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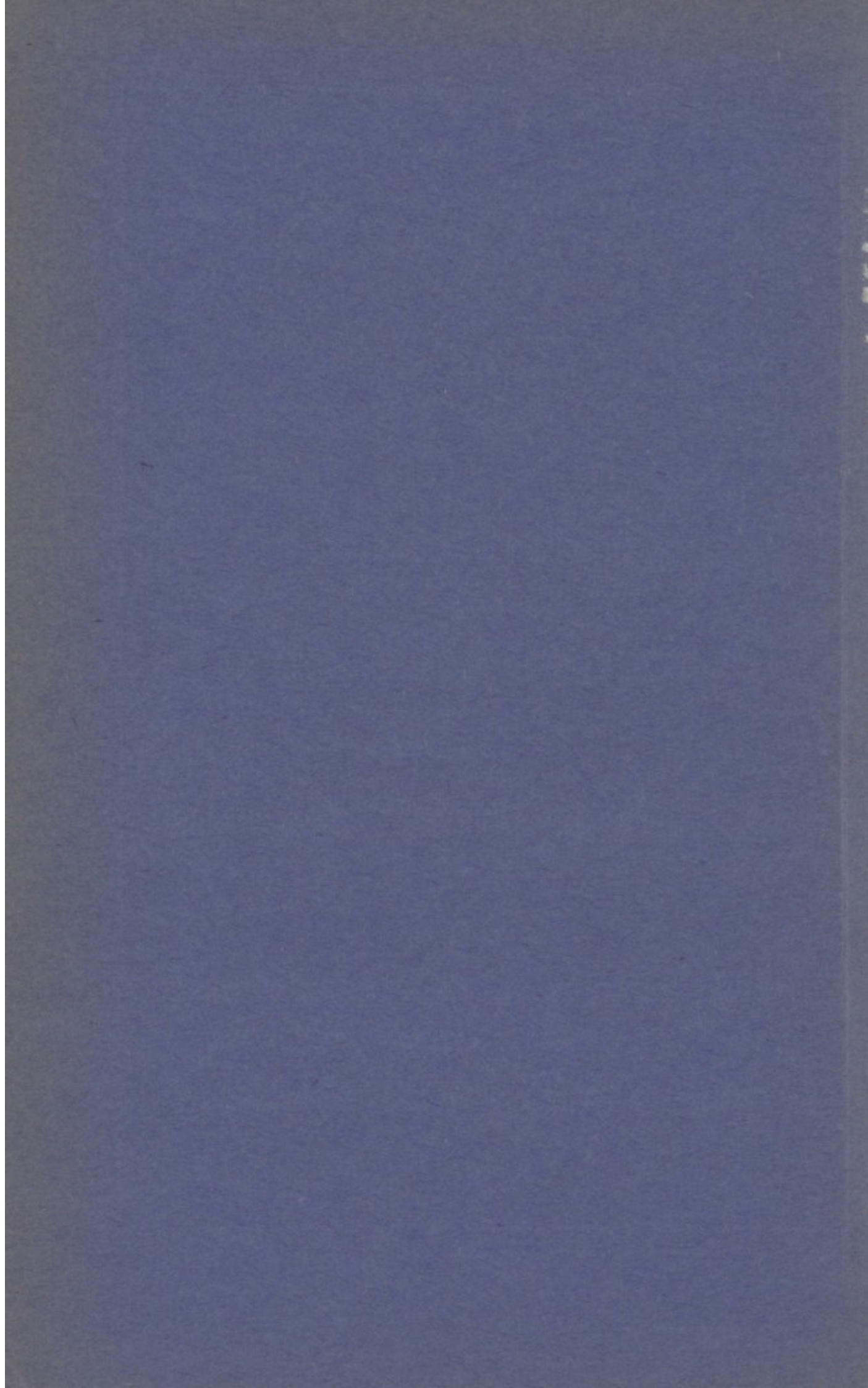
Annual Report
of the
**Medical Officer of
Health**
for the Year
1951

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 1951

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

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that during the year the health of the Borough has been satisfactory and there has been no unusual or excessive mortality.

The birth rate was 13.7, slightly less than in 1950 and compares with 17.8 for the rest of London.

The death rate was 12.85 and is slightly higher than in the previous year due to some increase in deaths from influenza and respiratory diseases. The rate for the whole of London was 13.1.

There were no deaths from scarlet fever or diphtheria and none of the reported cases of diphtheria were confirmed.

The number of cases of measles notified was 4,299, an increase on recent years, but only four deaths were reported.

984 cases of whooping cough were notified with two deaths.

Eleven cases of acute poliomyelitis were confirmed during the year. There were no deaths. In 1950 there were 40 cases and seven deaths.

There has been a gratifying fall in the number of deaths from tuberculosis from 146 to 107, with reduction in the rate from .44 to .32.

The infantile mortality was 23 per 1,000 births compared with an average of 33 for the last ten years.

There were three maternal deaths.

This summary of the health of the Borough in 1951 is written several months after my retirement and I would like to wish success for future years to the Council, Dr. J. T. Lewis and the Department.

Your obedient servant,

F. G. CALEY.

19th June, 1952.

STAFF

Numerous staff changes occurred during the year.

The vacancy on the establishment of Sanitary Inspectors at the beginning of the year was filled by the appointment of Mr. J. T. Dallimore who commenced duty on 1st January.

Two further vacancies for Sanitary Inspectors were created by the resignations in November and December of Mr. F. Evans and Mr. J. Smith. One of these vacancies was filled by the appointment of Mr. J. T. Miles, who, however, was not due to commence duty until 4th February, 1952.

The following changes occurred on the Clerical Establishment:

Miss H. Lamboll, aged 55 years, died in April after an illness of three months. Mr. W. Pitman was promoted to the Clerical Division, and the consequent vacancy on the General Division filled by the appointment of Mr. D. Barnes. Miss N. North, shorthand-typist, resigned in September and Miss E. Douglass was appointed in her place.

On the staff of the Disinfecting Station also there were certain changes during the year.

The death occurred suddenly in July of Mr. R. E. Gale, aged 48 years, after 23 years' service with the Council, and subsequently the position of Engineer in charge was filled by the appointment of Mr. F. Stennings.

Messrs. A. Batten and E. G. Price, unestablished disinfecting apparatus attendants, were placed on the permanent establishment in November, and the first named subsequently appointed to the post of Assistant Supervisor.

In December Mrs. C. Mew, part-time Bathing Attendant, resigned.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,199 acres
Resident population in 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	332,300

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	2250	2027	4277
Illegitimate	140	136	276
Total Live Births ...	2390	2163	4553

No. of stillbirths	55	35	90
No. of deaths	2115	2157	4272
Birth-rate ... 13.70			
Death-rate ... 12.85			
	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births		
Deaths from puerperal and post- abortive sepsis	2	.43	
Deaths from other puerperal causes	1	.21	
Total ...	3	.64	

Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births:—

All infants	23
Legitimate infants	22
Illegitimate infants	36
Deaths from Cancer	714
„ Diphtheria	0
„ Scarlet Fever	0
„ Measles	4
„ Whooping Cough	2
„ Tuberculosis	107
Tuberculosis death-rate ... ..	.32

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 332,300, and all the rates used in this Report are based on this figure.

Table 1 shows the approximate population of each Parliamentary Division, based on the above estimation.

TABLE I.

	Population estimated to middle of 1951
Putney	88,570
Central	97,052
Clapham	75,549
Streatham	71,129
Whole Borough	332,300

Births

The total number of births belonging to the Borough registered during 1951 was 4,553, consisting of 2,390 males and 2,163 females. The number for 1950 was 4,605.

The birth-rate was 13.70 per 1,000 persons living compared with 13.97 for 1950.

The rate for the whole of London during 1951 was 17.8 and for England and Wales 15.5.

276 illegitimate births took place in the Borough compared with 255 in 1950.

Deaths

The number of registered deaths which took place in the Borough during the year was 3,815, but 1,348 of these did not belong to the Borough, while 1,805 Borough residents died outside the Borough.

The corrected number of deaths for the Borough, after allowing for these factors, was 4,272 of whom 2,115 were males and 2,157 females.

The death-rate for the year was 12.85 per 1,000 persons living, compared with 12.02 in 1950.

The death-rate for the whole of London for 1951 was 13.1 and for England and Wales 12.5.

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	538	554	1,092	12.33
Central	626	639	1,265	13.03
Clapham	524	519	1,043	13.80
Streatham	427	445	872	12.26
Whole Borough	2,115	2,157	4,272	12.85

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 1951.

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.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	95	66	29	1	—	—	29	46	19	29	28	25	13
Tuberculosis, Other	12	3	9	—	—	1	6	3	2	3	4	3	2
Syphilitic Disease	22	19	3	1	—	—	1	7	13	6	7	6	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	2	2	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases... ..	8	3	5	—	—	—	2	2	4	2	3	2	1
Malignant Neoplasms	714	369	345	—	1	—	44	251	418	173	219	164	158
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia... ..	20	11	9	1	1	2	5	8	3	5	5	5	5
Diabetes	32	15	17	—	1	—	2	7	22	10	9	8	5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	466	171	295	—	—	—	6	95	365	124	105	122	115
Diseases of Heart	1359	639	720	—	—	—	21	224	1114	344	428	326	251
Other Circulatory Disease	205	97	108	—	—	—	2	32	171	50	62	52	41
Influenza	122	56	66	1	—	—	4	27	90	29	41	27	25
Pneumonia	161	74	87	7	1	1	3	26	123	45	47	38	31
Bronchitis	375	222	153	5	1	2	3	72	292	92	103	105	75
Other Diseases of Respiratory System... ..	36	24	12	—	—	—	3	12	21	10	7	13	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	54	44	10	—	—	—	3	14	37	12	19	15	8
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	26	10	16	5	—	—	3	6	12	10	7	4	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis	52	20	32	—	—	2	6	14	30	17	9	14	12
Hyperplasia of Prostate	38	38	—	—	—	—	—	2	36	5	13	10	10
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	2	—
Congenital Malformations	45	24	21	20	4	2	4	8	7	14	15	10	6
Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease... ..	292	136	156	61	3	3	24	46	155	73	104	59	56
Motor Vehicle Accidents	28	23	5	—	—	4	10	4	10	8	6	6	8
All other Accidents	66	30	36	3	2	2	12	6	41	22	13	17	14
Suicide	35	17	18	—	—	—	7	17	11	7	10	8	10
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes	4272	2115	2157	106	16	21	203	930	2996	1092	1265	1043	872

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths under one year was 106, the infantile mortality rate being 23 per 1,000 births. This compares with a rate of 22 for 1950 and 26 for 1949.

For the ten years ending 1941 the average infantile mortality rate was 52 while for the ten years ending 1951 the average rate was 33.

Maternal Mortality

Three deaths occurred from accidents and diseases of pregnancy. This is equivalent to a rate of .64 for 1,000 live and still births, compared with .64 in 1950 and .19 in 1949.

INFECTIVE DISEASES

The number of deaths from notifiable infectious diseases, including all forms of tuberculosis, was 173. There were also 151 deaths from non-notifiable diseases of an infective nature.

From all infective diseases the death-rate was .97 per 1,000.

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

Smallpox

No case occurred in the Borough during the year.

Notification is frequently received from the Port Authorities of persons coming into the Borough who may have been in contact with Smallpox. Observation for the necessary period is kept on these persons by members of the Public Health Department.

Diphtheria

There were no confirmed cases during the year. Forty-five cases were reported, but after admission to hospital were found to be incorrectly diagnosed.

Scarlet Fever

414 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified or reported compared with 584 in 1950, 495 in 1949 and 452 in 1948. The diagnosis was not confirmed in twelve cases.

There were no deaths from the disease in 1951 compared with one in 1950.

Whooping Cough

984 cases were notified during the year. There were two deaths.

TABLE IV.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	No. of CASES OF INFECTIVE DISEASES GROUPED IN AGE PERIODS.									
	Total	Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and upwards
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	402	—	27	92	236	28	10	8	1	—
Measles	4299	114	925	1301	1791	79	48	39	1	1
Whooping Cough... ..	984	74	215	278	382	12	6	17	—	—
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever...	5	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery... ..	117	1	12	9	17	8	8	23	20	19
Erysipelas... ..	67	—	1	1	—	—	4	11	31	19
Scabies	35	—	3	2	5	1	8	12	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	99	—	—	—	—	—	35	64	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	11	2	—	—	6	1	—	1	1	—
Acute Encephalitis	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia :—										
Acute Influenzal	310	11	18	17	19	11	8	58	77	91
Acute Primary										
Tuberculosis—All forms... ..	716	4	16	13	18	17	188	312	117	31
Food Poisoning	148	—	8	9	18	8	20	54	25	6
TOTAL	7206	210	1226	1722	2497	166	337	602	276	170

TABLE V.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIVE DISEASES OCCURRING IN EACH WARD.																				Whole Borough	Deaths
	PUTNEY					CENTRAL					CLAPHAM					STREATHAM						
	Putney	Thamesfield	Fairfield	West Hill	Southfield	Earlsfield	Springfield	Tooting	Graveney	Bedford	Larkhall	Clapham North	Clapham Park	Thornton	Balham	Streatham Hill	St. Leonards	Streatham Common	Streatham South	Furzedown		
	Putney	Thamesfield	Fairfield	West Hill	Southfield	Earlsfield	Springfield	Tooting	Graveney	Bedford	Larkhall	Clapham North	Clapham Park	Thornton	Balham	Streatham Hill	St. Leonards	Streatham Common	Streatham South	Furzedown		
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	16	18	8	10	15	38	19	51	20	11	25	18	12	11	24	11	19	46	16	14	402	—
Measles	119	94	276	139	162	258	189	412	280	283	227	161	190	207	189	213	226	239	157	278	4299	4
Whooping Cough	31	49	46	49	42	67	63	102	84	77	48	36	26	23	37	42	38	61	23	40	984	2
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Dysentery	3	—	2	5	2	4	15	14	30	5	3	2	8	1	3	6	2	7	—	5	117	—
Erysipelas	2	4	1	6	7	2	5	6	16	4	1	—	2	—	5	—	1	2	—	3	67	—
Scabies	—	—	3	1	3	12	—	—	5	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	3	1	—	35	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	3	4	6	3	2	7	10	4	5	2	15	2	9	5	4	2	7	3	4	99	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Acute Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	11	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	1
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia :—																						
Acute Influenzal	12	15	9	5	1	7	7	11	14	4	3	3	5	2	—	8	1	5	5	6	123	32
Acute Primary	2	—	11	10	13	16	24	40	13	6	7	12	4	2	5	4	3	3	6	6	187	27
Tuberculosis—All forms	30	38	37	26	31	35	24	50	39	48	27	52	39	43	48	37	37	22	20	33	716	107
Food Poisoning	—	—	48	4	1	55	1	2	21	1	2	3	—	2	1	3	1	—	3	—	148	—
TOTAL	219	221	448	262	283	497	357	700	526	448	347	303	290	303	319	330	332	396	236	389	7206	173

Measles

The number of cases notified during the year was 4,299, compared with 1,720 in 1950, 2,969 in 1949 and 2,668 in 1948.

Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year 99 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Twenty-nine cases of this disease were notified or reported during the year, of which 18 were subsequently not confirmed. Of the remaining 11 confirmed cases, four were of the paralytic type and seven non-paralytic. No deaths occurred.

In 1950, 40 cases were confirmed with seven deaths.

Acute Encephalitis (Post-infectious)

Five cases were notified with one death.

Meningococcal Infection

Two confirmed cases were notified. There were no deaths. 22 other cases were investigated, but were subsequently not confirmed.

In the previous year there were 11 cases with four deaths.

Dysentery

122 cases were notified or reported during the year, 24 being from institutions. Five cases were subsequently held not to be dysentery.

Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever

Ten cases were reported during the year, two of which were subsequently confirmed as typhoid and three as para-typhoid. Diagnosis was not confirmed in the remaining cases. There were no deaths.

Influenza

The number of deaths from Influenza was 122 compared with 35 in 1950, 45 in 1949, 10 in 1948 and 44 in 1947.

The death rate was .36 per 1,000.

Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia

These are the notifiable forms of pneumonia.

123 cases of acute influenzal pneumonia and 187 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified. 32 of the former and 27 of the latter died.

The total number of deaths credited to all forms of pneumonia during the year was 161 compared with 132 in 1950.

Malaria

Two cases were notified. Both were recurrent cases.

Erysipelas

67 cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

Other Infective Diseases

22 deaths occurred from syphilis.

Scabies

35 cases were notified.

117 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. 64 other persons received cleansing treatment for various conditions.

Food Poisoning

148 cases were notified during the year. 99 were individual cases, and 18 were outbreaks involving two or more persons and comprising 49 cases in all.

The majority of the cases were only slightly affected and by the time notification was received and investigation carried out they had recovered. In most cases, too, the suspected foods were not available for examination and in six cases only was it possible to submit any food remains for examination. In four of these cases the examination revealed no organisms likely to be responsible for food poisoning. In the other two cases, the cultures yielded strains of *staphylococcus aureus* and, *Cl. Welchii* respectively.

Diseases Reported from Schools

A total of 4,601 infective diseases was reported from schools in the Borough throughout the year. The numbers of each disease were :—

Scarlet Fever	...	246	Chicken Pox	...	1484
Diphtheria	...	—	Whooping Cough	...	385
Measles	...	1569	Mumps	...	712
German Measles	...	159	Ringworm	...	8
Poliomyelitis	...	3	Scabies	...	3
Other Diseases		...	32		

Disinfection

During the year 1,581 rooms were disinfected after infectious disease and 524 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.

The following is a summary of examinations made during the year :—

Cultures for diphtheria	...	...	...	...	259
Faeces for the typhoid and dysentery groups	...	...	...	...	89
Miscellaneous specimens	...	...	...	...	29
					—
Total					377
					—

NON-INFECTIVE DISEASES

The total number of deaths from cancer and malignant disease was 714, the number of males being 369 and females 345. The death-rate was 2.14 per 1,000. The number of deaths in 1951 was 48 less than in 1950.

1,564 deaths occurred from disease of the heart and circulatory system compared with 1,481 in 1950. 1,285 of these deaths were of persons of 65 years of age and above.

There were 572 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system compared with 421 in 1950. The number from bronchitis was 375 compared with 259 in 1950, and from pneumonia (all forms), 161 compared with 132 in 1950. Further particulars relative to pneumonia are given on page 143

129 deaths were due to violence, 20 of them being due to motor accidents, 35 to suicide and 66 to other forms of violence.

INQUESTS

Inquests were held on 80 persons who died in the Borough and on 115 Borough residents who died elsewhere.

Seven verdicts of death from natural causes were returned and 120 of accidental death; there were 41 suicides, seven open verdicts, three verdicts of chronic alcoholism, 14 of misadventure and three of injuries following judicial hanging.

CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AND INOCULATION

A number of requests were received from residents in the Borough for a certificate of vaccination or inoculation to be authenticated for the purpose of travel abroad. The signature of the person issuing the certificate was verified in each case as that of a registered medical practitioner practising in Wandsworth and the certificate was endorsed accordingly.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications.—The total number of new cases which came to the notice of the Department during 1951 was 716 compared with 671 in 1950.

The sources of information regarding the 716 new cases were as follows:—

Primary notifications on Form A ...	...	...	505
Notifications from H.M. Forces ...	...	...	5
Unnotified at death ...	...	...	19
Transfers from other sanitary authorities ...	...	...	187
Total ...	...	...	716

Deaths.—The number of deaths certified as due to diseases of a tuberculous nature was 107.

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

TABLE VI.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
1—3 ...	6	7	1	2	—	—	—	—
3—5 ...	4	7	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	10	6	2	—	—	—	—	1
10—15 ...	8	6	—	3	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	71	104	7	6	1	3	1	3
25—45 ...	158	142	7	5	14	11	1	1
45—65 ...	88	26	—	2	34	12	1	2
65 and upwards...	24	5	—	3	16	3	—	2
TOTALS ...	370	305	18	23	66	29	3	9

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH

Work of the Sanitary Inspectors

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

TABLE VII.

	In- spections.	Re- In- spections.	Total.
To investigate complaints	9996	37472	47468
Housing reports	995	57	1052
Notifiable diseases	1017	150	1167
Piggeries	45	—	45
Factories, Workplaces, etc. (including Outworkers)	672	101	773
Sanitary conveniences	65	—	65
Mews and stables	183	—	183
Other inspections	4513	1608	6121
TOTAL	17486	39388	56874
Smoke observations	—	—	73
Legal proceedings, Attendances at Court	—	—	78

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

The number of drains which were tested was 687 and 1,217 were cleansed or repaired. The drains of 54 houses were reconstructed.

Damp conditions have been remedied in 4,034 premises, and in 69 of these damp courses were inserted.

TABLE VIII.

	Putney	Central	Clapham	Streatham	Whole Borough
1. Premises cleansed and repaired ...	913	742	891	350	2896
2. Drains tested	145	143	218	181	687
3. Drains cleansed or repaired ...	304	311	316	286	1217
4. Water closets cleansed or repaired...	242	126	215	175	758
5. Soil pipes repaired	30	33	41	12	116
6. Waste pipes altered or repaired ...	61	53	87	58	259
7. Rainwater pipes repaired	51	61	76	36	224
8. Roofs and gutters repaired...	566	670	590	235	2061
9. Damp courses inserted	44	14	4	7	69
10. Damp conditions otherwise remedied	492	455	481	252	1680
11. Yards drained or paved	53	11	24	10	98
12. Dustbins provided or repaired ...	61	76	63	55	255
13. Water cisterns cleansed, covered or repaired	28	19	13	16	76
14. Water supply reinstated	53	15	19	7	94
15. Defective fireplaces remedied ...	195	161	144	60	560
16. Defective coppers remedied ...	4	2	4	—	10
17. Accumulations of rubbish, etc., removed	32	5	23	8	68
18. Urinals cleansed or repaired ...	—	—	5	—	5
19. Animals improperly kept	2	1	6	3	12
20. Smoke nuisances	3	6	—	—	9
21. Other nuisances	108	54	128	83	373
TOTAL	3387	2958	3348	1834	11527
No. of Preliminary Notices served ...	1225	1305	1170	673	4373
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	1379	1420	1403	728	4930
No. of Nuisance Notices served ...	357	374	342	174	1247
No. of Nuisance Notices complied with...	406	405	441	196	1448

Water Supply—Cutting-off Notices

During the year, 83 notices with respect to 103 premises were received from the Metropolitan Water Board stating that the supply had been withdrawn.

In 29 premises the water supply was cut off for non-payment of rates, 65 because of defects in the service, and in nine the premises became vacant.

Dustbin Accommodation—Section 105, Public Health (London) Act, 1936

During the year action was taken under Section 105 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, in respect of 301 premises, and 255 dustbins were provided.

In three cases appeals were made by the owners to the London County Council. The appeals were not allowed.

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.

2,182 rat and mice complaints were received during the year.

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

No. of operatives' visits to premises	12,460
„ „ premises prebaited and treated with poison ...	1,309
„ „ premises prebaited and found not troubled ...	318
„ „ premises investigated and found not troubled	304
„ „ prebaits laid	37,905
„ „ poison baits laid	9,576
„ „ drains tested by Sanitary Inspector	357
„ „ drains found defective	191
„ „ rats estimated killed	10,505

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 1951, 137 certificates were issued and the amount collected was £41.4.0.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.—National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47

During the year it was found necessary to take court action under the above Act in one case only, that of an old lady, aged 74 years, who was living alone in a self-contained flat under insanitary conditions and physically incapacitated and unable to devote to herself proper care and attention.

A court order was granted for a period of three months and the old lady was removed to a home under the control of the London County Council.

Eradiction 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 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 253 houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and disinfection 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 or flats are freed from vermin. Hydrogen cyanide gas is used for the disinfection 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 340 bodies were received there.

Under the Crematorium Regulations, 1930, 1,243 cremations were authorised during 1951 as compared with 968 in 1950.

HOUSING**Statistics Relating to Housing****Public Health Act**

No. of houses inspected on account of complaints or illness	...	...	...	...	...	11,013
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	37,622
Number of statutory notices served:						
Intimation notices	...	...	...	...	...	4,373
Nuisance notices	...	...	...	...	...	1,247
Number of houses repaired or nuisances remedied						4,930

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	...	nil.
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		4
Number of houses demolished:		
(a) In pursuance of Orders under Section XI of the Housing Act, 1936	...	nil.
(b) Voluntarily	...	nil.
Number of rooms on which Closing Orders were made (excluding underground rooms)	...	nil.
Number of Closing Orders determined	...	nil.

Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936)

Number of families found to be living in overcrowded conditions	151
Number of overcrowded families who have obtained alternative accommodation ...	60
Number of dwellings erected by the Borough Council for working classes during year ...	251

Underground Rooms

Number occupied but unfit	12
Number closed or modified occupation approved	28
Number of Closing Orders determined	nil.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Number in Borough	3
Number of inspections	11
Number of prosecutions	nil.
Number of complaints remedied under the By-laws (not included under any other heading)	1

Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920-1939

During the year seven applications were received from occupiers that their houses were not in a reasonable state of repair. In one case the application was acceded to and a Statutory Certificate was granted. In two cases the applicants were not eligible, and in four cases certificates were not granted.

Clearance of Insanitary Houses

On 23rd January, 1951, the St. Alphonsus Road Area, represented by me in the previous year, was declared a Clearance Area in accordance with Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1836 as amended by the Housing Act, 1949.

Closing Orders were made during the year on basement premises at 19, Angles Road, 342, Streatham High Road, and 7, Hyacinth Road. The customary notice was served on the owner of the basement premises of 39, Victoria Drive, after I had made official representation. The basement premises of 43, Mount Ephraim Road, on which the Council made a Closing Order on 27th June, 1950, were found to have been re-occupied in contravention of the order, and the Town Clerk was instructed to institute proceedings, if necessary, against the owner.

Demolition Orders were made on 11 and 13, Willard Street.

The Council also approved an application to use for food storage the converted premises of 3, Aldis Mews, on which a Closing Order was made in 1935 when they were occupied for human habitation.

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 Public Health Laboratory and the supervision of dairy premises.

The other three Inspectors, are designated Food Inspectors and supervise all other premises where food is sold, stored, manufactured or prepared for sale. One third of the Borough is allocated to each Inspector. The three Inspectors also 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.

The total number of food premises on the register in the Borough is 2,685 and during 1951 they were visited on 37,087 occasions. Table IX has been drawn up to show the number of visits to various food premises in different parts of the Borough.

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.

During the year 21 applications have been received from persons to be registered as distributors of milk. In each case the certificate of registration was granted. Seventeen notices of cancellation of registration have been received. At the end of the year there were 194 persons on the register, including 18 persons with premises outside the Borough. Two applications for registration of premises as dairies and one notice of cancellation of registration were received during the year. There were 31 dairies on the register at the end of the year.

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.

TABLE IX.—SUMMARY OF VISITS BY FOOD INSPECTORS

	Putney	Thamesfield	Fairfield	West Hill	Southfield	Earlsfield	Springfield	Tooting	Gravendy	Bedford	Larkhall	Clapham North	Clapham Park	Thornton	Balham	Streatham Hill	St. Leonards	Streatham Common	Streatham South	Furzedown	Whole Borough
Dairies and Shops distributing Milk ...	8	128	75	32	79	83	52	108	119	25	107	104	112	82	104	75	52	113	9	45	1514
Restaurant Kitchens ...	63	74	105	40	30	53	15	79	86	19	81	114	88	70	73	40	138	16	14	20	1218
Ice Cream Premises ...	71	129	98	36	65	35	31	85	160	25	104	131	69	140	105	66	182	41	37	35	1665
Butchers' Shops ...	242	252	238	78	173	186	39	122	302	61	194	152	98	250	118	117	320	39	54	133	3168
Greenrocers' Shops ...	35	42	41	54	12	19	26	45	210	35	90	68	17	133	176	27	56	16	45	44	1191
Fishmongers' Shops ...	27	59	29	38	26	34	30	63	56	9	64	52	20	87	79	25	88	15	32	33	866
Fried Fish Shops ...	5	25	14	3	33	7	15	5	45	4	69	43	—	15	2	4	3	9	17	53	371
Market Stalls ...	300	1035	330	410	442	239	640	1444	7131	—	65	571	68	6372	502	—	1213	—	—	198	20960
Other Premises ...	265	380	678	104	349	310	152	293	523	62	363	368	162	525	349	239	440	113	155	260	6091
Slaughterhouses ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
TOTAL INSPECTIONS ...	1016	2128	1608	795	1209	966	1000	2244	8632	240	1176	1603	634	7674	1508	593	2492	364	364	841	37087
Smoke ...	4	3	3	4	1	22	25	...	4	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Piggeries ...	...	15	...	13	...	12	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Bakehouses ...	20	13	15	...	23	14	11	2	9	4	33	14	4	5	12	9	14	1	5	8	216

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

742 samples of milk were submitted for analysis. 740 of these were reported as genuine; 22 of which were samples of Channel Island and South Devon milks with an average fat content of 4.26 per cent. The remaining 718 genuine samples had an average fat content of 3.60 per cent.

**The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-50,
and The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised
Milk) Regulations, 1949-50**

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

They provide for the issue of licences to persons who sell milk under any of the following designations:

- " Accredited,"
- " Pasteurised,"
- " Sterilised,"
- " Tuberculin Tested."

The following licences for the sale of milk under these designations were granted during the year:

Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Total							582

A person who holds a " Tuberculin Tested " licence and a " Pasteurised " or " Sterilised " licence may use the designations " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) " or " Tuberculin Tested (Sterilised) " as the case may be.

432 samples of milk were procured from distributors, schools, hospitals and institutions and were submitted to the phosphatase test, the methylene blue test and the turbidity test. Seven of these failed to comply with the prescribed tests.

In addition 14 samples of milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli. In each case negative results were obtained.

Meat

There are 216 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. 3,168 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 43 occasions during the year.

Sixteen carcasses of pigs were inspected before and after slaughter. One mesentery and one liver were found to be diseased and were condemned.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1951

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 12 war time piggeries in this Borough and they were inspected on 45 occasions.

Unsound Food

142 varieties of foodstuffs suspected to be unsound were examined at the request of the owners and afterwards either destroyed or released for animal feeding. The owners were granted a certificate 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 persons on the Council's list at the end of 1951 was 404, and 794 visits were made to the premises of the listed persons by the Food Inspectors

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

TABLE X.—PART II OF POISONS LIST.

Principal Business	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
Grocers	243	458
Hairdressers	19	44
Drug Stores	25	51
Domestic Stores, Ironmongers, etc. ...	109	225
Nurserymen and Florists	5	11
Confectioners... ..	3	5
TOTAL	404	794

Bakehouses

There are 85 bakehouses in the Borough, of which 22 are in basements and subject to the provisions of Section 54 of the Factories Act, 1937. 216 visits were made to these premises by Food Inspectors during the year.

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 14 artesian wells in the Borough. The water from seven of these wells is used for drinking and in the manufacture of food. 27 samples of water from 11 of the wells were examined for contamination, the remaining three were not in use pending repairs. Nine were found to be free from pollution and were fit for drinking purposes. The water from the two wells found to be unfit is not used for drinking or food manufacture.

The water to a public drinking fountain, which was formerly a spring supply, is now supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

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 87 applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14(1)(a) and 18 applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14(1)(b) were submitted to the Council. In all cases the premises were found to be satisfactory and the registration 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 Analysis of Ice-Cream

During the year 174 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 XI.

Methylene Blue Test.		Coliform Test.	
Provisional Grade	No. of Samples	Coliform in 1/10th ml. (non-faecal)	No. of Samples
1	57	Bacillus coli—absent	69
2	10	„ „ —present	17
3	13		
4	5	Faecal coli—present	1
TOTAL ...	85	TOTAL ...	87

Two samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, which was nullified due to interference of colouring matter.

In addition one sample of ice lollies was examined following two cases of dysentery. No pathogenic organisms were isolated.

Analysis of Food and Drugs

1,874 samples of foods and drugs were procured for analysis during the year. 742 samples of milk, 916 other foodstuffs and 216 drugs. Of these 680 were submitted as formal samples while 1,194 were purchased informally. Two or 0.3 per cent. of the formal samples and 28 or 2.3 per cent. of the informal samples were found to be adulterated or not up to standard. The total adulterations reported were 30 or 1.6 per cent. of the samples submitted.

The 30 samples found to be adulterated were:— five samples of canned cherries, two of tincture of iodine, two of milk, two of sherbet, two of fruit preserving tablets, two of pork sausages, three of ice-cream, one each of horseradish sauce, French capers, Sweetphat, tartaric acid, sliced bread, boracic ointment, chocolate sweets, meat, sandwich biscuits, Quaker Oats, wafer biscuits and canned tomato soup.

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 13 of the above Act were taken in respect of a shop where food intended for sale was prepared or stored and which did not comply with the statutory requirements. The Court fined the defendant £3 and ordered him to pay £4 4s. costs.

FOOD STANDARDS (GENERAL PROVISIONS) ORDER, 1944

Cream

The Food Standards (Cream) Order, 1951,, prescribes the following standards for cream:—

Single cream	...	...	18 per cent. milk fat
Sterilised cream	...	...	23 " " " "
Double cream	...	...	48 " " " "
Clotted cream	...	...	48 " " " "

Two samples of single cream, one of sterilised cream and four of double cream were examined and were found to comply with the above standard.

Ice-cream

The Food Standards (Ice-cream) Order, 1951, prescribes the following standard for ice-cream:—

5 per cent. of fat

10 per cent. of sugar

7½ per cent. of milk solids other than fat

Thirty-four samples of ice-cream were examined for each of these constituents. Three samples were found to be below the required standard, two being deficient in sugar and one being deficient in fat.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS

A sample of fish cakes and frying fat was examined after a case of suspected food poisoning. No organisms likely to be responsible for food poisoning were isolated.

Four samples of synthetic cream, together with two containers in which the cream is despatched, were taken from a factory in this Borough. *Bacillus coli* was not found and cultures remained sterile in each case.

One sample of synthetic cream was examined following cases of para-typhoid in another Borough. All cultures remained sterile.

Four samples of synthetic cream were taken from a firm packing the cream for sale by retail. Coliform organisms were found to be present in one of the four samples.

Three samples of synthetic cream were obtained from retailers in the Borough. Pathogenic organisms were not isolated in the samples.

Five samples of luncheon meat were submitted to a bacteriological examination following a question as to their fitness for sale. In each case they were found to be fit for sale.

One sample of tinned crab-meat was submitted for examination following a case of food poisoning. Organisms found suggested that the tin was not quite sterile as regards its contents.

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 ...	723	197	8	—
(2) Factories not included above in which Section 7 of the Act is enforced by the Local Authority ...	1187	323	20	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	6	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1916	520	28	—

(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. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	—	3	—
Overcrowding ...	1	1	—	1	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	2	2	—	2	—
Inadequate ventilation	6	5	—	3	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient ...	8	6	—	3	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	29	17	—	11	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	18	13	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	67	47	—	24	—

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	579	—	—
Household linen	18	—	—
Curtains	3	—	—
Furniture and upholstery	8	—	—
Umbrellas, etc.	1	—	—
Artificial flowers	3	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	1	—	—
Tents	3	—	—
Paper bags... ..	6	—	—
Boxes or other receptacles made wholly or partially of paper	24	—	—
Brush making	1	—	—
Feather sorting	1	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	1	—	—
Stuffed toys	2	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, etc.	28	—	—
Lampshades	67	—	—
	746	—	—

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR 1951

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the work performed in the laboratory for your Council during the year ended 31st December, 1951. In doing so, I deeply regret that the signature of Mr. A. H. M. Muter, F.R.I.C., F.C.S., the Public Analyst, will not be found at the conclusion of the report, as he died in February. He had almost completed 40 years of service in that capacity, though his connection with the Council was even longer as he was Deputy Analyst for Dr. John Muter for some years. It is interesting to recall that Dr. Muter became Public Analyst to the Wandsworth Board of Work in January 1873. Thus father and son were Public Analysts to the people of Wandsworth for a continuous period of more than 79 years.

I was appointed Deputy Public Analyst by the Council in 1941, and I have continued to act in this capacity during the year under review.

By virtue of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, I have to report that 1,874 samples were examined under the Act during the year ended 31st December, 1951, 1,658 and 216 drugs. All were submitted by your Council's Food Inspector, 680 having been taken with the formalities required by the Act and 1,194 informally.

Samples of the following substances were analysed: bacon 17 samples; beverages (cocoa, coffee, etc.) 47; biscuits 39; butter 31; cereals 78; cheese 33; cooking fat 29; fish, canned, 18; fruit, canned, 28; ice-cream 34; jam and marmalade 22; margarine 30; meat products 31; milk 742; pickles and sauces 25; soup, canned, 33; spices and condiments 24; sugar 30; tea 29; vegetables, canned, 53; aspirin tablets 45; iodine solutions 29; laxative oils 40; ointments 53.

Adulterated Samples

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

Case No.	Nature of sample	Nature of Report
Formal 54	Milk	2% extraneous water.
584	Milk	5% deficient in milk fat.
Informal 1175	Horseradish sauce	Flavourless. Old stock.
1176	French capers	Flavour unpleasant. Old stock.
1177	" Sweetphat "	Rancid.
1203	Tartaric acid	Cream of tartar.
1218	Sherbet	Contained magnesium carbonate, giving an alkaline reaction; taste unpleasant.
1219	Sherbet	
1420	Sliced bread	
1469	Fruit preserving tablets	Particles of wood on faces of slices. 20% deficient in sulphur dioxide.
Informal 1471	Boric ointment	Formula of B.P. 1932.
1493	Ice-cream	Deficient in sugar.
1534	Ice-cream	Deficient in fat.
1595	Fruit preserving tablets	18% deficient in sulphur dioxide.*
1607	Canned cherries	Excessive dye; taste unpleasant.
1746	Chocolate sweets	Contained a purple dyestuff unequally distributed.
1770	Pork sausages	9% deficient in meat.
1777	Meat	Stained in part with cochineal dye.
1784	Sandwich biscuits	Filling rancid.
1890	Pork sausages	7% deficient in meat.
1897	Ice-cream	14% deficient in sugar (sucrose).
1901	Tincture of iodine	35% deficient in potassium iodide.
74	Quaker oats	Odour of paraffin, a few mites.
75	Wafer biscuits	Acid value of fat too high, 5.3.
135	Canned cherries	Sample developed sulphuretted hydrogen; taste unpleasant.
253	Concentrated canned tomato soup	Contained tin, 5.2 grains per pound.
276	Canned cherries	Punctured; iron present, taste strongly astringent.
277	Canned cherries	Blown; iron and hydrogen present; taste strongly astringent.
278	Canned cherries	
326	Tincture of iodine	Iodine 32% deficient; potassium iodide 40% deficient.

Adulteration

The amount of adulteration detected during the year was:—

For formal samples	...	...	0.3 per cent.
For informal samples	...	...	2.3 per cent.
For all samples	...	...	1.6 per cent.

Complaint Samples

- Case No. 1420. Sliced Bread.** Small pieces of material adhering to the surface of the slice of bread were found to consist of wood. The complaint was therefore considered justified.
- Case No. 1607. Canned Cherries.** The cherries had been strongly dyed and the dye had stained the lacquer of the tin. The cherries themselves possessed an unpleasant flavour. The complaint was considered justified.
- Cases Nos. 1670 and 1671. Potatoes.** These samples were suspected to have caused sickness. No. 1670 was a sample of cooked potatoes and No. 1671 was a sample of raw potatoes. No substance was detected which might have caused sickness. It is possible for new potatoes, sold while immature, to cause sickness.
- Case No. 1679. Canned Plums.** The plums examined were of excellent quality. They did not resemble, except in size, the plums complained of which were green and unpalatable. The complaint was considered not justified.
- Case No. 1746. Chocolate Sweets.** These sweets contained a purple dye which was not evenly distributed throughout the mixture. More care should have been exercised in triturating the dyestuff used before incorporating with the other materials. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1770. Pork Sausages.** The complainant alleged that the sausages were deficient in meat. The meat content was 56.0 per cent. and the sample was therefore 9 per cent. deficient in meat. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1777. Cooked Meat.** This sample was partly covered with a red colouring matter. The colour was due to the meat being partly immersed in a dilute solution of cochineal colouring.

- Case No. 1784. Sweet Biscuits.** The filling from the biscuits had a strong taste similar to coconut oil and left an unpleasant taste on the palate. The fat was rancid. The complaint was considered justified.
- Case No. 1861. Canned Processed Peas.** A complaint had been made of the colouring matter used. The sample was found to be quite satisfactory and the complaint considered not justified.
- Case No. 1866. Canned Garden Peas.** The complaint in this case was of foreign matter, stalks, pods, etc., present with the peas. The sample was found to be satisfactory and the complaint considered not justified.
- Case No. 50. Butter.** This butter was complained of on account of its taste. The sample gave analytical figures showing the characteristics of genuine butter. There was no trace of rancidity nor of any flavour not that of butter. It was somewhat more salty than usual, but not enough to cause a complaint. The complaint was considered not justified.
- Case No. 74. Quaker Oats.** This sample was contaminated with paraffin. The contamination may have occurred before or after purchase. There were also a few living mites present.
- Case No. 75. Sandwich Biscuits.** The extracted fat from the biscuit filling has given an acid value which is much too high for an edible fat. The fat used was coconut oil, the fatty acids from which are much more unpleasant than those derived from other edible oils. The complaint was considered justified.
- Cases Nos. 127 and 128. Canned Gooseberries and Canned Strawberries.** These samples were examined as a possible cause of sickness due to metallic contamination of the contents. Both samples were found to be free from metallic contamination and the complaint considered not justified.
- Case No. 135. Canned Cherries.** These cherries had been prepared by bleaching the fruit and subsequently dyeing. The bleaching agent had not been removed completely before dyeing. As a result a residual amount had remained and resulted in disagreeably smelling compounds. The complaint was considered justified.

Cases Nos. 276, 277 and 278. Canned Cherries. Sample No. 276 was punctured at the seam and there was no pressure of gas in the tin. Samples Nos. 277 and 278 were "blown" and both contained hydrogen. All the samples gave good tests for iron, all the cherries leaving an astringent after-taste. Examination of the lacquer showed that the coating had been attacked at several points, probably due to lack of flexibility of the varnish lacquer used. The cherries were unfit for use and the complaint justified.

Butter and Margarine

The average water content of the 31 samples of butter proved to be 15.0 per cent., that of the 30 samples of margarine 15.0 per cent. The average content of boron preservative in the samples of margarine calculated to boric acid was 0.20 per cent.

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	71	12.35%	3.64%	8.71%
February	76	12.35%	3.63%	8.72%
March	51	12.31%	3.60%	8.71%
April	81	12.14%	3.50%	8.64%
May	59	12.11%	3.37%	8.74%
June	49	12.19%	3.38%	8.81%
July	12	12.18%	3.51%	8.67%
August	82	12.25%	3.57%	8.68%
September	62	12.42%	3.64%	8.78%
October	53	12.54%	3.65%	8.89%
November	75	12.71%	3.80%	8.91%
December	47	12.63%	3.83%	8.80%

The average composition of the 718 samples of milk received during the year and returned as genuine was as under:—

Total milk solids	12.36 per cent.
Milk fat	3.60 per cent.
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Non-fatty solids	8.76 per cent.
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The average composition of the 22 samples of Channel Islands and South Devon milks was as under:—

Total milk solids	13.30 per cent.
Milk fat	4.26 per cent.
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Non-fatty solids	9.04 per cent.
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I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. WOODHEAD, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Ch.C.,
Deputy Public Analyst.

INDEX

	Pages
Accidents, deaths from	6
Acute Encephalitis	11
Analyst, Report of	36
Bacteriological Examinations	27
" " of Milk	31
" " of Ice Cream	20
Bathing Pools and Swimming Pools	21
Bed Bugs, Eradication of	4
Births, Birth Rates	26
Butchers' Shops	18
Cancer	4
Childbirth, deaths from	15
Circulatory diseases	24
Clearance areas	24
Closing Orders	21
Crematorium	23
Cutting-off Notices—Water Supply	7
Deaths, causes of	4
Death Rates	9
Death Rate from Infective Diseases	4
Death Rate, Infantile	6
Deaths, number of	24
Demolition Orders	9
Diphtheria	20
Diseased or Infirm Persons, removal of	14
Disinfection	12
Dysentery	12
Enteric Fever	13
Erysipelas	34
Factories Act, 1937	34
Factories and Workshops	27
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	13
Food Poisoning	33
Food Standards (General Provisions) Order, 1944	25
Food, supervision of... ..	25
Food Factories	26
Food Places, inspection of	26
Food Places, number on Register	17
Houses and premises inspected	22
Houses let in lodgings	23
Housing Act, 1936	22
Housing statistics	21
Hydrogen Cyanide Disinfection	30
Ice Cream, etc., sale and storage of	4
Illegitimate Children, Births of	8
Infant Mortality	

Infective Diseases	9
Infective Diseases, cases of	10
Infective Diseases, death-rate from	9
Infirm or Diseased Persons, removal of	20
Influenza, Deaths and Death-rates	13
Influenzal Pneumonia and acute Primary Pneumonia	13
Influenzal Pneumonia, cases notified	13
Inquests	15
Insanitary Areas	24
Inspections, details of	17
Malaria	13
Maternal Mortality	8
Meat	28
Meningococcal Infection	12
Milk Analysis	40
Milk, Bacteriological Examination of	27
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	27
Milk Premises, etc., on Register	26
Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949-1950	21
Milk Supply	25
Mortuary	21
Non-infective Diseases, deaths from	15
Notification of Infective Diseases	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10
Other Infective Diseases, deaths from	13
Outworkers	35
Overcrowding	23
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	29
Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941	29
Piggeries	28
Pneumonia	13
Poliomyelitis	12
Population	5
Pregnancy, deaths from accident and diseases of	4
Preserved Meat, etc., manufacture of	30
Public Analyst, Report	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, notification of cases of	16
Ragwashing and Sterilisation, Certificates	20
Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Acts, 1920-1939	23
Respiratory Diseases	16
Rodent Control	19
Samples, Formal and Informal, number of	37
Sanitary, Inspection of Borough	17
Sanitary operations, Table of	18
Scabies	13
Scarlet Fever	9
Slaughter-houses	28
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	28
Smallpox	9
Social Conditions	3
Statistics for the Borough	3
Suicide, deaths from	7
Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools	20
Syphilis, deaths from	13
Tuberculosis	16
Unsound Food	28
Water Supply	30
Water Supply, cutting-off Notices	19
Whooping Cough	9
Workshops, number of	34

