

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

Contributors

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City of Westminster.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1957

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



City of Westminster.



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FOR THE YEAR

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*):

Councillor Sir Charles Norton, M.B.E., M.C., J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (*ex-officio*):

Councillor Patrick Stirling.

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. Frederick Jerdein, D.L.
 Councillor T. Stirling Boyd.
 „ Robert L. Everest, F.R.I.C.S., F.I.Arb.
 „ E. F. Hyatt, O.B.E.
 „ L. E. Johnson.
 „ Miss P. C. Paton Walsh.
 „ Mrs. Arthur Rye.
 „ Albert Sciver, B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.I.C.
 „ Peter Sebastian, J.P.
 „ W. R. Hornby Steer, D.L., M.A., LL.B.
 „ Dr. Brian Warren.
 „ John Wells, F.R.S.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE RE SMOKE CONTROL AREAS.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor (*ex-officio*).Councillor Dr. T. Anwyl-Davies, F.R.C.P. (*ex-officio*).

- „ Lady Hulbert, M.B., J.P. (*ex-officio*).
 „ Miss P. C. Paton Walsh.
 „ Albert Sciver, B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.I.C. (*Chairman*).
 „ W. R. Hornby Steer, D.L., M.A., LL.B.
 „ John Wells, F.R.S.A.

Members of the Council were appointed to

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

Councillors Miss P. C. Paton Walsh, Mrs. Arthur Rye and Dr. Brian Warren.

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)

G. W. Piper, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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 (to 5.1.57)

W. G. J. Sutton (from 7.1.57)

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 (to 6.1.57)

C. F. Brockett (from 21.2.57).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

District:

J. H. Brownlee.

J. M. Burbridge (to 20.3.57)

W. Cornelius.

G. D. Couling (from 25.2.57).

W. J. Davies (to 31.10.57).

J. E. Drake.

F. A. Freeman.

A. E. Robinson (to 31.7.57).

A. A. Sleet.

F. E. Siddle (Inspector with special duties relating to Rodent
Control and Disinfection).

W. L. French (part time) (died 14.9.57).

(Inspector with special duties relating to the care of
Old People.)

Housing:

C. F. Brockett (Housing Inspector) (to 20.2.57).
 J. M. Burbridge (Housing Inspector) (from 21.3.57).
 J. W. Baxter.

Food:

J. J. Coveney.
 P. A. Lloyd.

Catering Establishments:

R. F. Stubbs.
 W. H. Dunstan.

Atmospheric Pollution:

R. Roper (to 31.10.57).
 W. J. Davies (from 1.11.57).

Women's Factories:

Miss P. M. A'Bear.

CLERICAL STAFF:

R. L. Booker.	Miss K. Lee.
S. J. Chamberlain.	D. Levitton.
Miss B. Cleasby (from 24.6.57).	L. J. Nunn.
A. H. Cole.	J. M. Shotbolt.
P. Cox (temporary).	B. Shrensky.
Mrs. P. M. Crump.	W. E. F. Simmons.
R. W. Easton.	W. H. Smith.
Miss R. M. Fitzgerald.	E. A. Taylor.
W. F. C. King.	Miss H. Woodford (from 8.5.57).

SUPERINTENDENT, CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY:

A. W. Nicholls.

1st Mortician:

G. Warren.

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 1957.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. STRUTHERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1958.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	2,502·7
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year, 1957)	95,930
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1951)	27,349
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1957)	£19,891,026

BIRTHS.

Live Births (registered)—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	949	460	489
Illegitimate	107	55	52
	1,056	515	541

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11·01
(Rate for England and Wales, 16·1)	
Number of stillbirths (males, 16, females, 10)	26
Rate of stillbirths per 1,000 (live and still) births ...	24·03

DEATHS.

Net deaths (males, 497; females, 428)	925
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	9·64
(Rate for England and Wales, 11·5)	
Deaths from puerperal causes	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	·92
Deaths of infants under 1 year (males, 14; females, 9) ...	23
Death-rate of infants under 1 year—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	21·78
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	16·85
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	65·42
Deaths (all ages) from measles	Nil
„ „ whooping cough	Nil
„ „ gastritis, diarrhoea and enteritis ...	8
„ „ cancer	204

PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Perinatal Mortality (stillbirths plus deaths in first week of life per 1,000 total births) ... 39·74

This figure is given for the first time in this report although it has been in use by the Registrar General for many years.

The majority of infant deaths now occur in the first week of life and most of these deaths are due to factors operating during pregnancy and birth. These are also the factors which tend to cause still-birth. The Perinatal Mortality, which is the number of still-births plus the number of deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 total births, is therefore an index of the total mortality due to factors arising before and during birth.

INFANT MORTALITY.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Legitimate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate.</i>
Pneumonia ...	1	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	3	2	1
Congenital Malformations ...	1	1	—
*Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	16	10	6
Accidents (other than motor vehicles)	2	2	—
	—	—	—
	23	16	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.

The figures given above show that the infant mortality rate is composed of a rate of 16·8 for legitimate infants and 65·4 for illegitimate infants. The latter is unusually high and a further analysis has been made as below:—

	Up to 1 week		Over 1 week up to 1 mth.		Over 1 mth. up to 1 yr.		Total	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Illegitimate ...	6	56·07	1	9·3	—	—	7	65·4
Legitimate ...	11	11·5	2	2·1	3	3·2	16	16·8

It will be seen that the excess mortality among illegitimate infants occurred mostly in the first week of life. In two cases the absence of professional attendance at delivery probably contributed towards death, but exclusion of these from the figures does not materially alter the result. The deaths in the first week of life were due partly, or entirely, to prematurity or birth injuries, except for one legitimate infant who died as a result of an umbilical infection.

This suggests that the high infant mortality rate for illegitimate infants was due largely to ante-natal influences.

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.
Measles	County of London (Measles and Whooping Cough) Regulations, 1938 to 1948.
Membranous Croup ...	Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Sections 192 and 304.

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

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>Authority for Notification.</i>
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	12	6	—	12
Encephalitis	1	1	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	25	8	1	24
Malaria (origin abroad)	1	1	—	1
Measles	552	27	—	552
Paratyphoid	2	2	—	2
Pneumonia—				
Acute Primary	6	1	—	6
Influenzal	5	1	—	5
Poliomyelitis—				
Paralytic	6	4	1	{ 5
Non-Paralytic				{ —
Puerperal Pyrexia	40	40	—	40
Scabies	22	—	—	22
Scarlet Fever	15	3	2	13
Whooping Cough	63	3	1	62

SMALLPOX.

No case of smallpox occurred in the City during 1957. There were as usual numerous cases of persons who had been in contact with smallpox—in most cases outside this country. The necessary preventive measures were taken.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza was epidemic during September and October. The illness is not notifiable, but from conversations with general practitioners and other medical officers in the City it is apparent that the infection began among school children, spreading to the adult population after about two weeks. About 30 per cent. of the population appear to have been affected.

In most cases the illness was mild; only 5 cases of confirmed influenzal pneumonia were notified. Seven deaths were registered as being caused by influenza. One was that of a young woman, aged 20 years, who died suddenly of influenzal pneumonia after an illness of four days. The other deaths were of persons aged more than 45 years.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.

Two cases of paratyphoid fever were notified. Both were hospital nurses, but were not connected with each other. In neither case was the origin of the infection satisfactorily determined but in one case it was thought that the illness was caused by a recrudescence of a chronic infection acquired many years previously.

As a result of information from the Ministry of Health it was discovered that eleven cases of paratyphoid fever notified in other parts of the country could be traced to a restaurant within the City. During the investigation a paratyphoid carrier was discovered among the kitchen staff.

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. 4,084 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, 1957.

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.	497	14	4	—	5	20	181	157	116
	F.	428	9	—	1	3	22	103	112	178
Grand Totals ...		925	23	4	1	8	42	284	269	294
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M.	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4
	F.	6	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—
Tuberculosis, Other ...	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F.	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	M.	6	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M.	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	52	—	—	—	—	1	30	16	5
	F.	19	—	—	—	—	1	8	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	21	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	8	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	44	—	—	—	1	2	19	12	10
	F.	44	—	—	—	1	1	17	16	9
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M.	4	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	43	—	—	—	—	—	12	15	16
	F.	54	—	—	—	—	1	10	11	32
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M.	118	—	—	—	—	3	47	48	20
	F.	65	—	—	—	—	2	13	23	27

DEATHS, 1957—*continued.**Causes of Death in the City at Different Periods of Life—continued.*
Years of Age.

<i>Causes of Deaths.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>All Ages.</i>	<i>0-</i>	<i>1-</i>	<i>5-</i>	<i>15-</i>	<i>25-</i>	<i>45-</i>	<i>65-</i>	<i>75+</i>
Hypertension, with Heart Disease	M.	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Other Heart Disease ...	M.	22	—	1	—	—	1	4	5	11
	F.	39	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	26
Other Circulatory Disease ...	M.	23	—	—	—	—	1	11	5	6
	F.	21	—	—	—	—	1	3	8	9
Influenza	M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
	F.	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	M.	22	1	—	—	—	—	4	8	9
	F.	15	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	10
Bronchitis	M.	38	—	—	—	—	1	8	21	8
	F.	14	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	8
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M.	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M.	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	M.	5	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	F.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	M.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M.	36	9	—	—	—	3	9	5	10
	F.	50	7	—	—	1	5	12	8	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M.	5	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
All other Accidents ...	M.	16	—	1	—	2	4	4	3	2
	F.	14	2	—	—	—	—	4	2	6
Suicide	M.	9	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	—
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	—
Homicide and Operations of War	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Nasal and Throat Swabs (80)	{	C. Diphtheriae	Nil
		Haemolytic Streptococci	6
		Staphylococcus Aureus	6
Faeces (155) Rectal Swab (1)	{	The organisms of Shigella Sonnei were present in 4 cases, and those of Salmonella Typhimurium in 16 cases. Staphylococcus Aureus was isolated in 5 instances. Heat resistant Cl. Welchii was isolated in 3 instances.	
Tuberculosis (211)	{	Positive	25
		Negative	186
Urine (37)	No pathogenic organisms found.		
Vaginal Swab (1)	Negative.		
Hand Swabs (14)	Staphylococcus Aureus isolated in 6 cases.		
Vomit (8)	Staphylococcus Aureus isolated in 2 cases.		
Unspecified Swab (1)	Negative.		
Material for suspected Smallpox (1)	Negative.		

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
15 to 25 years	12	11	2	3	—	—	—	—
25 to 45 years	43	29	—	3	—	3	—	—
45 to 65 years	37	9	—	2	4	2	—	1
65 to 75 years	9	1	1	—	4	1	1	—
75 and over	5	—	—	1	4	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	107	50	4	9	12	6	1	3
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

New Cases.

Source of Information.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Primary notifications	...	70	32	1	7
Transfers from other areas	...	32	16	2	1
Non-notified deaths	...	5	2	1	1

MASS X-RAY SERVICE.

During 1957 mobile units of the South West London Mass X-Ray Service made 20 visits to the City of Westminster to provide chest X-ray facilities for the staffs of firms, and the staffs and students of four University Colleges and Training Colleges. The total numbers X-rayed were 15,277, and as a result of these visits 35 cases were referred to chest clinics with radiologically significant lesions requiring further investigation.

From 4th March to 17th April a Mass X-Ray Unit was installed in the New Gallery Centre, 123, Regent Street, W.1, where 10,576 people, from firms and organisations in the W.1 area, were X-rayed; and 33 of these were referred to chest clinics.

From 26th April to 10th May a Unit was installed in Shell-Mex House; and employees of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. and other firms in the W.C.2 area were X-rayed. From a total of 2,877 X-rayed 17 were referred to chest clinics.

From 3rd June to 5th July a Unit was installed at the Board of Trade; and 7,851 employees of Ministries and Government Departments were X-rayed, as a result of which 27 were referred to chest clinics.

A mobile Mass X-Ray Unit has continued to visit the Westminster Chest Clinic at 1, Ebury Bridge Road every Friday to provide a service for doctors' patients, contacts, special groups, employees of firms in the S.W.1 area and members of the public. 9,466 were examined, of whom 3,422 were doctors' patients. This has resulted in 93 cases being referred to chest clinics.

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

The Association during the year agreed to a proposal by the Council to recruit on their staff a welfare worker with the appropriate qualifica-

tions, whose duties would include case-work with individual old people and the co-ordination of services provided by the various statutory authorities for the welfare of old people; duties which were formerly carried out by a Public Health Inspector on the City Council's staff. The Council reimburses the Association annually the salary and expenses of the appointment, with the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, under Section 136 of the Local Government Act, 1948.

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 14,311 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.

Luncheon Club for Aged Persons.

The Society, in March, 1957, opened a luncheon club for the elderly in accommodation on one of the Council's Housing Estates. The Club, which operates on two days each week, has proved a convenient centre where aged persons who are not housebound can have a hot meal at a modest price, and enjoy the company of others. The meals are purchased by the Society from the caterers who supply the meals for the mobile service, and are conveyed in insulated containers to the club, where they are served out by voluntary workers.

The meals cost 1s. 6d. each and the old people pay 8d. and the London County Council pay the balance of 10d. per meal.

The Club attracts between 30 and 40 people each day.

The City Council make a grant to the Society of 75 per cent. of the cost of running the club as well as bearing the cost of equipment.

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. It was not found necessary to use these powers during the year.

Aged and Infirm Persons.

Number of aged and infirm persons visited by the Council's officers during the year	...	...	...	...	...	149
Total number of inspections made with regard to these	...	...	...	...	...	604
Primary	...	...	...	...	...	107
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	497
Cases of aged and infirm persons brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1957	...	...	...	...	...	107

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 13 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	...	...	...	...	...	...	745
House to House (by Housing Inspectors)	...	...					7
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	...	886
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Underground Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	432
Other parts unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Housing Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Applications for Loans and Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,186
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	637
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
							4,152

Included in the above totals are:—

Requisitioned properties	...	...	...	...	...	24
Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	306
Council properties	...	...	...	...	...	124
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	107
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8

7,583 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

Notices Served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	145
London County Council (Drainage) Byelaws, 1934	...			9
London County Council (Water Closet) Byelaws, 1930	...			12
London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1955	...			5
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...		6
				177

Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	6
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found:—

Defective and dirty internally	...	...	...	...	44
Damp	...	...	...	...	74
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	30
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	39
Defective area paving, etc.	...	...	...	...	1
Water Closets:—					
Insufficient ventilation and light	...	...	...	...	1
Defective or dirty	...	...	...	...	16
Water Supply:—					
Cisterns dirty	...	...	...	...	1
Smells	...	...	...	...	59
Rubbish	...	...	...	...	46
Animals	...	...	...	...	2
Other Nuisances (insects, flies, dead pigeons), etc.	...	...	...	...	13
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous	...	...	...	...	6
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	8

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) ... 4,152
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 11,735
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 452
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1,698
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 2
- (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 ... 171

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 ... 79

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

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (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 | 171 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | 170 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 1 |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses represented for demolition | Nil |
| (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 (houses demolished) | 2 |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953) | Nil |

D.—Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 3
(8 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 | 7
(19 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 ...	2
(5 rooms)	
(b) Number of Closing Orders made in respect of underground rooms ...	3
(8 rooms)	
(c) Number of Undertakings accepted in lieu of Closing Orders in respect of underground rooms ...	Nil
(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 ...	Nil
(3) Number of specifications submitted and approved ...	6
(4) (a) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of underground rooms ...	7
(19 rooms)	
(b) Number of Closing Orders determined in respect of other parts of buildings ...	Nil
(5) (a) Number of applications made for modification of Closing Orders to permit approved use ...	13
(34 rooms)	
(b) Number of applications approved ...	6
(16 rooms)	
(6) Number of cancellations of Closing Orders (houses demolished) ...	2
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 ...	58
(b) in respect of other parts of buildings ...	15
(2) Number of instances of informal action included in (a) and (b) above:—	
(a) on the initiative of the owner ...	38
(b) at the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health	35
C.—Contraventions of Closing Orders.	
(1) Number of contraventions of Closing Orders reported ...	Nil
(2) Number of legal proceedings instituted ...	Nil
5. <i>Housing Act, 1957—Part IV—Overcrowding.</i>	
(1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	8
(2) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	14

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st September, 1957, repeals and re-enacts in consolidated form the provisions of the earlier Housing Acts, with the exception of certain financial provisions.

The Housing Act, 1957, is divided into eight parts which follow generally the arrangement of the Act of 1936 with the necessary modification and expansion. Those of principal concern to the Public Health Department are Parts II, III and IV dealing with the provisions for securing the repair, maintenance and sanitary condition of houses, clearance and redevelopment, and abatement of overcrowding respectively.

Section 4 of Part II re-enacts the definition of the standard of fitness introduced by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which listed the several matters to be taken into account in determining whether a house is unfit, and replaced the somewhat uncertain definition contained in the principal Act of 1936, now largely repealed.

This definition is of prime importance in relation to all proceedings under Parts II and III mentioned above and, therefore, in relation to the repair, demolition and closure of unfit properties, as well as activities directed towards clearance and redevelopment of areas of unfit properties.

In view of the very considerable number of closing orders that have been made in respect of basement rooms in the City, under the provisions of the Housing Acts 1930 and 1936, attention should perhaps be drawn to the comprehensive saving provision of Section 191 of the 1957 Act, which secures continuity of action by enacting, *inter alia*, that anything done under a repealed enactment shall have effect as if done under the corresponding provision of the new Act.

RENT ACT, 1957—CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

The first application for a certificate of disrepair was made on the 14th September, by which time the Rent Act, 1957, had been operating for two months. This Act repealed the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, regarding these certificates. It enacted a new procedure for a tenant under a controlled tenancy who desires to resist an increase in rent on the grounds of the existence of defects. These he must specify, in a notice served by him on the landlord.

If, after the expiration of six weeks from the date of service of such notice, any of the defects remain unremedied, and the landlord has not given an undertaking to remedy those defects, the tenant may apply to the local authority for a certificate of disrepair.

By the end of the year the position was as follows:—

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	1*
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates:—				
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	2**
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	...	...	—
(5) Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	2

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates on completion of work required.

(6) Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	1
(7) Objection by tenants to cancellation of certificates...	...	...	...	—
(8) Number of certificates cancelled	...	...	...	—***

* Work completed by landlord before expiry of time limit.

** Three further applications under examination at the end of the year.

*** Notice of proposal to cancel certificate served by City Council on tenant. Time limit (three weeks) not expired at end of the year.

LAND CHARGES ACT, 1925.

The number of enquiries dealt with and reported upon during the year was 2,368 relating to 3,813 properties. These figures indicate an increase of approximately 22 per cent. on the enquiries dealt with in 1956. As in previous years, the search forms concerned outstanding notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts, combined drainage orders, and applications for decontrol under the Rent Restrictions Acts; and during the year an additional question regarding smoke control area Orders became a routine enquiry.

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	...	...	...	...	...	844
Factories—Non-power	...	...	...	...	...	413
Workplaces, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4,296
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	5,542
Shops (other than Food)	...	...	...	...	...	1,064
						12,159

Analysis of Inspections:—

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	499
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,332
Infectious Disease		...	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage voluntary		...	...	...	...	...	1,844
Outworkers Premises		...	...	...	...	...	186
Outworkers Lists...		...	...	...	...	...	169
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	527
Other Reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
							6,615

5,544 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

Types of premises inspected:—

Places of public entertainment	...	...	...	93
Carpentry, joinery, etc.	...	...	...	10
Wearing apparel	...	...	...	1,384
Furriers	...	...	...	80
Garages, motor tyres and rubberworks	...	...	...	65
Boots and shoes and other leather goods	...	...	...	55
Jewellers, precious and other metalworkers	...	...	...	59
Opticians	...	...	...	3
Hairdressers	...	...	...	227
Laundries and dry cleaners	...	...	...	29
Printers and Publishers	...	...	...	114
Warehouses and Packers	...	...	...	89
Shops (other than Food)	...	...	...	1,064
Upholstery and Carpets	...	...	...	13
Photographers, film renters	...	...	...	66
Florists	...	...	...	7
Offices	...	...	...	5,542
Surgical goods	...	...	...	1
Various (schools, hospitals, halls, stations, etc.)	...	...	...	3,258
				12,159

Notices Served.

	<i>Factories Power</i>	<i>Factories Non- power.</i>	<i>Work- places, Offices, Shops, etc.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Public Health (London) Act, 1936... ..	—	—	2	2
Factories Act, 1937	16	19	11	46
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	—	—	2	2
Shops Act, 1950	—	—	20	20
	16	19	35	70

Nuisances, Defective and Unsatisfactory Conditions Found.

	<i>Factories Power.</i>	<i>Factories Non- Power.</i>	<i>Work- places, Offices, Shops, etc.</i>
Defective, dirty internally	—	2	2
Damp	—	—	20
Defective drainage	—	—	14
Defective roofs	1	—	5
Sanitary accommodation:—			
Insufficient	2	—	—
Insufficient ventilation, light	4	—	1
Defective or dirty	16	5	13
Not separate for sexes	3	1	—
No indicating notices on doors of water closets	3	1	2
Smells	—	—	98
Rubbish	1	—	36
Other Nuisances	—	—	1
Temperature	—	—	1
Inadequate ventilation... ..	1	—	3
Overcrowding	3	1	—
Failure to fix abstracts	12	8	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Section 54—Basement Bakehouses:—

Bakehouses registered under the provisions of the above Act numbered six.

Section 110—Outworkers:—

Inspections	206
Number of outworkers (includes 2,108 workers living in areas outside the City)	3,436

Section 114—Abstracts:—

Reports were made to the Factory Inspector of 20 instances of failure to display the appropriate abstracts of the Factories Act, 1937.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Inspection of all types of Food Premises.

Analysis of Inspections:—

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
Routine	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,192
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	274
New Catering Businesses	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							3,198

3,801 re-inspections were made following the above inspections.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

At the end of the year, particulars of 3,090 catering establishments were in the register.

Summary of inspections:—

Hotels, restaurants, clubs	...	...	...	...	...	3,797
Cafes, teashops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	627
Staff Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	137
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	320
						4,881

Notices served.

Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	6
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	...	...	...	...	105
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	...	...	...	...	24
London County Council (Drainage) Byelaws, 1934	...	...	...	...	1
London County Council (Water Closet) Byelaws, 1930	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	12
					151

Nuisances, defective and unsatisfactory conditions found:—

Dirty and dilapidated internally	66
Defective internally	54
Defective drainage	4
Defective floors	51
Preparation tables and equipment worn and insanitary ...	39
Food storage accommodation inadequate and unsuitable ...	12
Vegetable preparation and washing up facilities worn and insanitary	27
Temperature	1
Ventilation insufficient	21
Lighting inadequate	2
Staff washing facilities insufficient and unsuitable ...	5
Staff changing rooms insufficient and unsuitable ...	7
Fuel, rubbish and other extraneous materials in food preparation rooms	5
Fuel storage accommodation insufficient	1
Cockroaches	4
Water Closets:—	
Insufficient ventilation and light	9
Defective	23
Dirty and dilapidated	11
Absence of suitable notices	1

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

Types of business and summary of inspections:—

	<i>Visits</i>
Bakehouses (underground included)	53
Dairies and Milkshops	190
Ice Cream Premises	77
Meat Shops	163
Other meat shops (preserved food, etc.)	59
Stalls	194
Confectioners	97
Fruit and Greengrocery	212
Provision shops	555
Fish and Poultry	111
*Other Food Premises	407
	2,118

Included in the above totals are 113 visits of enquiry 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	...	...	...	...	1
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	...	...	...	...	25
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	...	...	...	...	1
					27

Nuisances and defective conditions found:—

Dirty and dilapidated internally	...	...	...	...	4
Defective internally	...	...	...	...	5
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	1
Food storage accommodation inadequate and unsuitable	...	...	...	...	5
Ventilation insufficient	...	...	...	...	2

VISITS FOR THE PURPOSES OF OBTAINING SAMPLES AND INSPECTING FOODSTUFFS.

	<i>Sampling.</i>	<i>Inspection of Food.</i>
Confectioners	32	52
Dairies and Milkshops	103	182
Fish and Poultry	5	96
Fried fish shops	—	1
Fruit and Greengrocery	2	278
Ice Cream Premises	36	77
Meat shops and stalls	13	411
Other Food Premises	140	298
Provision shops	130	533
Cafes, teashops, etc.	59	66
Hotels, restaurants, clubs, etc.	40	144
Staff Canteens	—	24
Public Houses	21	11
		581
		2,173

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 88 were reported upon adversely, representing a percentage of 5·71:—

Ales and stouts	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Baby food	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Butter and peanut butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Bread	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Buttered bread, rolls, buns	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cake, puddings and cake and pudding mixtures	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cheese and cheese spreads	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Chicken, tinned, etc....	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Coffee and coffee preparations	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Condiments and spices	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Confectionery...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Cooking fats and oils	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Custard powders and jellies...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Fish and fish products	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Flavourings and colourings	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fruit, canned, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Herbs	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Jams, marmalades and preserves	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Malt and chocolate drinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Meat and meat products	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	401
Milk, condensed and evaporated	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Milk powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuts—walnuts, almonds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Pickles and sauces	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Pie filling, pies and pastry mix	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Saccharin	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Salad dressing	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Soft drinks, fruit juice, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Soup and soup powders	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Spreads, various	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Spirits	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Suet	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Sugar	4
Tea	26
Vegetables, tinned, etc.	36
Vinegar	8
Wines	2
Yeast extract	5
Yogurt	15
Miscellaneous	3

Thirteen of the adverse reports from the Public Analysts related to improper labelling of a minor nature, for which no prosecutions were undertaken.

Fourteen samples were of food which had deteriorated as a result either of prolonged storage or of inefficient preservation. Two of these were meat products packed in transparent plastic containers. Many such packs are seen in this department and it would seem that although the method has many advantages, the technique has yet to be perfected.

Four unsatisfactory milk samples were taken during the year. This is most unusual nowadays. Three samples were of hot milk which had been heated, and consequently diluted, by the passage through them of steam. The other sample was taken from a churn outside a restaurant. By mistake the wholesaler had delivered a churn of "Pasteurised Milk" instead of "Homogenised Pasteurised Milk." Shortly before the sample was taken, the cook had taken some milk from the churn and, not noticing the wholesaler's mistake, had failed to plunge the churn. Thus the cook skimmed much of the cream off the milk so that the sample taken by the Inspector (after plunging) contained only 2.22 per cent. fat.

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 fifty-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.

Seventy-nine 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.

Fifty-three 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	...	...	...	...	...	36
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	11
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	2

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS.

The following licences authorising the sale of designated milks were issued during 1957 to Distributors of Milk registered with the Council:—

				<i>Dealers'</i> <i>Licences.</i>	<i>Dealers'</i> <i>Supplementary</i> <i>Licences.</i>
Pasteurised	...	...	...	117	44
Sterilised	...	...	...	98	43
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	90	41

Milk.

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.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

At the 31st December, 1957, the following were entered in the City Council's Register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk:—

Distributors of milk with premises registered as dairies	...	34
Distributors of milk with premises not registered as dairies	86	
Distributors of milk with premises situate outside Westminster	...	49

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

Persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List numbered 157 at 31st December, 1957.

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	...	...	...	...	...	10	13	19
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	11
Fruit and vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	193	18	95
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	—	6	29
Fats	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	14
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	—	11	6
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	83
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	—	9	63
Totals						207	6	96

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.

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</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>	<i>Fourth</i>	
<i>quarter.</i>	<i>quarter.</i>	<i>quarter.</i>	<i>quarter.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2	9	11	2	24

Of those notified, 18 were individual notifications. Of the remainder two were children who were taken ill whilst on holiday and in consequence returned home. The notifications were received after their recovery. The other four persons, who were visitors to this country were taken severely ill following a meal of poached egg on rice with lobster sauce at a West End restaurant. The causative organism was believed by the bacteriologist to have gained access to the food from a milk product.

Other instances of persons affected with food poisoning came to the notice of this department during the year. Eleven of such outbreaks were investigated and notified to the Ministry of Health. A total of 214 persons were concerned. These were generally employees of firms having premises in Westminster, or casual visitors to the City.

Each such outbreak usually involves much enquiry by officers of my department in an effort to trace the cause. Even should this prove unsuccessful, suggestions and recommendations can often be made to those engaged in the handling and preparation of food, or to those responsible for the maintenance of the premises, which may obviate or help to minimise the possibility of further outbreaks.

As a result of these investigations, it was possible to give an indication of the probable causative organism in three of these cases, and confirm it in a further two.

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (DRAINAGE) BYELAWS, 1934.

Drainage.

Drainage plans submitted	...	...	...	...	...	490
Combined drainage orders made	...	...	...	...	...	68

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

RATS AND MICE REPRESSION.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	806
Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	931
Inspections by Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,641
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Rodents destroyed.

Black Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,719
Brown Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,806
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,865
Total							12,390

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	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Investigations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

The noise of which complaint was made concerned that caused by machinery, building works, radiograms, animals, neighbours, sewing machines, birds, juke boxes and loading vans.

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 table gives the results of the monthly analyses, and shows 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	13·91	7·37	21·28	12·99	9·97	22·96	—	—	—
February	12·55	23·56	36·11	14·39	28·79	43·18	40·52	25·56	66·08
March	13·70	15·08	28·78	15·30	15·70	31·00	17·09	11·48	28·57
April	8·28	6·72	15·00	8·86	9·26	18·12	15·80	9·86	25·66
May	12·78	12·38	25·16	13·29	11·41	24·70	14·30	10·65	24·95
June	13·16	13·50	26·66	9·56	13·42	22·98	10·72	10·19	20·91
July	11·12	14·49	25·61	13·69	15·54	29·23	12·11	13·21	25·32
August	9·71	9·86	19·57	11·58	10·80	22·38	10·02	11·82	21·84
September	11·45	13·81	25·26	12·55	11·48	24·03	16·09	15·60	31·69
October	12·75	9·62	22·37	13·59	10·84	24·43	19·68	11·91	31·59
November	12·38	21·48	33·86	9·96	10·93	29·89	22·07	23·13	45·20
December	15·55	19·16	34·71	16·88	13·89	30·77	19·48	16·93	36·41

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	4.36	7.63	4.03
February	4.46	5.08	4.77
March	4.07	4.29	4.40
April	3.20	3.50	2.93
May	1.74	2.58	1.78
June	1.90	2.32	2.21
July	1.31	2.23	1.87
August	1.31	2.09	1.80
September	1.46	1.80	2.31
October	3.18	3.10	3.40
November	4.30	5.83	4.72
December	3.48	4.61	3.18

Estimate of sulphur content by volumetric method.

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

Month.	SO ₂ p.p.m. Daily average.
January	.098
February	.098
March	.096
April	.077
May	.062
June	.055
July	.042
August	.041
September	.041
October	.102
November	.140
December	.180

Smoke.

Average readings from apparatus sited at Monk Street, S.W.1.

By means of this apparatus a measured volume of air is drawn through a filter paper which removes solid matter from it. The stain thereby produced is compared with a standard, from which the amount of pollution is calculated.

					<i>Parts per 100 c.m. Average value</i>
January	...	..	...	...	26
February	...	...	...	...	12
March	...	...	...	...	11
April	...	...	...	...	9
May	...	...	...	...	10
June	...	...	...	...	10
July	...	...	...	...	10
August	...	...	...	...	10
September	...	...	...	...	11
October	...	...	...	...	29
November	...	...	...	...	26
December	...	...	...	...	40

SMOKE ABATEMENT—RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS AND
ACTION TAKEN.

		1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.
Complaints received	...	69	121	87	41
Observations taken	...	1,414	2,413	2,634	1,603
Notices issued—					
Preliminary		2	7	23	6
Statutory		—	—	—	—

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The provisions of the Clean Air Act (Appointed Day) Order, 1956, brought into force on the 31st December, 1956, a number of sections of the Clean Air Act relating, *inter alia*, to the installation of new furnaces, the height of chimneys, smoke control areas, pollution from colliery spoilbanks, research and publicity and the making of building byelaws.

Smoke Control Areas.

The City Council during the year gave consideration to the implication of the powers conferred on it by the Act with regard to smoke control areas, and decided without committing itself to any financial obligations

to agree in principle that its long-term policy should be to transform the whole of the City of Westminster into a smoke control area. It was realised, however, that this objective could only be attained by careful planning over a number of years in co-operation with business interests and residents. Further, that, for the Council's policy to be fully effective, close touch must be kept with other local authorities.

The Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee also considered that the ultimate aim of all the London Borough Councils should be for the whole of the County of London to be a smokeless zone; and that the most effective way of achieving that object would be to commence with the central smokeless zone already established by the City of London and extend it as rapidly as practicable until the boundaries of the County are reached. The Standing Joint Committee requested those Borough Councils having a common boundary with the City of London to confer and produce a co-ordinated scheme for the creation of smoke control areas spreading out in all directions. Preliminary meetings of officers of the Councils concerned have since taken place.

Temple Bar Smoke Control Order.

The City Council in pursuance of this policy, and with the consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, gave instructions for a detailed survey to be undertaken of the Temple Bar area of the City, which adjoins the boundaries of the City of London and the Borough of Holborn, to the east of Kingsway, Aldwych and Lancaster Place; approximately 60 acres in extent.

On completion of the survey the City Council made a Smoke Control Order for the area. This was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, towards the end of the year, for confirmation.

Proposed Smoke Control Area—Adelphi and Whitehall Area.

As a result of a preliminary survey of an area, westwards of the Temple Bar area, bounded by the River Thames, the south side of the Strand and both sides of Whitehall, including Government Offices and the Houses of Parliament, the Council decided to forward particulars of the survey to the Minister of Housing and Local Government and to seek his consent to a detailed survey of the area being undertaken as a preliminary to the declaration of the area as a smoke control area, to be known as the Adelphi and Whitehall Smoke Control Area.

ANALYSIS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

	<i>Fines.</i>			<i>Costs.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Dwellings.</i>						
<i>Public Health (London) Act, 1936.</i>						
Failure to abate a nuisance.						
1 conviction	...	...	...	—	3	3 0

London County Council (Drainage) Byelaws, 1934

Contravention of L.C.C. (Drainage) Byelaws.

8 convictions	...	...	...	...	11	0	0	10	9	0
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*Food.**Food and Drugs Act, 1955.*

Selling food to the prejudice of the purchaser.

4 convictions	...	...	...	...	30	0	0	27	6	0
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Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Failure to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

24 convictions	...	...	...	...	329	0	0	52	10	0
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					370	0	0	93	8	0
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WATER.

The resident population of 95,930 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, 1957. 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 56 bacteriological examinations and 28 chemical analyses of water from these wells.

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

The arrangement 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, continued.

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 for Westminster during the year:—

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

		Rooms.	Articles.	Articles Washed.	Books.
Disinfection		178	13,406	95	763
Disinfestation		315	1,981	—	—

Cleansing of Persons.

	Scabies.	Head Lice.	Body Lice.
	Treatments.	Treatments.	Treatments.
Men	62	—	199
Women	15	1	6

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 48 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	15
Relatives of the deceased	10
Friends of the deceased	3
Hospitals in the City	20
	—
	48
	—

CORONER'S COURT AND MORTUARY.

During 1957, 246 bodies were received in the Mortuary on Coroner's Warrants, etc. Three bodies were admitted to await burial.

	<i>Number of Cases.</i>
Inquest cases	71
Non-inquest cases	175
Post-mortem examinations held	222

Causes of death in the foregoing were as under:—

Accidental drowning	3
Found drowned	11
Suicide by drowning	1
„ by other means	19
Accidents—	
Street	5
Domestic	13
Others	6
Natural causes	174
Misadventure	5
Murder	Nil
Miscellaneous causes	9

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, and two bodies were received in the mortuary during 1957.