

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

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City of Westminster.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956

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

Medical Officer of Health.

LONDON:

MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN
BY HARRISON AND SONS LIMITED
BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
PRINTERS, LONDON, HAYES (MIDDX.) AND HIGH WYCOMBE



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CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
Abstracts—Factories Act	29
Aged and Infirm—Care of	19
Area of the City	10
Atmospheric Pollution	38
Bacteriological Examinations	17
Bathing facilities for old people	19
Births... ..	10
British Red Cross Society	18
Burial or Cremation of the Dead	42
Catering Establishments	31
Certificates of Disrepair	27
Cleansing of bed linen of elderly and infirm	20
Cleansing of Persons	41
Clearance Area Procedure	25
Coroner's Court and Mortuary	43
Deaths	10, 15
Demolition of Individual Unfit Houses	26
Disinfection and Disinfestation	41
Drainage	37
Dwelling Houses	21
Factories, Workplaces, Shops and other Premises	27
Factories, Defects and Nuisances	29
Food, Inspection and Supervision... ..	30
„ Legal Proceedings	41
„ Poisoning	37
„ Sampling	33
„ Shops and Premises	32
„ Unsound	36
Food & Drugs Act, 1955	30
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	30
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	26
Housing Statistics	22
Houses, number of	10
Ice Cream	34, 35
Infant Mortality	11
Infectious Diseases	11
International Certificates of Vaccination and Inoculation	14
Introduction	9
Land Charges Act, 1925	27
Legal Proceedings	41
London County Council Divisional Health Committee, Division No. 2	5

	<i>Page</i>
Mass X-Ray Service	18
Milk and Dairies	35
Mobile Library Service for old people	19
Mobile Meals Service (" Meals on Wheels ")	18
Mortuary Accommodation	44
Nuisances	22, 29, 31, 32
„ Noise	38
Notices	21, 28, 31, 32
„ Statutory	21
Outworkers	29
Paddington Group Hospital Management Committee	5
Pet Animals Act	38
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	35
Poliomyelitis	13
Population	10
Preserved Food Premises	34
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	37
Private Deep Wells	41
Public Health Committee	5
Public Health Department Staff	6
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act	38
Rateable Value	10
Rat and Mice Repression	37
Rodents Destroyed	37
Samples, Food	33
Sanitary Circumstances	21
Slaughterman's Licences	20
Slum Clearance	25
Smoke Abatement	40
Staff of the Public Health Department	6
Statistics and Social Conditions	10
Tuberculosis	17
Unsound Food	36
Water... ..	41
Welfare of Old Persons	18
Westminster Old People's Welfare Association	18
Workplaces, Shops, etc.	27

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*):

Councillor Hugh Patrick Stirling, J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (*ex-officio*):

Councillor J. Gordon Elsworthy, F.R.I.C.S.

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Dr. T. Anwyl-Davies, F.R.C.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Lady Hulbert, M.B., J.P.

MEMBERS:

Alderman Jacques Abady, Q.C.

„ G. F. Jerdein, D.L.

Councillor T. Stirling Boyd.

„ A. L. Burton.

„ R. L. Everest, F.R.I.C.S., F.I.Arb.

„ E. F. Hyatt.

„ L. E. Johnson.

„ the late Miss A. McMaster.

„ J. A. McMaster.

„ Miss P. C. Paton Walsh.

„ Mrs. Arthur Rye.

„ A. Sciver, B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.I.C.

„ Peter Sebastian, J.P.

„ the late Mrs. Francis Storrs.

„ Dr. B. Warren, L.C.C.

Members of the Council were appointed to Committees as follows:—

Paddington Group Hospital Management Committee.

Councillor Peter Sebastian, J.P., to House Committee No. 1.

London County Council Divisional Health Committee, Division No. 2.

Councillors Miss P. C. Paton Walsh, Mrs. Arthur Rye and the late Mrs. Francis Storrs.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
(Jointly for Westminster and Holborn)
J. A. Struthers, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

OCCASIONAL DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
(Jointly for Westminster and Holborn)
A. J. Shinnie, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
(Jointly for Westminster and Holborn)
K. M. Williams, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H. (to 27.11.56).
T. B. Whitehead, M.B., Ch.B. (from 28.11.56 to 31.12.56).

PUBLIC ANALYSTS:
(Part time)
F. W. Edwards, F.R.I.C.
T. McLachlan, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:
H. E. White.

CHIEF CLERK:
W. D. Sambrook.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:
(and with special duties relating to Theatres, Cinemas and other places
of entertainment),
W. G. J. Sutton.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

District:
A. G. Bates (died 18.9.56).
J. H. Brownlee.
J. M. Burbridge.
W. J. Davies.
J. E. Drake.
F. A. Freeman.
A. E. Robinson.
F. E. Siddle (Inspector with special duties relating to Rodent
Control and Disinfection).
W. L. French (part time).
(Inspector with special duties relating to the care of
Old People.)

Housing:

C. F. Brockett (Housing Inspector).

J. W. Baxter.

W. Cornelius (from 1.2.56).

A. A. Sleet.

Food:

J. J. Coveney.

P. A. Lloyd.

Catering Establishments:

R. F. Stubbs.

W. H. Dunstan.

Atmospheric Pollution:

R. Roper.

Women's Factories:

Miss P. M. A'Bear.

CLERICAL STAFF:

R. L. Booker.

S. J. Chamberlain.

A. H. Cole.

P. Cox (temporary).

Mrs. P. M. Crump.

R. W. Easton.

Miss R. M. Fitzgerald

W. F. C. King.

Miss K. Lee.

D. Levitton.

G. Lyness (temporary)

(to 27.10.56).

L. J. Nunn.

J. M. Shotbolt.

B. Shrensky.

W. E. F. Simmons.

W. H. Smith.

E. A. Taylor.

SUPERINTENDENT, CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY:

A. W. Nicholls.

1st Mortician:

G. Warren.

Disinfecting Foreman:

J. Gardiner (to 1.9.56).

Rodent Officer:

J. W. Brown.

Foreman:

H. J. Felstead.

Assistants to Public Health Inspectors:

A. J. Jones.

A. Murkin.

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

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,...

Herewith I beg to present a report upon the health
and sanitary conditions of the City for the year 1956.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. STRUTHERS,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1957.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	2,502.7
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year, 1956)	96,100
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1951)...	27,349
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1956)	£22,459,277

BIRTHS.

Live Births (registered)—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	1,024	513	511
Illegitimate	111	56	55
	1,135	569	566

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11.08
(Rate for England and Wales, 15.6)	
Number of stillbirths (males, 12 ; females, 12)	24
Rate of stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	20.70

DEATHS.

Net deaths (males, 536 ; females, 415)	951
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	9.89
(Rate for England and Wales, 11.7)	
Deaths from puerperal causes	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.86
Deaths of infants under 1 year (males, 19 ; females, 7) ...	26
Death-rate of infants under 1 year—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	22.90
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	22.46
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	27.00
Deaths (all ages) from measles	Nil
" " whooping cough	Nil
" " gastritis, diarrhoea and enteritis ...	6
" " cancer	216

INFANT MORTALITY.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Legitimate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate.</i>
Congenital Malformations	7	5	2
*Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	11	5
Accidents (other than motor vehicles)	3	3	—
	—	—	—
	26	19	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.

The undermentioned conditions are compulsorily notifiable in Westminster:—

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Authority for Notification.</i>
Anthrax	L.C.C. Order dated 28.3.1909 and Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Section 305.
Cholera	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.
Diphtheria	Do.
Dysentery	Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.
Encephalitis, Acute ...	Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infection) Regulations, 1949.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.
Erysipelas	Do.
Food Poisoning	Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 26.
Glanders	L.C.C. Order dated 23.3.1909 and Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Section 305.
Hydrophobia	Do.
Leprosy*	Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1951.
Malaria	Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.

* Notifiable to the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health.

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Authority for Notification.</i>
Measles	County of London (Measles and Whooping Cough) Regulations, 1938 to 1948.
Membranous Croup ...	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.
Meningococcal Infection	L.C.C. Order dated 27.2.1912 and Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infection) Regulations, 1949.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum†	L.C.C. Order dated 2.11.1910 and Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937.
Plague	Local Government Board Order, 1900.
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.
Poliomyelitis, Acute ...	L.C.C. Order dated 27.2.1912 and Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infection) Regulations, 1949.
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951.
Relapsing Fever ...	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.
Scabies	County of London (Scabies) Regulations, 1943.
Scarlet Fever	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.
Smallpox	Do.
Tuberculosis	Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.
Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.
Typhus Fever	Do.
Whooping Cough ...	County of London (Measles and Whooping Cough) Regulations, 1938 to 1948.

For each of the above a fee of 2s. 6d. is payable by the Local Authority to the medical practitioner if the case occurs in his private practice, or 1s. if the case occurs in his practice as medical officer of a public body or institution.

† Notifiable to the County Medical Officer of Health for London.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Notifica- tions.</i>	<i>Removed to Hospital.</i>	<i>Diagnosis not Con- firmed.</i>	<i>Diagnosis Estab- lished.</i>
Dysentery	97	29	5	92
Erysipelas	1	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	46	8	1	45
Malaria (origin abroad)	4	1	—	4
Measles	205	14	—	205
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	1	1	—	1
Paratyphoid	1	1	—	1
Pneumonia—				
Acute Primary	7	—	—	7
Influenzal	5	—	—	5
Poliomyelitis—				
Paralytic... ..	9	8	2	{ 6
Non-Paralytic				{ 1
Puerperal Pyrexia	29	27	—	29
Scabies	43	1	—	43
Scarlet Fever	29	6	—	29
Typhoid Fever	3	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	55	8	—	55

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

POLIOMYELITIS.

Seven cases of Poliomyelitis, six paralytic and one non-paralytic, were notified during the year, compared with 15 in 1955. The only non-paralytic case was a girl aged five years. Of the paralytic cases, two were adults and the rest were children aged $6\frac{1}{2}$ years, $5\frac{1}{2}$ years, 4 years and 20 months respectively. There were no fatalities.

One child, aged $6\frac{1}{2}$ years, with paralytic disease was nursed at home. This is an unusual occurrence nowadays because of the difficulty of providing the ancillary services needed for the efficient care of such cases.

The unfortunate feature of the notifications is that the non-paralytic cases are outnumbered by 6 to 1. In 1955 the proportion for Westminster was 2.75 to 1, and for England and Wales as a whole 1.5 to 1. The ratio of paralytic to non-paralytic cases varies greatly. The causes of such variations are not completely understood.

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. 3,505 certificates were authenticated during the year.

The Medical Officer of Health also issues, on request and in appropriate circumstances, certificates to the effect that no cases of smallpox have occurred in the district during the preceding two weeks. These certificates are sought by persons proceeding to the United States of America who do not wish to submit to vaccination. It is understood that the United States immigration authorities reserve the right to place such persons under surveillance notwithstanding the production of such a certificate.

DEATHS, 1956.

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

<i>Causes of Deaths.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>All Ages.</i>	<i>Years of Age.</i>							
			0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75+
All Causes	M.	536	19	1	3	8	35	192	140	138
	F.	415	7	1	—	3	24	88	107	185
Grand Totals ...		951	26	2	3	11	59	280	247	323
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M.	14	—	—	—	—	1	6	5	2
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Tuberculosis, Other ...	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	11	—	—	—	—	1	7	2	1
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	51	—	—	—	—	2	27	17	5
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	25	—	—	—	—	2	9	8	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	67	—	—	1	3	3	21	21	18
	F.	41	—	—	—	—	4	13	14	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M.	9	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	1
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	42	—	—	—	—	2	8	12	20
	F.	58	—	—	—	—	2	8	11	37
Coronary Disease, Angina	M.	100	—	—	—	—	5	45	32	18
	F.	57	—	—	—	—	2	10	23	22

DEATHS, 1956—continued.

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

<i>Causes of Deaths.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>All Ages.</i>	<i>Years of Age.</i>							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75+
Hypertension, with Heart Disease	M.	11	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	5
	F.	13	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	8
Other Heart Disease ...	M.	30	—	—	—	—	3	8	7	12
	F.	47	—	—	—	1	2	7	9	28
Other Circulatory Disease ...	M.	25	—	—	—	—	—	12	3	10
	F.	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	11
Influenza	M.	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	M.	16	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	9
	F.	24	—	1	—	—	1	2	5	15
Bronchitis	M.	23	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	8
	F.	20	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M.	9	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	2
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M.	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	M.	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	F.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	M.	7	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
	F.	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M.	36	11	—	—	—	2	9	7	7
	F.	38	5	—	—	—	2	9	10	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M.	8	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	2
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
All other Accidents ...	M.	22	3	1	—	1	2	7	3	5
	F.	10	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	5
Suicide	M.	23	—	—	—	2	8	11	2	—
	F.	8	—	—	—	1	2	4	1	—
Homicide and Operations of War	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Nasal and Throat Swabs (36)	{	C. Diphtheriae	Nil
		Haemolytic Streptococci	8
Faeces (182) Rectal Swabs (21)	{ The organisms of Shigella Sonnei were present in 58 cases, and those of Salmonella Typhimurium in 13 cases. Shigella Flexneri "V" was isolated in one instance. Salmonella Anatum was isolated in one instance.		
Tuberculosis (353)	{	Positive	42
		Negative	311
Urine (6) ...	No pathogenic organisms found.		
Ulcer Swab (1) ...	Negative.		
Blood films (2) ...	No Malarial Parasites seen.		
Hand Swab (1) ...	Staphylococcus Aureus isolated.		

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 to 5 years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ...	7	12	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 45 years ...	44	28	3	3	1	—	—	—
45 to 65 years ...	38	8	—	—	6	—	1	1
65 to 75 years ...	8	—	—	—	5	2	1	—
75 and over ...	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	104	50	4	5	14	2	2	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

New Cases.

Source of Information.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Primary notifications	70	33	3	4
Transfers from other areas	29	16	1	1
Non-notified deaths	5	1	—	—

MASS X-RAY SERVICE.

During 1956 the Mobile Unit of the South West London Mass X-Ray Service made 26 visits to the City to provide chest X-ray facilities for the staff of 26 firms, the staff and students of three university colleges and three training colleges, and the staff and residents of a common lodging house. The total numbers X-rayed were 16,915, and as a result of these visits 79 cases were referred to chest clinics with a radiologically significant lesion, probably tuberculous, requiring further investigation.

Arrangements were made, in conjunction with the City Council, the Chelsea Group Hospital Management Committee and the Chest Physician, for a Mass X-ray Unit to visit the Westminster Chest Clinic in Ebury Bridge Road every Friday to provide a service for patients referred by general practitioners and employees of firms in the vicinity. These visits have been carried out regularly since the beginning of September, and a total of 2,699 people have been examined, of whom 698 were doctors' patients. This has resulted in 15 cases being referred to chest clinics with a radiologically significant lesion, probably tuberculous, requiring further investigation.

WELFARE OF OLD PERSONS.

Westminster Old People's Welfare Association.

This voluntary Association, whose members include representatives of various bodies interested in the welfare of old people, continued its activities in the City during the year. These activities include the organisation in various parts of the City of Darby and Joan Clubs, where light refreshments and recreation are provided; arranging holidays at seaside resorts, summer outings, Christmas parties, and other entertainments. Special outings and parties were organised during the year for handicapped old people, who by reason of their infirmities had not been outside their homes for long periods. The distribution of gift parcels at Christmas time was arranged; and also the visiting by voluntary helpers of the ailing and lonely in their homes. The Association also provides a chiropody service for the elderly. Treatment can be obtained at two clinics in the City, or at home. The charge is 2s. 6d. per treatment; the balance of cost, which varies from 3s. 6d. to 6s. per treatment, is borne by the Association. The Association have also been instrumental in placing a few old people in part-time employment.

The City Council, under powers conferred by the National Assistance Act, 1948, make an annual contribution to the funds of the Association.

British Red Cross Society—Mobile Meals Service.

The Westminster Division of the British Red Cross Society has continued the 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 unable themselves to prepare meals at home.

The service is operated with two vans provided by the City Council and loaned to the Society. The Council also makes an annual grant to the Society of 75 per cent. of the running costs of the vans.

The meals are obtained from a firm of caterers, and are placed in individual containers and kept in heated chambers on the vans until delivered at the homes of the old people. The meals cost 1s. 6d. each, and consist of meat, two vegetables and a sweet, or lighter diets for those requiring them. The old people pay 8d. for the meal and the London County Council bear the difference of 10d.

Some 12,589 meals were delivered by this service during the year, with the assistance of the Society's voluntary workers. This invaluable help is very much appreciated by all concerned.

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.

One aged person was removed to a home under these provisions during the year.

Aged and Infirm Persons.

Number of aged and infirm persons visited by the Council's officers during the year	...	...	...	...	...	155
Total number of inspections made with regard to these	...	...	...	...	...	936
Primary	...	...	...	...	...	129
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	807
Cases of aged and infirmed persons brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1956	...	...	...	...	...	129

In dealing with these cases, the co-operation of the Westminster Old People's Welfare Association, the London County Council's Home Help Service, both of which are accommodated in the Public Health Department, and the "Meals on Wheels" service of the British Red Cross Society has been of great value.

Mobile Library Service.

The City Council provides a library service for the aged, and books are issued to them at Darby and Joan Clubs. For those who are unable to leave their homes, delivery is made there.

Bathing Facilities.

The City Council has made available to old age pensioners facilities whereby they can have hot baths at the Council's public baths at reduced charges.

Cleansing of Bed Linen of Elderly and Infirm.

Facilities have also been made available by the Council for the cleansing of bed linen of elderly and infirm people when it has become fouled and unwholesome.

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

The Council during the year granted Slaughterman's licences to 15 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 part of the course for appointment as inspectors of the R.S.P.C.A.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Duties Performed by the Public Health Inspectors.

The following statistics show the work of the Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

Dwelling Houses.

Analysis of Inspections:—

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	897
House to House (by Housing Inspectors)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,002
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Underground Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	381
Other parts unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Housing Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
Applications for Loans and Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,509
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	567
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	403
								5,358

Included in the above totals are:—

Requisitioned properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	416
Council properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

8,171 Re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

Notices Served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	178
London County Council (Drainage) Byelaws, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	10
London County Council (Water Closet) Byelaws, 1930	...	...	...	...	...	6
London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	9
						206

Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	9
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Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found.

Defective and dirty internally	...	...	...	...	66
Damp	...	...	...	...	71
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	46
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	48
Defective area paving, etc.	...	...	...	...	1
Water Closets:—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	...	1
Defective or dirty	...	...	...	...	1
Water Supply:—					
Absence of in upper floors	...	...	...	...	5
Smells	...	...	...	...	53
Rubbish	...	...	...	...	34
Animals	...	...	...	...	9
Other nuisances (soot, insects)	...	...	...	...	10
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous	...	...	...	...	33
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	3

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 5,358
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 13,529
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 462
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1,880
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 13
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 197

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.*

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 22

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	197
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	197
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

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

(1) Number of dwelling-houses represented for demolition	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(4) Number of cancellations of Undertakings in lieu of Demolition Orders (house made fit)	1 (3 rooms)
(5) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953)	2

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	24 (96 rooms)
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	12 (27 rooms)

4. *Parts of buildings unfit for human habitation.*

A.—Formal action in respect of parts of buildings unfit for human habitation.

(1) (a) Number of basements represented for closure	13 (38 rooms)
--	------------------

(b) Number of Closing Orders made in respect of underground rooms	...	...	...	...	...	14
						(42 rooms)
(c) Number of Undertakings accepted in lieu of Closing Orders in respect of underground rooms	...	...	...	...	...	1
						(1 room)
(2) (a) Number of other parts of buildings represented for closure						Nil
(b) Number of Closing Orders made in respect of other parts of buildings	...	...	...	...	...	10
						(54 rooms)
(3) Number of specifications submitted and approved	...	...	...	...	...	7
(4) (a) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of underground rooms	...	...	...	...	...	11
						(25 rooms)
(b) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of other parts of buildings	...	...	...	...	...	1
						(2 rooms)
(5) (a) Number of applications made for modification of Closing Orders to permit approved use	...	...	...	...	...	12
						(23 rooms)
(b) Number of applications approved	...	...	...	...	...	7
						(11 rooms)
(6) Number of cancellations of Closing Orders (houses demolished)						9

B.—Informal action in respect of parts of buildings unfit for human habitation.

(1) Number of instances of informal action initiated to secure requirements of the Housing Acts and Regulations made thereunder:—						
(a) in respect of underground rooms	...	...	...	...	...	96
(b) in respect of other parts of buildings	...	...	...	...	...	16
(2) Number of instances of informal action included in (a) and (b) above:—						
(a) on the initiative of the owner	...	...	...	...	...	61
(b) at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	51

C.—Contraventions of Closing Orders.

(1) Number of contraventions of Closing Orders reported	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of legal proceedings instituted	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	27
(2) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	20

SLUM CLEARANCE.

In March, 1956, the Minister of Housing and Local Government approved the proposals for dealing with houses which are unfit for human habitation submitted by the City Council, jointly with the London County Council, in pursuance of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The proposals were described in my Report for 1955 and the progress made during 1956 for dealing with them is set out below.

CLEARANCE AREA PROCEDURE—PROGRESS.

(a) Clearance Orders made prior to 1955—

Gregory Cottages, S.W.1 ... The one remaining house was demolished.

Livonia Street, W.1 ... The 12 houses comprising the area were demolished.

(b) Clearance Orders made after 1955—

Berwick Street (No. 1) Area... Order confirmed by the Minister,
Berwick Street, Nos. 91, 92, 11th June, 1956.
93, 94

Hopkins Street, Nos. 9, 10,
11

Berwick Street (No. 2) Area Order confirmed by the Minister,
Berwick Street, Nos. 100, 31st May, 1956.
101, 102

Hopkins Street, Nos. 1, 2/3
(8 flats)

Peter Street, Nos. 7, 8, 9

Fareham Street Area... By letter dated 31st January, 1956.
Fareham Street, Nos. 6, 7 the Minister stated that, while he considered the houses specified in the Order to be unfit for human habitation, he did not consider that demolition was the most satisfactory way of dealing with them and had, therefore, decided not to confirm the Order.

(*Note.*—The owners commenced to redevelop the property by conversion, but the reconstruction work required proved to be so extensive that the properties were completely demolished in May, 1957.)

Conduit Court Area... Order confirmed by the Minister,
Conduit Court Nos. 1, 2, 3 15th August, 1956.

(*Note.*—The three houses were demolished May, 1957).

Langley Court Area ... (Note.—Demolition commenced in
Langley Court Nos. 9, 10, May, 1957.)
11

(c) Clearance Area not included in approved proposals—

<i>Antrobus Street/Glasgow Terrace Area</i>	In February, 1956, the City Council declared this area, comprising 128 houses, a Clearance Area under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, and on the 19th July, 1956, the Minister agreed that the houses are unfit and that he will be prepared to accept the displacements for subsidy at Slum Clearance rates.
10-42 (consec.) Antrobus Street	
1A, 1-51 (odd) and 2-66 (even), Glamorgan Street	
1A and 1-22 (consec.) Glasgow Terrace	
103-113 (odd), 115-117, 119-123 (odd) and 125A, Lupus Street	
4, Caledonia Place	

DEMOLITION OF INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Nos. 12 and 13, Richmond Buildings, W.1.—In 1955 the City Council, in lieu of making Demolition Orders under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, accepted an Undertaking from the owner of these two houses that they would not be used for human habitation until the Council, on being satisfied that they had been rendered fit for that purpose, cancelled the Undertaking. During 1956 the two houses were demolished, and a new office building was in course of construction on the site.

(Note.—The Undertaking was cancelled in May, 1957.)

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Houses Let in Multiple Occupation.

Section 11 of this Act repealed the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, and of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, dealing with the powers to make byelaws to control houses let in lodgings, or occupied by more than one family. Those provisions have been replaced by a general power for local authorities to require in such houses adequate natural lighting, ventilation, water supply, drainage and sanitary conveniences, and facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food, and for the disposal of waste water.

The City Council formed the view that in exercising its powers under the 1954 Act it was both undesirable and impracticable for the Council to lay down inflexible rules in view of: (i) the diversity of this type of accommodation, and (ii) the continuing demand for housing accommodation in Westminster, but that it would be helpful, both to owners and occupiers, and would also assist in securing uniformity of procedure, if a Code of Practice were laid down for providing essential amenities in this

very large class of premises in Westminster, as and when the housing situation permitted.

To this end the Council adopted a Code of Practice to meet such circumstances.

Certificates of Disrepair.

By the end of the year three applications had been made for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and in each case a certificate was granted.

Two applications were made during the year for the revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair, and in both instances the certificate was revoked. One of these applications referred to a certificate issued in 1955.

Land Charges Act, 1925.

The number of enquiries dealt with and reported upon during the year was 1,940, relating to 3,617 properties. These enquiries concerned outstanding notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts, combined drainage orders, and applications for decontrol under the Rent Restrictions Acts.

Many of the search forms requested supplementary information regarding restrictions on the use of underground rooms, and the suitability of premises for specific purposes such as catering establishments and workrooms.

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

	<i>Total Number of Visits.</i>					
Factories—Power	...	...	...	...	...	1,046
Factories—Non-power	...	...	...	...	...	463
Workplaces, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4,052
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	6,256
Shops (other than Food)	...	...	...	...	...	1,420
						13,237
Analysis of Inspections:—						
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	593
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	4,062
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drainage voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	2,702
Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	...	...	128
Outworkers Lists	...	...	...	...	...	202
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	663
Other Reasons	...	...	...	...	...	49
						8,411

4,826 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

Type of premises inspected—

Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	124
Carpentry, joinery, etc.	...	...	...	33
Wearing apparel	...	...	...	1,347
Furriers	...	...	...	135
Garages, motor tyres and rubberworks	...	...	...	79
Boots and shoes and other leather goods	...	...	...	77
Jewellers, precious and other metalworkers	...	...	...	87
Cigar and cigarette manufacturers	...	...	...	3
Hairdressers	...	...	...	216
Laundries and dry cleaners	...	...	...	44
Printers and Publishers	...	...	...	185
Warehouses and Packers	...	...	...	97
Shops (other than Food)	...	...	...	1,420
Upholstery and carpets	...	...	...	13
Photographers, film renters	...	...	...	154
Electricity sub-stations	...	...	...	1
Florists	...	...	...	37
Offices	...	...	...	6,256
Surgical goods	...	...	...	1
Various (schools, hospitals, halls, stations, etc.)	...	...	...	2,928
				13,237

Notices Served.

	<i>Factories, Power.</i>	<i>Factories, Non- Power.</i>	<i>Workplaces, Offices, Shops, etc.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Public Health (London) Act, 1936... ..	1	—	4	5
Factories Act, 1937	43	16	7	66
London County Council (Drain- age) Byelaws, 1934	—	—	2	2
London County Council (Water Closet) Byelaws, 1930	—	—	2	2
Shops Act, 1950	—	—	61	61
	44	16	76	136
	—	—	—	—

Nuisances, Defective and Unsatisfactory Conditions Found.

					<i>Factories, Power.</i>	<i>Factories, Non-Power.</i>	<i>Workplaces, Offices, Shops, etc.</i>
Defective, dirty internally	...	...	...	...	5	6	2
Verminous	...	...	...	...	—	—	2
Damp	...	...	...	...	—	1	6
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	—	—	17
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	2	—	4
Sanitary accommodation—							
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	1	—	3
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	...	5	—	1
Defective or dirty	...	...	...	...	35	9	19
Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Unsuitable	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
No indicating notices on doors of water closets	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Water Supply—							
Absence of in upper floors	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	—	—	2
Smells	...	...	...	...	3	1	70
Rubbish	...	...	...	...	1	—	25
Animals	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
Temperature	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Inadequate ventilation...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—	2	—
Failure to fix abstracts	...	...	...	...	16	11	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (SECTION 110).

Outworkers—

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Number of outworkers (includes 2,374 workers living in areas outside the City)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,570

Abstracts.

Reports were made to the Factory Inspector of 27 instances of failure to display the appropriate abstracts of the Factories Act, 1937.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

This consolidating Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

These regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, though certain sections were not operative until the 1st July, 1956.

The regulations lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises, stalls, etc., and of apparatus and equipment; the hygienic handling of food; the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing, and action to be taken where they suffer from or are carriers of certain infections; the construction, repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls and vehicles and facilities to be provided; and the temperature at which certain foods particularly liable to transmit disease should be kept.

The regulations affect different aspects of the sale, preparation and transport of food, *e.g.*, catering establishments and food shops, fixed stalls and street traders and the transport and delivery of the food.

Synopses of these regulations were prepared at the commencement of the year for the guidance of persons engaged in the conduct of food premises and stalls, and copies of these have been available, together with the assistance of officers of the department in dealing with any problems arising thereon.

Every opportunity is taken in the course of the inspection of premises, and during consultation with owners, architects and builders to draw attention to the relevant provisions of the statutes and regulations in relation to food premises.

In practice it is generally found that the persons responsible are co-operative in adopting suggestions and recommendations made to them.

Similarly the staff of restaurants, canteens, etc., are informed, as opportunities present themselves, of the special responsibility resting upon them in the maintenance of personal cleanliness.

INSPECTION OF ALL TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES.

Analysis of Inspections—

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	328
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,822
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
New Catering Businesses	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
							3,830

3,535 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

At the end of the year, particulars of 3,077 catering establishments were in the register.

Summary of inspections—

Hotels, restaurants, clubs	3,510
Cafes, teashops, etc.	705
Staff Canteens	180
Public houses	383
	4,778

Notices served—

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	14
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	76
	90

Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found—

Dirty and dilapidated internally	35
Defective internally	41
Defective drainage	2
Defective floors	33
Preparation tables and equipment worn and insanitary	31
Food storage accommodation inadequate and unsuitable	9
Vegetable preparation and washing up facilities worn and insanitary	34
Ventilation insufficient	13
Lighting inadequate... ..	1
Staff washing facilities insufficient and unsuitable	3
Staff changing rooms insufficient and unsuitable ...	9
Fuel, rubbish and other extraneous material in food preparation rooms	2
Fuel storage accommodation insufficient ...	1
Water closets—	
Insufficient	2
Insufficient ventilation and light	3
Defective	9
Dirty and dilapidated	8
Not separate for sexes	1
Unsuitable	1

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

Types of business and summary of inspections:—

	No. of premises.	Visits.
Bakehouses (underground included) ...	29	42
Dairies and Milkshops	119	296
Ice Cream Premises	243	94
Meat Shops	72	232
Other meat shops (preserved food etc.)...	80	87
Stalls	Licensed 100 Registered 310	218
Confectioners	286	
Fruit and greengrocery	213	335
Provision shops	259	580
Fish and poultry	43	121
*Other food premises	—	438
		2,587

Included in the above totals are 10 visits in connection with the sale of horseflesh and 65 enquiries in relation to food poisoning outbreaks.

*Other Food Premises.

Under this heading are included:—

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

Notices served.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955	6
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	5
	11

Nuisances and defective conditions found.

Dirty and dilapidated internally	4
Defective internally	5
Damp	3
Defective floors	2
Smells	12
Animals	1
Ventilation insufficient	1
Cockroaches	1

VISITS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING SAMPLES AND INSPECTING
FOODSTUFFS.

	<i>Sampling.</i>	<i>Inspection of Food.</i>
Confectioners	37	89
Dairies and milkshops	99	202
Fish and poultry	12	83
Fried fish shops	—	1
Fruit and greengrocery	3	391
Ice cream premises	42	79
Meat shops and stalls	32	476
Other food premises	147	258
Provision shops	110	611
Cafes, teashops, etc.	51	120
Hotels, restaurants, clubs, etc.	34	102
Staff canteens	2	22
Public houses	33	38
	602	2,472

FOOD SAMPLING.

During the year, the following 1,540 samples were submitted to the City Council's Public Analysts for chemical analysis. Of this number 62 were reported upon adversely, representing a percentage of 4·026:—

Biscuits	2
Baby food	11
Baking powder	6
Beer	2
Butter	11
Bread	3
Buttered bread, rolls, buns, scones, sandwiches	26
Cake, puddings and cake and pudding mixtures	20
Cereals	28
Cheese and cheese spreads	20
Chocolate drink	4
Cider	10
Cocoa	5
Coffee and coffee preparations	37
Condiments and spices	30
Confectionery	52
Cooking fats and oils	20
Cream	12
Custard powders and jellies	24
Drugs	67

Fish and fish products	...	...	...	...	58
Flavourings and colourings	...	...	...	...	42
Flour	...	...	...	...	13
Fruit, canned, dried, etc.	...	...	...	...	26
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	2
Herbs	...	...	...	...	4
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	65
Jams, marmalades and preserves	...	...	...	...	72
Margarine	...	...	...	...	22
Malt beverage	...	...	...	...	2
Meat and meat products	...	...	...	...	44
Milk	...	...	...	...	401
Milk (dirty bottles)	...	...	...	...	2
Milk, condensed and evaporated	...	...	...	...	12
Pickles and sauces	...	...	...	...	59
Pie filling, pies and pastry shortening	...	...	...	...	13
Poultry and poultry products	...	...	...	...	6
Saccharin	...	...	...	...	7
Salad dressing	...	...	...	...	15
Sausages	...	...	...	...	5
Sausage rolls	...	...	...	...	6
Soft drinks, fruit juice, etc.	...	...	...	...	70
Soup and soup powders	...	...	...	...	24
Spreads, various	...	...	...	...	9
Spirits	...	...	...	...	71
Suet	...	...	...	...	8
Sugar	...	...	...	...	6
Tea	...	...	...	...	18
Vegetables, tinned, etc.	...	...	...	...	26
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	14
Wines	...	...	...	...	2
Yogurt	...	...	...	...	3
Yeast extract	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	20

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—SECTION 16.

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

Two hundred and forty three premises were registered for the manufacture and/or sale and/or storage of ice cream.

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

Eighty premises were registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.

Methylene Blue Tests on Samples of Ice Cream.

Forty-four 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	...	...	...	...	20
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	14
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	4
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	6

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS.

The following licences authorising the sale of designated milks were issued during 1956 to Distributors of Milk registered with the Council:—

					<i>Dealers' Licences.</i>	<i>Dealers' Supplementary Licences.</i>
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	116	43
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	98	43
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	86	40

Milk.

During the year 40 samples of milk were submitted for methylene blue and phosphatase test. The results received showed that the milk had been efficiently pasteurised.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

At the 31st December, 1956, the following were entered in the City Council's Register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk:—

Distributors of milk with premises registered as dairies	...	36
Distributors of milk with premises not registered as dairies	...	83
Distributors of milk with premises situate outside Westminster	...	48

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

Persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List numbered 153 at 31st December, 1956.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, SECTION 8.

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

					<i>Amount destroyed.</i>		
					<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Canned food	...	...	...	...	20	4	2
Meat	...	...	...	...	—	11	28
Fruit and vegetables	...	...	...	...	181	13	27
Cereals	...	...	...	...	—	12	95
Fats	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
Fish	...	...	...	...	—	11	68
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	—	1	31
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	—	17	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	204	11	31

Examination of foodstuffs.

A fire occurred in April at Floral Hall, Covent Garden, which resulted in 75 tons of fruit being totally destroyed. Fortunately it was possible to salvage 148 tons, and local authorities to whose area the salvaged fruit was consigned were informed and it was disposed of under supervision.

Method of disposal of condemned food.

Food condemned or voluntarily surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors is disposed of by depositing in the Council's refuse barges at the Central Depot at Gatliff Road, S.W.1.

Foodstuffs disposed of at this depot are removed by barge for land-reclamation by controlled tipping at Pitsea. No recovery or diversion of any goods whatsoever takes place at the central tipping site.

Frozen bull sausage meat.

Consignments of the above commodity were imported into this country by a firm having its head offices in Westminster.

It came to the knowledge of the department that samples from one of these consignments had been examined by the Port Health Authority at the port of entry, and had been found to be seriously contaminated by germs of food poisoning. By the time this report was received the bulk of the meat had been released, and had been distributed to various firms in the United Kingdom. It was discovered in the course of investigation that previous shipments were also affected with similar organisms. The work involved in tracing the total consignments, amounting to some 75 tons of meat, was considerable, but it is satisfactory to relate that only in two instances had sales taken place before preventive action could be taken by the local authority concerned.

Consideration was then given to a method of treatment which would render the product safe for human or animal consumption, and in consultation with the Public Health Laboratory Service, the importers were advised on a heat treatment process which would result in the destruction of the organisms. This advice was accepted and the meat was treated under the surveillance of the appropriate local authority and ultimately used for manufacturing purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—SECTION 26.

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>First quarter.</i>	<i>Second quarter.</i>	<i>Third quarter.</i>	<i>Fourth quarter.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2	33	7	3	45

Of those notified, 32 related to one outbreak; three other outbreaks each involved two persons, though one of those concerned was notified to the local authority for the area in which he resided. A further notification related to a person who was concerned with 12 others, none of whom were notified to Westminster. The remaining seven were individual notifications.

In addition to the above, other cases involving persons suffering from symptoms of food poisoning were investigated by officers of the department. In two cases it was possible to trace the causative organism.

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (DRAINAGE) BYELAWS, 1934.

Drainage.

Drainage plans submitted	...	...	...	...	...	484
Combined drainage orders made...	...	...	...	...	...	65

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

RATS AND MICE REPRESSION.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	617
Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	621
Inspections by Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,079
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

Rodents destroyed.

Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,462
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,775
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,566

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,803
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INSPECTION OF BLOCKS OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Inspections by Rodent Operators	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,467
<i>Rodents destroyed—</i>							
Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,055
							2,055

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Six 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 were on the register and two premises licensed for storage purposes.

NOISE NUISANCE.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Investigations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	44

The noise of which complaint was made concerned that caused by machinery, building works, water pipes, radiogram, animals, and neighbours.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Investigation into the atmospheric pollution in the City was continued during the year at three sites, Mayfair, Pimlico and Charing Cross, where deposit gauges, which measure the 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	18·07	23·08	41·15	22·65	18·53	41·18	22·87	15·56	38·43
February	11·25	6·82	18·07	7·32	6·44	13·76	10·52	5·97	16·49
March	24·34	9·79	34·13	21·68	11·48	33·16	24·39	12·15	36·54
April	15·24	8·63	23·87	15·77	8·93	24·70	14·43	6·51	20·94
May	9·75	4·60	14·35	10·20	4·03	14·23	9·13	4·31	13·44
June	13·09	14·70	27·79	13·19	14·73	27·92	10·32	13·21	23·53
July	14·42	14·05	28·47	22·41	13·63	36·04	13·90	11·42	25·32
August	11·01	31·20	42·21	16·88	24·03	40·91	23·76	25·69	49·45
September	13·40	17·25	30·65	16·51	18·09	34·60	12·21	14·50	26·71
October	14·32	11·39	25·71	14·93	11·28	26·21	17·09	7·73	24·82
November	13·09	10·23	23·32	11·07	11·24	22·31	26·05	14·93	40·98
December	14·52	11·46	25·98	15·80	8·93	24·73	51·77	21·18	72·95

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 degree of sulphation expressed in empirical units, viz., milligrams of sulphur trioxide per day per 100 square centimetres of standard lead peroxide exposed in the standard apparatus.

Month.	SO ₃ in milligrams per 100 sq. cms. per day.		
	Mayfair.	Pimlico.	Charing Cross.
January	6·21	6·16	5·01
February	5·22	6·28	5·51
March	3·93	5·12	4·28
April	4·67	5·36	5·09
May	1·67	2·19	2·03
June	4·65	3·56	2·18
July	1·57	2·30	1·86
August	2·17	3·20	2·59
September	1·97	3·06	2·17
October	2·70	3·15	5·90
November	4·05	5·14	4·86
December	3·90	6·08	3·67

Estimate of sulphur content by volumetric method.

Daily estimations were continued at the Monck Street station and the results are given below:—

<i>Month</i>					<i>SO₂</i> <i>p.p.m.</i> <i>Daily average.</i>
January	...	...	...	...	·166
February	...	...	...	...	·181
March	...	...	...	...	·162
April	...	...	...	...	·127
May	...	...	...	...	·063
June	...	...	...	...	·040
July	...	...	...	...	·040
August	...	...	...	...	·043
September	...	...	...	...	·049
October	...	...	...	...	·131
November	...	...	...	...	·207
December	...	...	...	...	·308

SMOKE ABATEMENT—RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS AND
ACTION TAKEN.

	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
Complaints received	120	69	121	87
Observations taken	1,623	1,414	2,413	2,634
Notices issued—				
Preliminary	5	2	7	23
Statutory	—	—	—	—

VOLUNTARY SMOKELESS ZONE—LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

The City Council agreed to co-operate with the Holborn Borough Council in establishing a voluntary smokeless zone in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The area lies mainly in the Borough of Holborn, but part of it is in Westminster. The occupiers of the premises in Westminster expressed their willingness to co-operate.

ANALYSIS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

<i>Food.</i>	<i>Fines.</i>			<i>Costs.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.						
Selling food to the prejudice of the purchaser—One conviction	5	0	0	3	3	0
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.						
Selling food to the prejudice of the purchaser—Two convictions	7	0	0	10	10	0
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.						
Delivering food in such a manner as to render such food liable to contamination.						
Two convictions	8	0	0	5	5	0
Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943, and Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.						
Displaying a label calculated to mislead—						
Six convictions	30	0	0	15	15	0
L.C.C. Byelaws for the Protection of Food.						
Failing to take precautions against risk of contamination of food.						
One conviction	2	0	0	5	5	0
	£52	0	0	£39	18	0

WATER.

The resident population of 96,100 in some 27,000 dwellings received water from the Metropolitan Water Board's mains or from deep wells. Eighty-seven deep wells were in use at 31st December, 1956. In 84 of these wells, the water is used for domestic purposes. In the remainder, one supply is used for cooling purposes, one for supplying boilers and one as a stand by in case of fire. Satisfactory reports were received of 46 bacteriological examinations and 28 chemical analyses of water from these wells.

DISINFECTION, DISINFESTATION AND CLEANSING OF PERSONS—
ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOLBORN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

During the year arrangements were made between the City Council and the Holborn Borough Council whereby the latter undertook to carry out, on agreed terms, the work of disinfection, disinfestation and cleansing of persons, and the provision of the necessary transport therefor, which work was formerly performed by the City Council's staff.

The arrangement came into operation on the 3rd September, 1956, and is working satisfactorily with resulting economies to both Councils.

The following is a summary of the work carried out both at Westminster and Holborn during the year.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

	Rooms.	Articles.	Articles Washed.	Vehicles.	Books.
Disinfection	301	5,875	661	1	446
Disinfestation	724	5,902	—	4	—

Cleansing of Persons.

	Scabies.	Head Lice.	Body Lice.
	Treatments.	Treatments.	Treatments.
Men	119	—	316
Women	25	4	3
Children (up to 1st September, 1956)	44	85	—

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 is done in consultation with the Treasury Solicitor. Such action 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 41 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	...	...	...	...	19
Relatives of the deceased...	...	...	...	...	13
Friends of the deceased	...	...	...	...	2
Hospitals in the City	...	...	...	...	6
General Practitioner	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					41
					—

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

During 1956, 318 bodies were received in the Mortuary on Coroner's Warrants, etc. Eight bodies were admitted to await burial.

	<i>Number of Cases.</i>
Inquest cases	123
Non-inquest cases	195
Post mortem examinations held	249

Causes of death in the foregoing were as under:—

Accidental drowning	1
Found drowned	10
Suicide by drowning	5
„ by other means	34

Accidents—

Street	14
Domestic	14
Others	12
Natural causes	198
Misadventure	11
Murder	2
Miscellaneous cases	17

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION—ARRANGEMENT WITH HOLBORN
BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The City Council and the Holborn Borough Council, with the approval of the London County Council, made arrangements whereby bodies from Holborn, which were not the concern of H.M. Coroner, were accommodated at the City Council's Mortuary in Horseferry Road whilst awaiting burial.

The arrangement came into operation on the 3rd September, 1956.