3
London County Council (Water Closet) Bylaws	6	4	3	13
Shops Act	—	—	65	65
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	—	—	7	7
				54
				56
				88
				198

Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found.

	<i>Factories, Power.</i>	<i>Factories, Non- Power.</i>	<i>Workplaces, Offices, Shops, &c.</i>
Defective, dirty internally	...	40	16
Verminous	...	—	—
Damp	...	—	—
Defective drainage	...	1	—
Defective roofs	...	4	1
Sanitary accommodation—			
Insufficient	...	4	—
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	32	14
Defective or dirty	...	34	19
Direct approach	...	5	2
Not separate for sexes	...	16	5
Unsuitable	...	16	7

Water Supply—						
Insufficient	...	...	...	—	—	1
Cisterns uncovered	...	...	...	—	—	1
Taps not off main	...	...	...	—	—	1
Smells	...	...	...	2	—	85
Rubbish	...	...	...	—	—	51
Animals	...	...	...	1	—	—
Other nuisances	...	...	...	—	—	3
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	11	8	1
Overcrowding	...	...	...	—	4	—
Failure to fix abstracts	...	...	...	111	50	4

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (SECTION 110).

Outworkers.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	478
Number of outworkers (includes 3,005 workers living in areas outside the City)	...	...	...	...	...	3,803

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (SECTION 114).

Abstracts.

Reports were made to the Factory Inspector of 165 instances of failure to display the appropriate abstracts of the Factories Act, 1937.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

INSPECTION OF ALL TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES.

Analysis of Inspections.

Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	450
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	1,800
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	41
Building licences and permits	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage, voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	319
Drainage under notice	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sanitary defects, voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	65
Sanitary defects under notice	...	...	...	...	...	—
Catering licences	...	...	...	...	...	219
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	440
Other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	29
						3,366

2,956 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

A register has been compiled giving particulars of all the catering establishments in the City, including hotels, restaurants, clubs, cafes, tea-shops, canteens, public houses, &c. At the end of the year 2,979 such premises were included in the Register.

Valuable educational work has been done by the Council's Officers in giving advice and guidance to caterers concerning the many and varied

problems arising in the numerous establishments of all types which are to be found in the City. In this connection, regard has been had to the Ministry of Food's booklet "Clean Catering" in appropriate cases and to recommendations contained in the report of the Catering Trade Working Party.

Summary of inspections.

Hotels, restaurants, clubs	...	...	...	...	2,120
Cafes, teashops, &c.	...	...	...	...	941
Staff canteens	...	...	...	...	304
Public houses	...	...	...	...	435
					3,800

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	26
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	55
London County Council (Water Closet) Bylaws	...	...	...	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	2
Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	1
				86

Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	49
Defective internally	...	...	...	17
Defective drainage	...	...	...	4
Defective floors	...	...	...	14
Preparation tables and equipment worn and insanitary	...	...	...	7
Food storage accommodation inadequate and unsuitable	...	...	...	1
Vegetable preparation and washing up facilities—				
Worn and insanitary	...	...	...	16
Insufficient	...	...	...	11
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	8
Lighting	...	...	...	1
Staff washing facilities insufficient and unsuitable	...	...	...	8
Staff changing rooms insufficient and unsuitable	...	...	...	1
Vermin—				
Cockroaches	...	...	...	6
Rats/Mice	...	...	...	2
Water Closets—				
Insufficient	...	...	...	10
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	7
Defective	...	...	...	10
Dirty and dilapidated	...	...	...	8
Direct approach	...	...	...	1

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

Type of business and summary of inspections:—

	<i>No. of Premises.</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Bakehouses (underground included) ...	30	67
Dairies and milkshops	119	175
Ice cream premises	226	117
Meat shops	70	130
Other meat shops (preserved food, etc.) ...	84	55
Stalls	107	92
Confectioners	263	145
Fruit and greengrocery	223	310
Provision shops	280	376
Fish and poultry	56	103
*Other food premises	—	952
		2,522

Included in the above totals are 42 visits in connection with the sale of horseflesh, and 121 enquiries in relation to food poisoning outbreaks.

Many of the shops in Westminster carry on a multiple of trades, and an attempt has been made to enumerate the individual activity separately where known.

**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 of inquiry regarding adulterated samples.

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	3
Factories Act, 1937	1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	18
Milk and Dairies Regulations	1
London County Council Bylaws (Food)	2
	25

Nuisances and defective conditions found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	...	28
Defective internally	...	...	...	...	6
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	20
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	8
Preparation tables and equipment worn and insanitary					5
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	...	9
Staff washing facilities, insufficient, unsuitable	...				7
Fuel, rubbish and other extraneous materials in food preparation rooms	...	...	...	...	1
Water closets—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	3
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...		3
Defective	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty and dilapidated	...	...	...	...	2
Unsuitable	...	...	...	...	1
Suitable notices...	...	...	...	...	4

VISITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING SAMPLES AND INSPECTING FOODSTUFFS.

	<i>Sampling.</i>	<i>Inspection of Food.</i>
Bakehouses	3	12
Dairies and milkshops	98	123
Fried fish shops	—	—
Ice cream premises	42	32
Meat shops and stalls	9	182
Confectioners	35	37
Fruit and greengrocery	5	165
Provision shops	124	516
Other food premises	173	624
Staff canteens	38	44
Hotels, restaurants, clubs	33	132
Cafes, teashops, &c.	48	80
Public houses	58	64
Fish and poultry	2	43
	668	2,054

FOOD SAMPLING.

During the year a total of 1,540 samples were submitted to the City Council's Public Analysts for chemical analysis. The samples were as follows:—

Baking powder	...	...	...	...	5
Bread, rolls, sandwiches, &c.	...	...	...	...	10

Butter	4
Biscuits, cakes, puddings, cake and pudding mixture, &c.	42
Cereals	38
Cheese	5
Cocoa, &c.	7
Coffee preparations and essences	35
Condiments and spices	51
Confectionery	86
Cooking fat	3
Culinary flavourings and colourings	50
Custard, blancmange powders, jellies, &c.	66
Dried fruit	8
Drugs	41
Fish and fish preparations	48
Flour	12
Fruit—fresh, canned and preserved	25
Gelatine	4
Herbs	16
Jams, marmalade and preserves	50
Margarine	3
Milk	396
Milk, in bottle	5
Milk, condensed and evaporated	5
Milk beverages	3
Pickles and sauces	51
Meat and meat preparations	47
Salad oils, creams and dressings	22
Sandwich spreads	15
Sausages, &c.	11
Soft drinks, beers, cordials, &c.	48
Synthetic cream, &c.	4
Soup and soup powders	51
Spirits	94
Suet	7
Sugar	2
Tea	19
Vegetables, dried and tinned, &c.	34
Vinegar	20
Wines	4
Ice cream	48
Ice lollies	16
Cream	15
Miscellaneous	14

The Public Analysts reported adversely on 92 of the above samples, representing a percentage of 5·9.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 14

Registration of Premises used in Connection with the Manufacture, Sale or Storage of Ice Cream.

226 premises are registered for the manufacture and/or sale and/or storage of ice cream.

Registration of Premises for the Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods.

84 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.

Methylene Blue tests on samples of ice cream.

Fifty-seven samples of ice cream were submitted for methylene blue test. The samples were classified in provisional grades based upon the method of examination as recommended by the Ministry of Health. These were as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	37
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	13
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	2
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	5

In addition two samples of iced lollies were submitted for examination. The bacteriologist reported them as satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS.

The following licences authorising the sale of designated milk were issued during 1953 to Distributors of Milk registered with the Council:—

					<i>Dealers'</i> <i>Licences.</i>	<i>Dealers'</i> <i>Supple-</i> <i>mentary</i> <i>Licences.</i>
Pasteurised...	...	...	...	...	113	37
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	97	34
Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	...	78	31

Milk—Bacteriological examination.

During the year 46 samples of milk were submitted for methylene blue and phosphatase test. The results received showed that the milk had been efficiently pasteurised.

In addition, four samples of milk were examined for tubercle bacilli by animal inoculation with negative results.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

At the 31st December, 1953, the following were entered in the City Council's Register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk:—

Distributors of milk with premises registered as dairies	...	42
Distributors of milk with premises not registered as dairies		77
Distributors of milk with premises situate outside Westminster		41

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

Persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List numbered 165 at 31st December, 1953.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 (SECTION 9).

The following table shows the amount of food condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

		<i>Amount Inspected.</i>			<i>Amount Salvaged</i>			<i>Amount Destroyed.</i>		
		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Canned food	...	20	17	82	—	9	69	20	8	13
Meat	...	3	5	54	—	—	—	3	5	54
Fruit and vege- tables	...	94	9	22	4	5	32	90	3	102
Fats	...	—	—	98	—	—	63	—	—	35
Cereals	...	—	11	22	—	3	96	—	7	38
Fish	...	1	11	61	—	—	—	1	11	61
Confectionery	...	—	3	49	—	—	—	—	3	49
Miscellaneous	...	—	9	8	—	1	0	—	8	8
Totals		121	8	60	5	0	36	116	8	24

During the past year there was only one occasion when an unusually large quantity of one particular commodity required condemnation. The commodity in this instance was Spanish onions which had been retained on one of the Thames wharves pending sale, and had deteriorated to such an extent that 51½ tons had become unfit.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, SECTIONS 17 AND 18.

Food Poisoning.

The following return was made to the Ministry of Health in accordance with the requirements of Appendix D (I) of the revised Memo. 188/Med/49, giving details of food poisoning notifications received during the year and returned to the Registrar General:—

<i>1st Quarter.</i>	<i>2nd Quarter.</i>	<i>3rd Quarter.</i>	<i>4th Quarter.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
—	3	6	3	12

In nine of the twelve confirmed cases of food poisoning notified only one individual was concerned. In the remaining three cases it was found that the individual was one among others who had suffered similarly. In addition to the above notified cases, various outbreaks have occurred during the year in the City. None of the persons concerned was notified as suffering from food poisoning, but from the investigations carried out it was apparent that those affected were suffering from illness of that character. It was possible in only two of these outbreaks to identify positively the causative agent. It is usually found that in such outbreaks few, if any, patients consult a doctor.

BYLAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF FOOD.

Bylaws under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were made by the London County Council with effect from November, 1952, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practice, and in connection with the sale, &c., of food intended for human consumption. Two notices were served in relation to the delivery of food under unhygienic conditions.

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (DRAINAGE) BYLAWS, 1934.

Drainage.

Drainage plans submitted	...	...	...	...	...	536
Combined Drainage Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	44

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

RATS AND MICE REPRESSION.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	644
Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	739
Inspections by Sanitary Inspectors and Rodent Officer	...	...	...	...	...	3,587
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	35

Rodents destroyed—

Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	3,370
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	1,616
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	3,483
						8,469

INSPECTION OF BLOCKS OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	118
Inspections by Rodent Operators	...	...	...	...	...	3,559

Rodents destroyed—

Black rats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Mice...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,068
							1,251

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Five licences were issued by the Council during the year in relation to premises subject to the provisions of this Act.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Under the provisions of this Act various types of premises concerned with the upholstery trade or with the provision of materials for that trade must be registered or licensed with the local authority.

At the end of the year seven premises had been registered by the City Council and two premises licensed for storage purposes.

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 in the City of pigeons 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	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Pigeons destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

NOISE NUISANCE.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Investigations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	49

The type of noise of which complaint has been made varied considerably and included noise created by machinery of several kinds, electric fans of ventilating plants, dance bands and amplifiers, radio sets, and various noises arising from the demolition of buildings, pneumatic drills, compressors, &c. In all cases the Sanitary Inspector had been able to make suggestions and offer advice which led to the cessation or reduction of the noise.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARD) ACT, 1952.

This Act came into force on the 1st October, 1953, after which date it is an offence to sell or hire or offer for sale gas fires, electric fires and oil heaters so designed that they are unsuitable for use in a dwelling house or other residential premises and so constructed that without a guard, there is likely to be injury by burning or ignition of clothing through contact with the heating element.

The Medical Officer of Health, the Principal Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspectors are the officers of the Council authorised to inspect and test appliances under the Act.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Investigation into atmospheric pollution in the City was continued during the year at three sites, Mayfair, Pimlico and Charing Cross, where deposit gauges, which measure deposited pollution, and lead peroxide cylinders, which measure the sulphur activity, are sited. The following tables give the results of the monthly analyses, and show separately the amounts of insoluble and soluble constituents.

Month.	Monthly deposits of impurities—tons per square mile.								
	Mayfair.			Pimlico.			Charing Cross.		
	Insol.	Sol.	Total.	Insol.	Sol.	Total.	Insol.	Sol.	Total.
January	16.09	7.71	23.80	17.31	11.33	28.64	22.57	11.22	33.79
February	9.30	11.36	20.66	11.09	12.21	23.30	15.70	11.55	27.25
March	34.85	15.99	50.84	23.30	16.63	39.93	28.34	16.40	44.74
April	31.68	9.44	41.12	17.14	11.22	28.36	17.99	7.96	25.95
May	17.46	9.58	27.04	11.81	9.92	21.73	12.44	8.30	20.74
June	14.39	9.21	23.60	11.12	8.79	19.91	9.86	9.92	19.78
July	10.53	8.12	18.65	16.84	11.87	28.71	11.52	9.29	20.81
August	8.59	7.67	16.26	12.45	11.54	23.99	7.24	6.40	13.64
September	11.18	11.22	22.40	19.36	13.89	33.25	11.45	9.86	21.31
October	16.36	6.62	22.98	22.82	6.61	29.43	13.94	5.64	19.58
November	12.48	5.86	18.34	18.52	9.63	28.15	16.76	7.13	23.89
December....	18.75	7.06	25.81	28.46	10.57	39.03	20.68	9.22	29.90

ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR ACTIVITY BY THE LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD.

The cylinders for the estimation of sulphur activity are situated at Alhambra House, Farm Street Depot, and Bessborough Street Clinic.

The following table gives the rate of sulphation expressed in milligrams of sulphur trioxide per 100 sq. cms. per day.

Month.	Sulphur trioxide in milligrams per 100 sq. cms. per day.		
	Mayfair.	Pimlico.	Charing Cross.
January	3.28	4.91	4.82
February	3.10	2.94	3.79
March	4.72	6.07	5.36
April	2.94	3.26	2.94
May	1.77	2.44	2.07
June	1.50	1.77	1.78
July	1.21	1.81	1.64
August	1.14	1.67	1.46
September	1.83	2.24	2.08
October... ..	4.47	3.58	3.31
November	3.62	4.01	4.23
December	3.61	5.04	4.29

Owens Automatic Air Filter.

The Owens air filter which records hourly the suspended impurities in the atmosphere was in continuous operation at Monck Street Laboratory.

Estimation of Sulphur Dioxide by the Hydrogen Peroxide Method.

Estimations of sulphur dioxide by the volumetric method were made three times weekly at the Monck Street Laboratory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT—RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS AND ACTION
TAKEN.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Complaints received	31	48	80	85	130	79	120
Observations taken...	531	670	720	1,374	1,371	1,565	1,623
Notices issued—							
Preliminary ...	6	1	4	37	15	11	5
Statutory ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Prosecutions instituted	...	...	...	...	...	17
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cases withdrawn on completion of works, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cases dismissed on payment of costs	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cases dismissed	...	...	...	...	...	4

ANALYSIS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

DWELLINGS.	Fines.			Costs.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Public Health (London) Act, 1936.</i>						
Failing to abate nuisances—						
Three convictions	—			7	7	0
Two cases withdrawn on completion of work (with costs)	—			6	6	0
Failing to comply with Order to abate a nuisance—						
One case withdrawn on completion of work (with costs)	—			3	3	0
Order made for payment of costs incurred by Council completing works—						
One conviction	—			10	10	0
FOOD						
<i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</i>						
Selling food intended for, but unfit for, human consumption—						
One conviction	10	0		2	2	0
Selling food to the prejudice of the purchaser—						
Four convictions	8	0	0	5	5	0
Four summonses dismissed.						
Failing to take precautions against the contamination of food—						
One conviction	10	0	0	5	5	0
	£18 10 0			£39 18 0		

WATER.

The resident population of 99,380 in 27,349 dwellings received water from the Metropolitan Water Board's mains or from deep wells. Eighty-nine deep wells were in use at 31st December, 1953. In 86 of these the water is used for domestic purposes. In the others, one supply is used

for cooling purposes, one for supplying boilers, and one is a stand-by in case of fire. Satisfactory reports were received of 104 bacteriological examinations and 20 chemical analyses of water from these wells.

One complaint of contaminated drinking water was received during the year and this was found to be due to defective tank coverings allowing rain water to enter storage tanks. This defect was immediately rectified.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

	Rooms.	Articles.	Articles Destroyed	Articles Washed.	Vehicles.	Books.
Disinfection ...	431	12,627	5,582	1,459	14	784
Disinfestation	3,789	2,186	4,590	—	7	—
Laundry towels	—	—	—	6,138	—	—

CLEANSING OF PERSONS.

	Scabies.		Head Lice.		Body Lice.	
	Cases.	Treat- ments.	Cases.	Treat- ments.	Cases.	Treat- ments.
Men	34	67	1	1	386	388
Women	33	77	7	7	21	23
Children (including those under school age) ...	33	112	154	162	2	2

Apart from the normal disinfection and cleansing of clothing, bedding, &c., following infectious disease, assistance has been given to elderly and infirm people being nursed by the District Nurses, by arranging for the cleansing of bed linen which had become fouled and unwholesome. Arrangements have also been carried out for the cleansing and disinfestation of the clothing of old people prior to their being admitted into homes. Vagrants who come voluntarily to the Cleansing Station or who are brought by the Police are cleansed and their clothes disinfested.

Furniture of incoming tenants to the Council's housing estates, found on inspection to be verminous, is fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas by a firm of contractors before transfer to new accommodation. It was not found necessary to carry out any fumigations 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 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 33 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	...	...	...	...	17
Relatives of the deceased	...	...	...	...	9
Friends of the deceased	...	...	...	...	3
Hospitals in the City	...	...	...	...	4
					—
					33
					—

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

During 1953, 294 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	...	...	...	...	79
Non-inquest cases	...	...	...	...	215
Post mortem examinations held	...	...	...	...	249

Causes of death in the foregoing were as under :—

Accidental drowning	...	...	...	...	—
Found drowned	...	...	...	...	5
Suicide by drowning	...	...	...	...	1
„ by other means	...	...	...	...	22
Accidents—					
Street	...	...	...	...	11
Domestic	...	...	...	...	14
Others	...	...	...	...	10
Natural causes	...	...	...	...	217
Misadventure	...	...	...	...	4
Murder	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous cases	...	...	...	...	9

CIVIL DEFENCE IN 1953.

The Civil Defence duties assigned to the Medical Officer of Health are mortuary service, decontamination and salvage of food, cleansing of contaminated persons, and health and medical services in public shelters. A comprehensive scheme has been prepared for the mortuary service based on the experience of the last war. A number of the Council's officers have been trained in the administration of war-time mortuaries and premises have been earmarked for this purpose. A scheme has also been drawn up based on civil defence requirements in the last war for the decontamination and salvage of food, and a site has been earmarked as a treatment centre. The City Council's Public Analysts have agreed to undertake the examination of contaminated foods.