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Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth



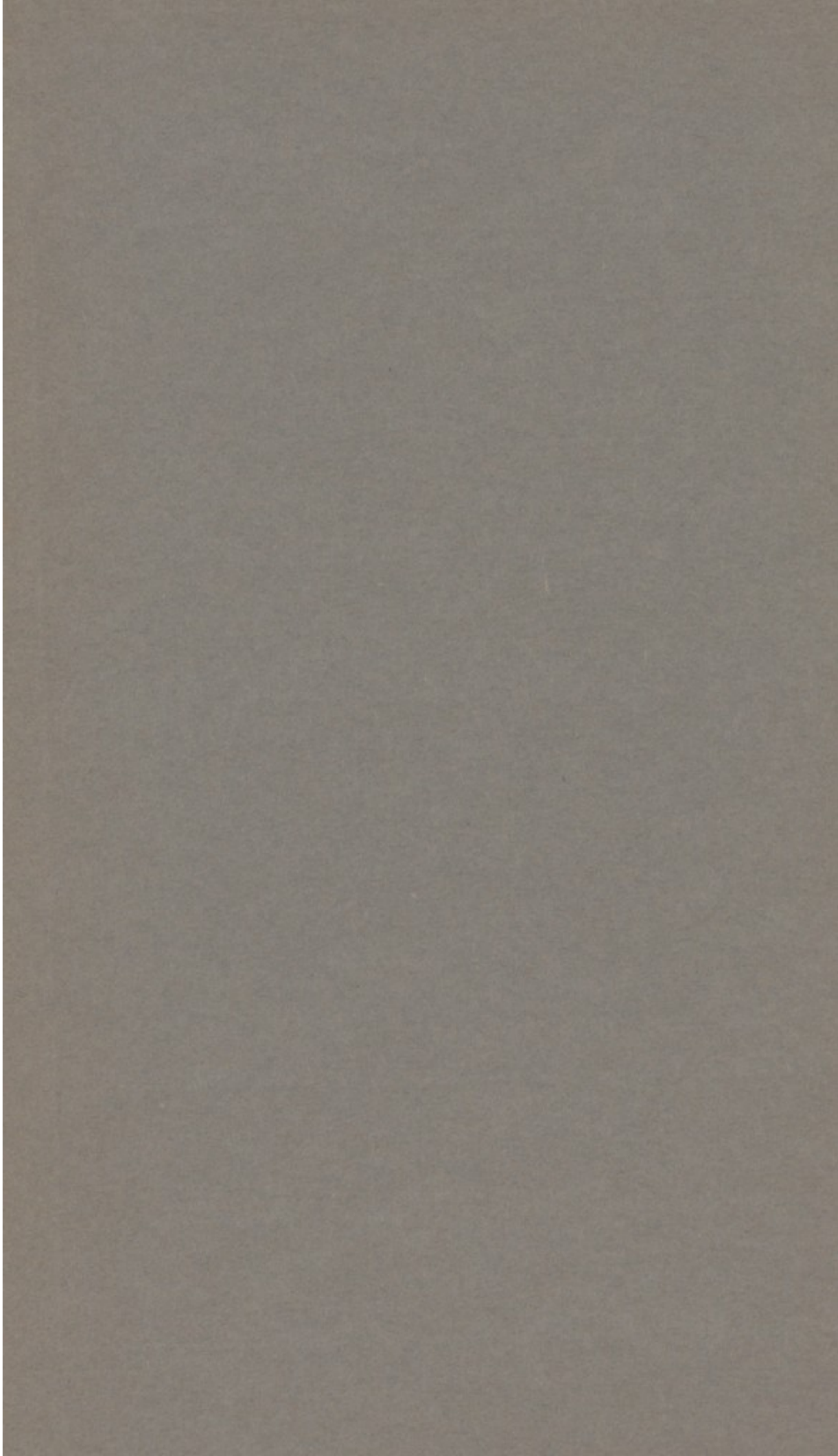
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1949

by

F. G. CALEY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

together with the

Report of the Public Analyst.



REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1949

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1949, including the Report of the Public Analyst on the work he has carried out.

There has been no unusual mortality during the year.

The resident population is estimated at 334,840, an increase of 2,300 over the previous year.

The birth-rate for the year was 15.08, compared with 16.70 for 1948. The death-rate was 11.92 compared with 11.28.

The infantile mortality has fallen from 31 in 1948 to 26 per thousand births in 1949. There was only one maternal death.

Seven cases confirmed as diphtheria occurred during the year, but there were no deaths from this disease. 495 cases of scarlet fever and 2,969 of measles were notified but there were no deaths from either disease.

An outbreak of acute poliomyelitis occurred during the summer and early autumn. There were 58 cases subsequently confirmed, with four deaths.

I would like to call attention to Tables IV, VII and VIII on pages 9, 16 & 17 which give in tabular form a summary of the reductions which have taken place in infantile and maternal mortality and infectious disease since 1900.

This is my twenty-eighth Annual Report, and I would like to place on record my warm appreciation for the willing and loyal service given by the staff of the Department throughout those many years. New services have been inaugurated and from time to time difficulties in administration have had to be overcome. These difficulties appear to have been more numerous since the outbreak of the second World War in 1939 which produced many new and unprecedented problems, some of which are still with us. None of them could have been solved without the co-operation of the staff which has been given so readily.

I would also like to thank the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and members of the several Committees of the Council connected with the work for which the Department has been responsible for their sympathetic consideration of new problems as they have arisen and for the support they have given me throughout.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. CALEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

There were few staff changes during the year.

Mr. K. J. Winton was appointed a district Sanitary Inspector with effect from the 15th August, 1949, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. E. E. Morgan in May.

In July Mrs. G. G. Taylor resigned her appointment as shorthand-typist and Miss N. E. North was appointed to fill the vacancy.

There were thus no vacancies in the establishment at the end of the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,199 acres
Resident population in 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	334,840

Wandsworth is the largest of the Metropolitan Boroughs. It has an area of 9,199 acres which includes a number of open spaces with a combined area of 1,202 acres.

The population is a varied one, as the Borough contains residential neighbourhoods in addition to several working-class districts.

The chief industries carried on are the manufacture of gas, electricity and motor accessories, laundries and general engineering. There is no trade which has any particular effect on the health of the workers or residents.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

No. of Live Births		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	... ..	2537	2259	4796
Illegitimate	... ..	133	124	257
		—	—	—
Total Live Births	...	2670	2383	5053
		—	—	—
No. of stillbirths	... ..	57	52	109
No. of deaths	... ..	1975	2016	3991
Birth-rate	... 15.08			
Death-rate	... 11.92			
Deaths from puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	... ..	—	—
Deaths from other puerperal causes		1	.19	
		—	—	
	Total ...	1	.19	
		—	—	
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births:—				
All infants	... ..			26
Legitimate infants	... ..			24
Illegitimate infants	... ..			58
Deaths from Cancer	... ..			707
„ Diphtheria	... ..			0
„ Scarlet Fever	... ..			0
„ Measles	... ..			0
„ Whooping Cough	... ..			3
„ Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	... ..			3
„ Tuberculosis	... ..			152
	Tuberculosis death-rate	... ..		.45

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year and no noteworthy outbreaks of illness have occurred.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The civilian population at the middle of the year was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 334,840, and all the rates used in this Report are based on this figure.

Table I shows the approximate population of each Parliamentary Division, based on the above estimation.

TABLE I.

	Population estimated to middle of 1949
Putney	89,205
Central	97,687
Clapham	76,184
Streatham	71,764
Whole Borough	334,840

Births.

The total number of births belonging to the Borough registered during 1949 was 5,053, consisting of 2,670 males and 2,383 females. The number for 1948 was 5,556.

The birth-rate was 15.08 per 1,000 persons living compared with 16.70 for 1948.

The rate for the whole of London during 1949 was 18.5 and for England and Wales 16.7.

257 illegitimate births took place in the Borough compared with 310 in 1948.

Deaths.

The number of registered deaths which took place in the Borough during the year was 3,666, but 1,368 of these did not belong to the Borough, while 1,693 Borough residents died outside the Borough.

The corrected number of deaths for the Borough, after allowing for these factors, was 3,991 of whom 1,975 were males and 2,016 females.

The death-rate for the year was 11.92 per 1,000 persons living, compared with 11.28 in 1948.

The death-rate for the whole of London for 1949 was 12.2 and for England and Wales 11.7.

Table II shows the total number of registered deaths and the death-rates for each division and for the whole Borough.

TABLE II.

	Corrected deaths			Death-rate
	Males	Females	Total	
Putney	512	531	1,043	11.69
Central	581	586	1,167	11.94
Clapham	474	464	938	12.31
Streatham	408	435	843	11.74
Whole Borough	1,975	2,016	3,991	11.92

Table III is the general mortality Table for the whole Borough and shows the number of deaths from each cause divided into sexes, age groups and sub-districts.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1949.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole district at subjoined ages.								Deaths in or belonging to Localities (all ages)				
	All Ages.	Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Putney.	Central.	Clapham.	Streatham.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	133	83	50	...	4	1	65	41	27	32	31	41	29
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	19	12	7	...	...	...	3	7	4	5	3	6	5
Syphilitic Disease ...	33	24	9	...	...	...	2	13	18	8	7	9	9
Influenza ...	45	27	18	2	1	1	6	9	26	9	10	16	10
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	5	2	3	...	1	2	2	...	...	4	1	...	1
Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	4	...	4	...	...	...	1	2	1	2	1	...	1
Cancer and other Malignant Tumours ...	707	329	378	1	2	1	36	239	428	187	209	160	151
Diabetes Mellitus ...	28	10	18	...	...	...	1	2	25	7	10	4	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ...	384	172	212	1	...	...	5	72	306	99	107	95	83
Diseases of Heart ...	1245	572	673	...	...	...	28	216	1001	319	380	288	258
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	237	91	146	...	...	...	3	34	200	63	80	56	38
Bronchitis ...	294	178	116	4	...	...	5	59	226	78	78	73	65
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	163	91	72	15	3	...	4	25	116	49	42	37	35
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	45	25	20	...	...	...	7	19	19	9	12	9	15
Ulceration of Stomach ...	30	21	9	...	...	...	1	10	19	11	10	5	4
Diarrhoea ...	3	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Appendicitis ...	9	5	4	...	1	...	1	5	2	4	2	2	1
Other Digestive Diseases ...	61	23	38	1	...	...	3	21	36	21	14	13	13
Nephritis ...	65	30	35	...	...	1	7	16	41	15	14	17	19
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Maternal Causes ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	37	23	14	37	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	7	12
Congenital Malformations ...	63	36	27	49	2	2	5	4	1	15	24	11	13
Suicide ...	40	27	13	...	...	...	15	20	5	13	5	11	11
Road Traffic Accidents ...	32	27	5	...	2	3	11	9	7	10	9	8	5
Other Violent Causes ...	76	34	42	11	1	3	7	7	47	20	25	14	17
All Other Causes ...	227	128	99	3	2	5	22	36	159	54	79	54	40
All causes ...	3991	1975	2016	130	21	19	241	866	2714	1043	1167	938	843

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year was 131, the infantile mortality rate being 26 per 1,000 births. This compares with a rate of 31 for each of the two previous years and is the lowest rate ever recorded.

For the ten years ending 1939 the average infantile mortality rate was 55, while for the ten years ending 1949 the average rate was 37.

Maternal Mortality.

One death occurred from accidents and diseases of pregnancy but none from puerperal pyrexia, giving a total of one death after childbirth. This is equivalent to a rate of .19 for 1,000 live and still births, compared with .35 in 1948 and .29 in 1947.

Enquiries into all maternal deaths, which were commenced in 1928 at the instance of the Ministry of Health, have been continued.

Infantile and Maternal Mortality since 1900.

In Table IV on page 9 comparative statistics are given to show the trend of infant and maternal mortality during the 49 years which have elapsed since the Borough of Wandsworth was constituted in 1900.

The average annual rates of mortality are given for successive periods, the six years, 1939 to 1944, being omitted as the figures were invalidated during that period by the evacuation of mothers and children.

In the first ten years—1901 to 1910—the mean rate of infantile mortality was 109 per 1,000 births for each year of the decade. In the next decade the rate fell to 85 and since then has continued to fall until it has now been reduced to 26 per 1,000 births, the lowest rate ever recorded. This outstanding fall in the mortality rate reflects a large saving of infant life in the last 50 years, as indicated in column 3 of Table IV. During the ten years 1901-1910 7,498 infants died in their first year of life. The corresponding figure for the five years 1945 to 1949 was 905—equivalent to 1,810 for a ten-year period—less than a quarter of the number of infant deaths in the earlier period.

In the same period the maternal mortality has fallen from a mean rate of 3.2 in the first decade to .19 for the year 1949.

A study of columns 3 and 5 of Table IV will indicate the large number of infant lives, and to a less extent of maternal lives, which have been saved during the period covered by the Table.

TABLE IV.
 INFANTILE MORTALITY AND MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH
 DURING THE LAST 49 YEARS.

(1) Year	(2) Infantile Mortality			(3) Maternal Mortality	
	(2) No. of Births	(3) No. of Deaths under 1 year	(4) Mean Rate per 1,000 live births	(5) Deaths	(6) Mean Rate per 1,000 live and still births
1901/10 (10 years)	68,464	7,498	109	226	3.2
1911/20 (10 years)	61,880	5,289	85	199	3.1
1921/30 (10 years)	52,367	2,919	56	181	3.4
1931/38 (8 years)	31,907	1,810	56	116	3.4
1945/49 (5 years)	28,032	905	32	21	.73
1949	5,053	131	26	1	.19

INFECTIVE DISEASES.

The number of deaths from notifiable infectious diseases, including all forms of tuberculosis, was 182.

From all infective diseases the death-rate was .55 per 1,000—.54 in Putney, .44 in Central, .66 in Clapham, and .57 in Streatham.

Table V shows the number of cases of the notifiable infective diseases reported, arranged in various age groups, and Table VI shows the same figures arranged in the sub-districts in which they occurred.

Smallpox.

No case occurred in the Borough during the year.

Following the arrival in London on the 2nd April of the S.S. "Mooltan," from which were removed two fatal cases of smallpox, close supervision was kept on all passengers and crew who subsequently came into the Borough. None of these persons developed the disease.

Diphtheria.

Seven cases were confirmed compared with 16 in 1948 and 46 in 1947. Forty other cases were reported, but after admission to hospital were found to be incorrectly diagnosed. There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

495 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified or reported compared with 452 in 1948, 343 in 1947 and 356 in 1946. The diagnosis was not confirmed in ten cases.

The increase in the number of cases has been associated with a general increase in the incidence of this disease throughout London.

There were no deaths from the disease in 1949 as in 1948.

Of the total number of cases, 193 or 38.6 per cent. were removed to hospital.

Whooping Cough.

611 cases were notified during the year. There were 3 deaths.

TABLE V.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	NO. OF CASES OF INFECTIVE DISEASES GROUPED IN AGE PERIODS.										
	Total	Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	7	—	1	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	485	—	41	113	272	35	12	8	1	1	2
Measles	2969	96	768	775	1247	36	9	26	7	5	—
Whooping Cough	611	45	160	199	191	3	1	11	1	—	—
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	61	2	4	22	14	2	1	9	3	4	—
Erysipelas	77	—	—	—	2	1	1	13	8	31	21
Scabies	52	—	2	4	11	5	5	11	7	5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	23	—	—	—	—	—	2	15	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	10	1	4	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
Polio-myelitis... ..	58	—	13	7	18	5	5	8	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia :—											
Acute Influenzal	188	3	9	10	17	3	5	25	25	45	46
Acute Primary											
Tuberculosis—All forms	694	1	9	12	26	18	89	310	95	108	26
Food Poisoning	67	2	2	1	2	2	3	25	9	15	6
TOTAL	5316	158	1014	1145	1801	111	136	466	166	216	103

Infective Diseases

11

Measles.

The number of cases notified during the year was 2,969, compared with 2,668 in 1948, 1,241 in 1947, and 1,997 in 1946.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

During the year 23 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No case of this disease occurred, but there were four deaths from acute infectious encephalitis.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (Cerebro-spinal Fever, Meningococcal Meningitis, " Spotted Fever ").

Ten confirmed cases were notified or reported. There were two deaths. A number of other cases were reported but were subsequently not confirmed. In the previous year ten confirmed cases were notified with three deaths.

Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.

There were 89 cases of this disease notified or reported during the year and 58 were subsequently confirmed. This figure shows an increase of 43 cases over the total for 1948, but it was less than the number notified during the epidemic of 1947.

Four of the 58 cases died. One death also occurred of a case which had been notified in 1947.

Dysentery.

Seventy-one cases were notified or reported during the year, 38 being from institutions. Ten cases were subsequently held not to be dysentery.

Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever.

Six cases were reported during the year, four of which were subsequently confirmed as typhoid and one as para-typhoid. Diagnosis was not confirmed in the remaining case. There were no deaths.

Influenza.

The number of deaths from Influenza was 45 compared with 10 in 1948, 44 in 1947, 47 in 1946 and 19 in 1945.

The death-rate was .13 per 1,000.

Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia.

These are the notifiable forms of pneumonia.

Forty cases of acute influenzal pneumonia and 148 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified. Three of the former and 17 of the latter died.

The total number of deaths credited to all forms of pneumonia during the year was 163 compared with 151 in 1948.

Malaria.

One case was notified. It was a recurrent case.

Erysipelas.

77 cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

Other Infective Diseases.

33 deaths occurred from syphilis.

Scabies.

52 cases were notified.

285 cases of scabies were treated at the Council's Cleansing Station under the supervision of the two bathing attendants. The majority of the cases were treated by the benzyl benzoate method, and received a course of two baths each. 93 other persons received cleansing treatment for various conditions.

Food Poisoning.

67 cases were notified during the year.

All these cases were unrelated and in four only were the organisms identified. One sample was submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination and the result was negative. There were no deaths.

Analysis of Infectious Disease in the Last 49 Years.

Tables VII and VIII have been drawn up to show the trend of infectious disease in consecutive periods since the Borough was constituted in 1900. Five periods are taken to show the comparison, viz., three inter-census periods, each of ten years, from 1901 to 1931, the date of the last Census; the eight-year period from 1931 to 1938 and the five-year period from 1945 to 1949. The mean population of each period has been taken in calculating the case rates and death-rates, which are shown as annual rates per 100,000 of population. The five years 1939 to 1944 inclusive are excluded from the survey as no accurate figures for the war years are available owing to the evacuation of children during that period.

Table VII shows the number of cases and deaths, case-rates and death-rates in each period reviewed for scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever, diseases which have been notifiable continuously throughout the 49 years.

Table VIII gives similar information for measles, whooping cough and tuberculosis, diseases which have not been notifiable continuously throughout the whole period under review. The number of deaths and death-rates from these three diseases are correct as they are based on the cause of death as certified, but the same reliance cannot be placed on the number of cases and case-rates as the full information as to the number of cases was not always available.

It will be seen from Table VII that in 1901/1910 there were 186 deaths from scarlet fever, while in 1945/1949 there were none; that the number of deaths from diphtheria had been reduced from 409 in the earlier period to five in 1945/1949, and the deaths from enteric fever from 132 to nil.

There has been a large reduction in the number of cases of these three diseases, the reduction being most marked for diphtheria in recent years.

Table VIII shows the extent to which the number of deaths and the death-rates from measles and whooping cough has fallen in the 49 years under review.

The death-rate from tuberculosis has been reduced by about a half in the same period.

TABLE VII.

Analysis of the common infectious diseases during the last 49 years showing the number of cases and deaths occurring in the Borough in each period shown, with annual case rates and death rates calculated per 100,000 of the mean population of the period.

SCARLET FEVER, DIPHTHERIA, ENTERIC, WHICH WERE NOTIFIABLE CONTINUOUSLY DURING THE 49 YEARS.

Year	Population	Scarlet Fever				Diphtheria				Enteric			
		Cases	Deaths	Case-rate	Death-rate	Cases	Deaths	Case-rate	Death-rate	Cases	Deaths	Case-rate	Death-rate
1901 ... 1901/10 (10 years)	232,034 census	10112	186	372	6.8	4945	409	182	15.0	860	132	31	4.9
1911 ... 1911/20 ... (10 years)	311,402 census	9574	106	299	3.3	5728	400	179	12.5	450	54	14	1.7
1921 ... 1921/30 ... (10 years)	328,656 census	9543	82	280	2.5	7464	337	219	9.8	289	29	8	0.85
1931 ... 1931/38 ... (8 years)	353,101 census	6908	32	250	1.2	3295	139	119	4.3	118	9	4.2	0.32
1938 ...	340,100												
1939/44 ...		Evacuation of children											
1945/49 ... (5 years)	315,334	2033	0	128	0	273	5	17	0.3	24	0	1.5	0

TABLE VIII.

MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, TUBERCULOSIS, WHERE NOTIFICATION WAS INTERMITTENT.

Year	Population	Measles				Whooping Cough				Tuberculosis fully notifiable since 1912			
		Cases	Deaths	Case-rate	Death-rate	Cases	Deaths	Case-rate	Death-rate	Cases	Deaths	Case-rate	Death-rate
1901 ... 1901/10 ... (10 years)	232,034 census	15164	794	558	29	5119	688	188	25	—	3608	—	133
1911 ... 1911/20 ... (10 years)	311,402 census	24545	836	768	26	7064	435	221	13.6	6889	3863	215	121
1921 ... 1921/30 ... (10 years)	328,656 census	19977	298	586	8.7	14811	293	434	8.6	6377	3258	187	95.5
1931 ... 1931/38 ... (8 years)	353,101 census	16929	119	610	4.3	8116	122	293	4.4	4933	2115	177	76.2
1938 ...	340,100												
1939/44 ...		Evacuation of children.											
1945/49 ... (5 years)	315,334	11346	9	719	0.5	3344	27	212	1.7	3283	928	208	59

Diseases Reported from Schools.

A total of 2,575 infective diseases was reported from schools in the Borough throughout the year. The numbers of each disease were:—

Scarlet Fever	...	248	Chicken Pox	...	465
Diphtheria	...	1	Whooping Cough	...	214
Measles	...	1162	Mumps	...	356
German Measles	...	22	Ringworm	...	5
Poliomyelitis	...	14	Scabies	...	7
Other Diseases	...	81			

Disinfection.

During the year 1,945 rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and 535 rooms disinfested for vermin.

Bacteriological Examinations.

All these examinations are carried out by the Camberwell Research Laboratory which in October, 1948, became a Public Health Service Laboratory directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The following Table shows the number of examinations in each division and for the whole Borough, also the disease for which the examination was made.

TABLE IX.

	Putney	Central	Clapham	Streatham	Whole Borough
Diphtheria	164	267	81	128	640
Enteric Fever	11	4	—	—	15
Other Diseases	48	23	24	34	129
TOTAL	223	294	105	162	784

NON-INFECTIVE DISEASES.

The total number of deaths from cancer and malignant disease was 707, the number of males being 329 and females 378. The death-rate was 2.11 per 1,000. The number of deaths in 1949 was 27 less than in 1948.

1,482 deaths occurred from disease of the heart and circulatory system compared with 1,251 in 1948. 1,201 of these deaths were of persons of 65 years of age and above.

There were 502 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system compared with 444 in 1948. The number from bronchitis was 294 compared with 242 in 1948, and from pneumonia (all forms), 163 compared with 151 in 1948. Further particulars relative to pneumonia are given on page 14.

100 deaths, 59 males and 41 females, were registered as due to premature birth and developmental diseases, compared with 122 in 1948.

148 deaths were due to violence, 32 of them being due to accidents, 40 to suicide and 76 to other forms of violence.

INQUESTS.

Inquests were held on 78 persons who died in the Borough and on 117 Borough residents who died elsewhere.

Twenty-seven verdicts of death from natural causes were returned and 122 of accidental death; there were 40 suicides, five open verdicts and one of chronic alcoholism.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.—The total number of new cases which came to the notice of the Department during 1949 was 694 compared with 699 in 1948.

The sources of information regarding the 694 new cases were as follows:—

Primary notifications on Form A	533
Notifications from H.M. Forces	15
Unnotified at death	18
Transfers from other sanitary authorities	128
Total ...	694

Deaths.—The number of deaths certified as due to diseases of a tuberculous nature was 152.

Particulars of the new cases and deaths during the year, classified by sexes and age groups are given in the following table:—

TABLE X.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pul- monary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pul- monary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	4	9	5	3	—	—	3	1
5	9	9	3	5	—	—	—	—
10	1	7	6	4	—	—	1	—
15	34	51	1	3	2	2	—	—
20	56	63	4	2	4	4	—	1
25	95	84	2	4	14	12	—	2
35	50	42	3	—	15	12	—	—
45	35	16	4	2	11	6	4	—
55	41	10	—	—	17	7	2	1
65 and upwards ...	20	5	—	1	20	7	2	2
TOTALS ...	345	297	28	24	83	50	12	7

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

Work of the Sanitary Inspectors.

A Summary of the inspections carried out by the Inspectors is given in Table XI:—

TABLE XI.

	In. spections.	Re- In- spections.	Total.
To investigate complaints	14207	37504	51711
Housing reports	1871	—	1871
Notifiable diseases	1253	230	1483
Verminous conditions	70	175	245
Piggeries	88	—	88
Factories, Workplaces, etc. (including Outworkers)	1248	204	1452
Sanitary conveniences	112	—	112
Mews and stables	164	—	164
Other inspections	5765	244	6009
TOTAL	24778	38357	63135
Smoke observations	—	—	64
Legal proceedings, Attendances at Court	—	—	64

Table XII gives details of the sanitary operations carried out in the Borough during the year.

The number of drains which were tested was 564 and 1,200 were cleansed or repaired. The drains of 269 houses were re-constructed.

Damp conditions have been remedied in 1,627 premises, and in 199 of these damp courses were inserted.

TABLE XII.

	Putney	Central	Clapham	Streatham	Whole Borough
1. Premises cleansed and repaired ...	1106	810	1259	714	3889
2. Drains tested	150	165	120	129	564
3. Drains cleansed or repaired ...	315	361	310	214	1200
4. Water closets cleansed or repaired...	315	283	317	210	1125
5. Soil pipes repaired	27	22	59	18	126
6. Waste pipes altered or repaired ...	86	100	126	68	380
7. Rainwater pipes repaired ...	55	50	73	48	226
8. Roofs and gutters repaired ...	620	510	696	413	2239
9. Damp courses inserted	81	36	54	28	199
10. Damp conditions otherwise remedied	347	315	442	324	1428
11. Yards drained or paved	49	34	47	20	150
12. Dustbins provided or repaired ...	61	115	69	66	311
13. Water cisterns cleansed, covered or repaired	43	24	28	32	127
14. Water supply reinstated	44	21	34	11	110
15. Defective fireplaces remedied ...	328	238	333	194	1093
16. Defective coppers remedied ...	18	5	14	10	47
17. Accumulations of rubbish, etc., removed	21	11	22	15	69
18. Urinals cleansed or repaired ...	2	—	4	—	6
19. Animals improperly kept	8	8	9	3	28
20. Smoke nuisances	4	1	—	—	5
21. Other nuisances	174	98	179	116	567
TOTAL	3854	3207	4195	2633	13889
No. of Preliminary Notices served	1774	1630	1999	939	6342
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	1764	1551	2053	1162	6530
No. of Nuisance Notices served	481	362	510	271	1624
No. of Nuisance Notices complied with...	513	369	553	335	1770

Water Supply—Cutting-off Notices.

During the year, 89 notices with respect to 163 premises were received from the Metropolitan Water Board stating that the supply had been withdrawn.

In 47 premises the water supply was cut off for non-payment of rates, 76 because of defects in the service, and in 40 the premises became vacant.

Inspection of Sanitary Conveniences.

The number of sanitary conveniences is 173; 56 in Clapham, 70 in Putney, 21 in Streatham and 26 in Central Wandsworth; 112 inspections were made during the year and one notice for cleansing was served and complied with.

Rodent Control.

Energetic measures for rodent control continued throughout the year, the system followed being that of prebaiting laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

2,027 rat and mice complaints were received during the year.

Following is a summary of the work of the rodent operatives.

No. of operatives' calls	...	...	...	...	...	22,126
„ „ premises prebaited and treated with poison	...	...	...	...	...	1,448
„ „ premises prebaited and found not troubled	...	...	...	...	...	408
„ „ premises investigated and found not troubled...	...	...	...	...	...	430
„ „ prebait and poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	...	58,224
„ „ drains tested by Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	334
„ „ drains found defective	...	...	...	...	...	240
„ „ rats estimated killed	...	...	...	...	...	14,915

There were eight rodent operatives and one clerk engaged on rodent control duties during the year under the supervision of a Sanitary Inspector.

Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools.

There are four public swimming bath establishments and one open air swimming pool belonging to the Council, one open air swimming bath owned by the London County Council, one public swimming pool privately owned, and a number of private bathing pools in the Borough. The Queensmere pond on Wimbledon Common has also for many years past been a recognised bathing pond.

In four of the Borough Council's swimming baths, the water is purified by a process of continuous circulation through a filtration plant whereby the whole of the water is dealt with every three to four hours and chlorinated automatically during its circulation from the filtration plant to the bath. In the other bath belonging to the Council, each bath is emptied of water as often as necessary and refilled with fresh water, which is continuously circulated and chlorinated automatically the whole time the bath is in use.

Certificates Issued in Respect of Rag Washing and Sterilisation.

At two factories in the Borough, rags are washed and disinfected under the supervision of the Council's Inspector, and certificates are issued for which a charge is made.

During 1949 81 certificates were issued and the amount collected was £24 6s. 0d.

Removal of Diseased or Infirm Persons to Institutions.

In no case has it been necessary during the year for application to be made to a Court for the removal of diseased or infirm persons under the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The methods employed for freeing infested houses include the stripping of all paper from the walls, the removal of wooden mouldings and skirtings and the application of a blow lamp to the room surfaces. Sulphur and "Cimex" candles are often used by house owners and the spraying of rooms by the disinfecting staff of the Council is carried out, proprietary insecticides being used. Infested bedding is removed to the Disinfecting Station and treated by steam.

During the year 242 houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and disinfestation was carried out in all cases.

Special steps are taken to ensure that the furniture and clothing of families about to be accommodated in the Council's houses and flats are freed from vermin. Hydrogen cyanide gas is used for the disinfestation of the furniture, which is placed in special vans constructed for the purpose, the process being carried out by a contractor. Bedding is not subjected to hydrogen cyanide but is disinfested by steam at the Council's Disinfecting Station.

Mortuary and Crematorium.

The Mortuary at Wandsworth was used throughout the year and 319 bodies were received there.

Under the Crematorium Regulations, 1930, 809 cremations were authorised during 1949 as compared with 634 in 1948.

HOUSING.

Statistics Relating to Housing.

Public Health Act.

No. of houses inspected on account of complaints or illness	15,460
Re-inspections	37,734
Number of sanitary notices served:	
Intimation notices	6,342
Nuisance notices	1,624
Number of houses repaired or nuisances remedied	6,530

Housing Act, 1936.

Number of houses inspected—house to house (Housing Consolidated Regs. 1925). ...	nil.
(a) Number of houses included by representations by the Borough Medical Officer under Section 25 of Housing Act, 1936.	nil
(b) Number of houses demolished following representation by Borough Medical Officer under Section 25 of Housing Act, 1936. ...	21
Number of houses repaired under Sections 9 and 10 of Housing Act, 1936:	
(a) by owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil.
Number of houses demolished:	
(a) In pursuance of Orders under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936	3
(b) Voluntarily	nil.
Number of houses (wholly or in part) the subject of Closing Orders (excluding underground rooms)	2
Number of Closing Orders determined (i.e. houses made fit)	2

Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936).

Number of families found to be living in overcrowded conditions	198
Number of overcrowded families who have obtained alternative accommodation ...	60
Number of houses erected by the Borough Council for working classes during year ...	281

Underground Rooms.

Number occupied but unfit and action taken ...	15
Number closed or modified occupation approved	11

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Number in Borough	1
Number of inspections	12
Number of prosecutions	nil.
Number of complaints remedied under the By-laws (not included under any other heading)	2

Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920—1939.

During the year 10 applications were received from occupiers that their houses were not in a reasonable state of repair. All the applications were acceded to and Statutory Certificates were granted. Most of the work to put them in a reasonable state of repair was carried out during the year.

Clearance of Insanitary Houses.

Saxby Street Area.—It has not yet been possible to complete the clearance of this area which was declared in March, 1938, and approved by the Minister of Health after a public enquiry held in October of that year.

Of the 93 red houses in the area, 64 are still occupied.

The Weimar Street area, taken over by the London County Council and declared by that authority in December, 1938, has now been cleared and all the houses in it are demolished.

Most of the occupiers of the 26 houses in the North Passage Area, declared a Clearance Area in June, 1939, have now been rehoused. Four of the houses are still occupied.

The Demolition Orders on 68 and 70 Garratt Lane made in November, 1947, have been complied with.

During the year Closing Orders were made on the basement flats at 5 Melrose Road, and 130 Merton Road, and on a cellar dwelling at 4 Rosebery Road. These Orders have been complied with.

In 1947 the Council made Closing Orders on 17 basement flats in Byrne Road. Two of these basements are still occupied as it has not been possible to find suitable accommodation for the occupiers. Fourteen of the flats are unoccupied and in one—1 Byrne Road—the Closing Order has been determined as the owner has made it fit for habitation.

In a further eight of the Byrne Road basements, no Closing Orders were made as the Council accepted undertakings from the owners to do the necessary works. In five of these the work was carried out shortly afterwards, one has been closed voluntarily and two are still occupied, and it has not been possible for the work to be done.

23 Elms Road.—In 1934 a Closing Order was made on a bedroom in the basement of this house and the order was complied with at once. The Closing Order was determined in October, 1949, at the owner's request, following reconstruction of the whole basement of this house.

TABLE XIII.

NATURE OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS A.	ACTUAL FOOD BUSINESSES CONDUCTED ON THE PREMISES SHOWN IN COLUMN A.																		No. of Visits in 1949
	No. of S. para.e Premises	No. of Shops Distributing Milk	SUBJECT TO SOME FORM OF LEGAL CONTROL								OTHER FOOD BUSINESSES								
			As Dairies	As Milk Distributing Depots	As Slaughter houses.	As Wholesale Margarine Premises	For Ice Cream	For Cooked or Preserved Foods	As Fish Fryers	As Fish Curers	Fishmongers	Grocers	Confectioners	Butchers	Greengrocers	Food Factories	Restaurant Kitchens	Others	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.		
Dairies & Milk Distributing Depots ...	64	64	30	34	...	...	8	3	...	...	...	54	9	...	...	3	...	1	1322
Ice-cream Manufacturers ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Grocers & Provisions ...	584	127	...	...	...	21	115	155	...	...	2	584	134	24	31	...	6	217	4696
Confectioners ...	433	5	...	...	...	...	310	...	...	...	...	27	433	...	...	...	19	15	2492
Butchers ...	182	...	...	...	...	...	2	180	...	...	...	1	...	182	...	...	...	...	2816
Slaughter-houses ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Fishmongers ...	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	14	41	81	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1223
Fish Fryers ...	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	59	5	18	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	521
Restaurants ...	409	...	...	...	...	...	69	...	...	...	2	3	26	...	...	...	409	...	1623
Greengrocers ...	351	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	351	...	...	...	1580
Market Stalls ...	197	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	1	2	16	18	11	7	107	...	11	14	25145
Food Factories ...	35	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	1	10	13	4	...	35	...	8	185
Others ...	161	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	1	30	14	...	4	...	6	161	1173
TOTALS ...	2573	196	30	34	3	21	556	429	74	49	122	730	640	217	493	38	477	416	43021

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

There are four Inspectors engaged in the supervision of the food supply. One of them is the Food and Drugs Inspector of the Borough who is occupied in procuring samples of food and drugs for analysis by the Public Analyst, and the supervision of dairy premises.

The other three Inspectors, who are designated Food Inspectors, supervise all other premises where food is sold, stored, manufactured or prepared for sale, and one third of the Borough is allocated to each Inspector. In addition they carry out the duties required under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

With the object of ensuring that all food businesses are supervised systematically, a register of all premises where a food business is carried on has been compiled and is kept up-to-date. This Register includes not only those premises which are subject to some form of legal control, but also all other premises in which a food business of any description is carried on.

Table XIII has been drawn up to show the number of food premises in the Borough and the nature of the business carried on at these premises. It is a common occurrence for more than one food business to be conducted on the same premises and the Table is arranged to bring out this fact.

In column 1 of the Table the number of separate food premises in the Borough is given, classified according to the nature of the principal business carried on. In columns 3 to 18 the number of different businesses actually conducted from these premises is shown, those which are subject to some form of legal control being specified. The number of shops distributing milk in the Borough is also shown in column 2 of the Table.

The total number of food premises on the register in the Borough is 2,573, and during 1949 they were visited on 43,021 occasions.

Milk Supply.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

These Regulations came into force on 1st October, 1949, and require local authorities to keep a register of all persons carrying on the trade of distributor in their district and of all premises within their district which are used as dairies, not being dairy farms.

Applications have been received from 155 persons to be registered as distributors of milk, including 14 applications from persons with premises outside this Borough, and 30 applications for the registration of premises as dairies. In each case the certificate of registration was granted.

The bulk of the milk sold by retail within the Borough is sent out in bottles filled in properly constructed dairies and its quality is good.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

882 samples of milk were submitted for analysis. 876 of these were reported as genuine, with an average fat content of 3.59 per cent.

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

The regulations came into force on 1st October, 1949, and replace The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1948.

The following licences for the sale of designated milks were granted during the year:—

	Regulations 1936/48	Regulations 1949	Total
Pasteurised	47	51	98
Tuberculin Tested	16	18	34
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	64	—	64
Sterilised	—	193	193
Accredited	—	—	—
Total	127	262	389

Licences were not required for the sale of sterilised milk before 1st October.

301 samples of milk were procured from distributors, schools, hospitals and institutions and submitted to the phosphatase test, the methylene blue test, the turbidity test and for bacteriological examination. Twelve of these failed to comply with the prescribed tests.

Meat.

There are 217 butcher's shops in the Borough. The majority are registered under Section 14(1)(b) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, preserved, pickled or pressed foods. 2,816 visits were made to these shops during the year.

Slaughter of Animals.

There are three private slaughter-houses in the Borough and they were visited on 56 occasions during the year.

Ten carcasses of pigs were inspected before and after slaughter. One liver was found to be inflamed and was condemned.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Section 3 of this Act provides that no animal shall be slaughtered or stunned in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard by any person who is not the holder of a licence granted by a local authority and in force under this section.

During the year one application from a person desirous of acting as a slaughterman was submitted to the Council and granted.

War Time Piggeries.

There are now 13 war time piggeries in this Borough and they were inspected on 88 occasions.

Unsound Food.

103 consignments of foodstuffs of all kinds were examined at the request of the owners and found to be unsound. After the articles had been destroyed or rendered unsaleable, certificates were granted to this effect.

**Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and
Medicines Act, 1941.**

These Acts provide for the listing with the Local Authority of all persons dealing in poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List.

The number of applications received for entry on the Council's Register for 1949 was 375, and 751 inspections of these premises were made by the Food Inspectors.

The principal businesses conducted on the premises of these applicants is shown in Table XIV. The majority of the listed sellers are also purveyors of food.

TABLE XIV.—PART II OF POISONS LIST.

Principal Business	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
Grocers	217	415
Hairdressers	18	41
Drug Stores	24	52
Domestic Stores, Ironmongers, etc. ...	112	231
Nurserymen *	4	12
TOTAL	375	751

Water Supply.

The bulk of the water supply in the Borough is provided by the Metropolitan Water Board and this has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

There are 20 artesian wells in the Borough, 15 of which are in operation, seven for food manufacture and drinking and eight for other purposes.

Three samples of water were taken from artesian wells during the year and were found to be free from pollution, and four samples were submitted for analysis on the complaints of two ratepayers. In the first case it was found that there was a sediment consisting of sand and cement in the tank but there was no other contamination and the Public Analyst was of the opinion that the supply for drinking should be provided direct from the main. In the second case the examination showed the water to be free from pollution and in the opinion of the Public Analyst the water was quite safe for drinking purposes.

Two samples of water were taken from the Queensmere bathing pond on Wimbledon Common at the request of the Medical Officer of Health of Wimbledon.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Registration of Premises.

Section 14(1) of this Act requires that any premises used or proposed to be used for:—

(a) the sale, or the manufacture for the purpose of sale, of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale; or

(b) the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food;

shall be registered by the owner or the occupier thereof with the local authority.

During the year 97 applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14(1)(a) and eight applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14(1)(b) were submitted to the Council. With the exception of one case, all these premises were found to be satisfactory and the registration granted.

Section 34(1)(b) of this Act requires that no premises shall be used:—

for carrying on the business of a wholesale dealer in margarine, margarine-cheese or milk-blended butter; unless they are registered by the Food and Drugs authority for the purpose in question.

During the year one application for registration under the provisions of this Section was submitted to the Council and granted.

Section 57(1)(a) of this Act requires that it shall not be lawful:—

for the occupier of any premises to use them as a slaughter-house or knacker's yard or permit them to be so used, unless he holds a licence granted under this section by the local authority authorising him to keep those premises as a slaughter-house or, as the case may be, as a knacker's yard.

During the year three applications for the renewal of licences to use premises as slaughter-houses were submitted to the Council and granted.

Bacteriological Examination of Ice-Cream.

During the year 154 samples of ice-cream were tested in accordance with the technique suggested by the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service in their Bulletin of March, 1947.

The following table gives a summary of the results:—

TABLE XV.

Methylene Blue Test.		Coliform Test.	
Provisional Grade	No. of Samples	Coliform in 1/10th ml. (non-faecal)	No. of Samples
1	30	absent	50
2	14	present	27
3	19		
4	12		
TOTAL	75	TOTAL	77

In addition four samples of ice-cream were examined for the presence of salmonella typhi or any other organisms of the enteric group. The examination did not reveal any of these organisms. In addition two samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test which was nullified due to interference of colouring or flavouring matter.

Analysis of Food and Drugs.

1,999 samples of foods and drugs were procured for analysis during the year. 882 samples of milk, 987 other foodstuffs and 130 drugs. Of these 133 were submitted as formal samples while 1,866 were purchased informally. One or 0.8 per cent. of the formal samples and 30 or 16 per cent. of the informal samples were found to be adulterated or not up to standard. The total adulterations reported were 31 or 1.6 per cent of the samples submitted.

The 31 samples found to be adulterated were:—six samples of milk, two of tomato ketchup, two of tincture of iodine, two of zinc ointment, two of fruit preserving tablets, two of potato crisps, two of refreshers, one each of cocoa, lime flavoured cordial, tomato juice, pudding mixture, gravy powder, lemonade, malt vinegar, cooked meat, lemon flavoured powder, sugar confectionery, effervescent drink powder, sherbet fountain, boric acid ointment.

Police Court Proceedings

It was not necessary to take Police Court proceedings in any of the above cases of adulterated samples but proceedings under Section 9(1) of the above Act were taken in respect of one case of selling food (two slices of meat pie) intended for, but unfit for, human consumption. The Court made an Order discharging the defendant, subject to the condition that he commits no offence during a period of six months from such Order and also ordered him to pay £2 2s. 0d. costs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars required by Section 128

PART I.—(1) INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	692	369	22	—
(2) Factories not included above in which Section 7 of the Act is enforced by the Local Authority ...	1227	830	102	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	11	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	1930	1202	124	—

(2) DEFECTS.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector		
Want of cleanliness ...	9	5	2	2	—
Overcrowding ...	—	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	1	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient ...	8	6	4	5	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	192	180	2	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	3	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	20	21	4	3	—
TOTAL ...	235	216	12	13	—

PART VIII.—SECTION 110. OUTWORK.

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel	237	—	—
Furniture and upholstery	8	—	—
Brass and brass articles	1	—	—
Umbrellas	1	—	—
Artificial flowers	1	—	—
Boxes or other receptacles made wholly or partially of paper	22	—	—
Feather sorting	1	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, etc. ...	2	—	—
TOTAL	273	—	—

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR 1949.

By virtue of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, we have to report that 1,999 samples were examined by us under the Act during the year ended 31st December, 1949, 1,869 articles of food and 130 drugs. All were submitted by your Council's Food Inspector, 133 having been taken with the formalities required by the Act and 1,866 informally.

Adulterated Samples.

Particulars of the samples reported as adulterated are given in the following table.

Case No.	Nature of sample	Nature of Report
Formal 321	Tomato ketchup	Benzoic acid, 190 parts per million in excess.
Informal 72	Milk	11% deficient in milk fat.
166	Cocoa	See complaint samples.
176	Lime Flavour Cordial	Sulphur dioxide, 50 parts per million in excess.
438	Tomato ketchup	Benzoic acid, 350 parts per million in excess.
450	Tomato juice, canned	Labelling offence.
604	Milk	17% deficient in milk fat.
255	Iodine, tincture of	38% deficient in potassium iodide.
315	Iodine, tincture of	38% deficient in potassium iodide. Both these samples of iodine were correctly prepared according to the formula of the British Pharmacopoeia, 1932.
986	Zinc Ointment	6% deficient in zinc oxide.
1029	Milk	9% deficient in milk fat.
1030	Milk	9% deficient in milk fat.
1115	Zinc Ointment	15% deficient in zinc oxide.
1160	Pudding mixture	Infested.
1268	Gravy Powder	Infested with mites.
1308	Lemonade	Contained yeast cells.
Informal 1347	Malt Vinegar	Infested with vinegar eels.
1351	Fruit-preserving tablets	47% deficient in sulphur dioxide.
1371	Fruit-preserving tablets	40% deficient in sulphur dioxide.
1389	Cooked meat	Contained some dye.
1485	Milk	1% extraneous water.
1634	Potato crisps	Fried in inedible oil.
1635	Potato crisps	Fried in inedible oil.
1687	Milk	1% extraneous water.
1711	Refreshers	See complaint samples.
1713	Lemon Flavour Powder	See complaint samples.
1813	Sugar confectionery	See complaint samples.
1837	Effervescent drink powder	Non-effervescent.
1838	Refreshers	Non-effervescent.
1855	Sherbet fountain	Magnesium salts present.
1858	Boric acid ointment	A British Pharmacopoeia 1932 ointment.

Adulteration.

The amount of adulteration detected during the year was:—

For formal samples	... ..	0.8%
For informal samples	... ..	1.6%
For all samples	... ..	1.6%

Complaint Samples.

- Case No. 142. Chocolate Swiss Roll.** The complaint was that the article was of poor quality. Nothing of a deleterious nature could be identified and the complaint was considered not justified.
- Case No. 166. Cocoa.** This was a sample of cocoa-bean from which most of the fat had been extracted and the res.due coarsely ground. It was quite unfit for retail sale and the complaint was considered justified.
- Cases Nos. 471 and 472. Thirst Quenchers.** These samples consisted of tablets made from tartaric acid and bicarbonate of soda together with a little binding matter. Instructions given with the tablets were that they were to be dissolved in water and the effervescent mixture drunk. It was admitted by the complainant that children were eating the tablets. The complaint was considered not justified.
- Case No. 1049. Toffee.** A single piece of toffee was tested on the complaint that it was suspected to have caused sickness. Nothing untoward was detected and the complaint was returned as not justified.
- Case No. 1308. Lemonade.** This sample was suspected to have caused sickness. On examination it was found to contain yeast cells and the complaint was considered justified as these might produce very unpleasant symptoms.
- Case No. 1347. Malt Vinegar.** This sample was found to be infested with vinegar eels. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1389. Cooked Meat.** The sample was found to contain a small amount of dye which was confined to the exterior of the meat. The complaint was considered justified.
- Cases Nos. 1634 and 1635. Potato Crisps.** The oil extracted from these samples, about 30% in each case, had a rancid odour and acrid taste, and was unfit for use in food. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1673. Whisky.** Complaint of flavour. An excellent sample.

- Case No. 1711. Refreshers.** Coloured and flavoured tablets stated to be prepared from tartaric acid and sodium bicarbonate. The tablets which disintegrated in water with difficulty contained no free tartaric acid and consequently no effervescence was produced as the tablets dissolved. No added flavour could be detected. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1712. Lemon Flavour Powder.** Sold in a paper packet with a straw. In addition to tartaric acid and sodium bicarbonate, magnesium carbonate sulphate and sodium phosphate was stated to be present. There is no such substance as mag. carb. sulph.; a preparation of magnesium was present. Little effervescence was produced with stirring with water and the resulting mixture was alkaline and the taste unpleasant. The powder has an aperient action and is unsuitable for unrestricted sale to children.
- Case No. 1813. Sugar confectionery, sold without points.** The flavour of an artificial essence of rum type was several times too strong to make a palatable article. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1828. Milk. Complaint of quality.** The milk was found to be in excellent condition and the constituents well above the average.

Mineral Oil.

Four samples of fruit cake were examined for the presence of mineral oil; in no case was a positive result obtained.

Butter and Margarine.

The average water content of the 86 samples of butter proved to be 14.9%, that of the 86 samples of margarine 14.8%. The average content of boron preservative in the samples of margarine, calculated to boric acid was 0.19%.

Milk.

The average composition of the samples of milk submitted during each month of the year and returned as genuine was as under.

Month	Number	Total Solids	Milk Fat	Non-fatty solids
January	87	12.54%	3.75%	8.79%
February	94	12.34%	3.57%	8.77%
March	95	12.34%	3.57%	8.77%
April	81	12.26%	3.48%	8.78%
May	94	12.27%	3.37%	8.90%
June	82	12.35%	3.46%	8.89%
July	48	12.16%	3.46%	8.70%
August	40	12.28%	3.58%	8.70%
September	80	12.40%	3.66%	8.74%
October	96	12.54%	3.72%	8.82%
November	64	12.63%	3.78%	8.85%
December	15	12.81%	3.93%	8.88%

The average composition of the whole of the 876 samples of milk received during the year and returned as genuine was as under:—

Total milk solids	...	...	12.39%
Milk fat	...	...	3.59%
Non-fatty solids	...	...	8.80%

We have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

A. H. MUTER, F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

Public Analyst.

J. E. WOODHEAD, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Ph.C.

Deputy Public Analyst.

325, KENNINGTON ROAD,
S.E.11.

INDEX

	Pages
Accidents, deaths from	19
Acute Encephalitis	13
Analyst Report of	36
Area of Borough	3
Bacteriological Examinations	
" " of Milk	31
" " of Ice Cream	35
Bathing Pools and Swimming Pools	24
Bed Bugs, eradication of	25
Births, Birth Rates	4
Butchers' shops	29
Cancer	19
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	13
Childbirth, deaths from	4
Circulatory diseases	19
Clearance areas	28
Closing Orders	28
Crematorium	25
Cutting-off-notices—Water Supply	23
Deaths, causes of	7
Death Rates	4
Death Rate from Infective Diseases	10
Death Rate, Infantile	4
Deaths, number of	4
Demolition Orders	28
Diphtheria	10
Diseased or Infirm Persons, removal of	24
Disinfection	18
Dysentery	13
Encephalitis Lethargica	13
Enteric Fever	13
Erysipelas	14
Factories Act, 1937	37
Factories and Workshops	37
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	31
Food Poisoning	14
Food, supervision of	30
Food Factories	29
Food Places, inspection of	30
" " number on Register	30
Houses and premises inspected	21 - 22
Houses let in lodgings	26
Housing Act, 1936	27
Housing Statistics	26
Hydrogen Cyanide Disinfection	25
Ice Cream, etc., Sale and Storage of	34
Illegitimate Children, Births of	4
Infant Mortality	4 - 8
Infective Diseases	
" " cases of	10
" " death-rate from	11

Infirm or Diseased Persons, removal of	24
Influenza, Deaths and Death-rates	14
Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia	14
" " cases notified	14
Inquests	19
Insanitary Areas	28
Inspections, details of	21 - 22
Malaria	14
Maternal Mortality	4 - 8
Measles	13
Meat	32
Milk Analysis	42
Milk, Bacteriological Examination of	31
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	30
Milk Premises, etc., on Register	31
Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949	31
Milk Supply	30
Mortuary	25
Non-infective Diseases, deaths from	19
Notification of Infective Diseases	10 - 11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11 - 12
Other Infective Diseases, deaths from	14
Outworkers	38
Overcrowding	27
Para-typhoid Fever	13
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	33
" " Medicines Act, 1941	33
Piggeries	32
Pneumonia	14
Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	13
Population	3
Pregnancy, deaths from accident and diseases of	4
Preserved Meat, etc., manufacture of	34
Public Analyst, Report	39/41
Puerperal Pyrexia	13
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, notification of cases of	20
Ragwashing and Sterilisation, Certificates	24
Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Acts, 1920—1939	27
Respiratory Diseases	20
Rodent Control	23
Samples, Formal and Informal, number of	23
Sanitary Conveniences, inspection of	21
Sanitary Inspection of Borough	21 - 22
Sanitary operations, Table of	14
Scabies	10
Scarlet Fever	10
Slaughter-houses	32
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	32
Smallpox	10
Social Conditions	3
Statistics for the Borough	3
Suicide, deaths from	7
Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools	24
Syphilis, deaths from	14
Tuberculosis	20
Unsound Food	32
Violence, mortality from	7
Water Supply	34
" " cutting-off-notices	23
Whooping Cough	10
Workshops, number of	37

