

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth, Metropolitan Borough].

Contributors

Wandsworth (London, England).

Publication/Creation

[1954]

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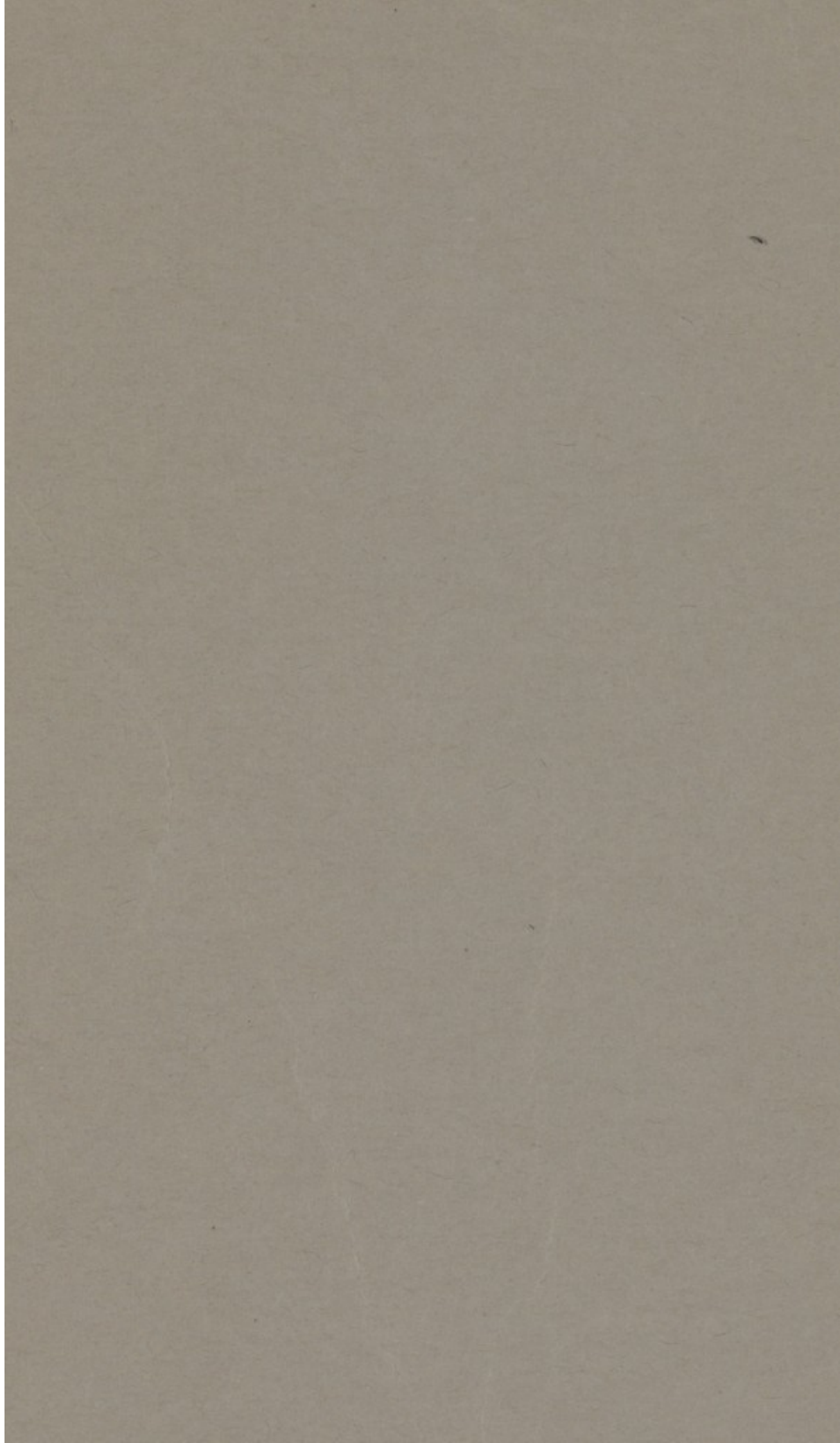
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of
Health
for the Year
1953

by

J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.

together with the

Report of the Public Analyst



REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1953

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

of the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1953. The report covers all aspects of our work and should be consulted for details. What I shall do here is to point out one or two matters of more general interest.

The slight reduction in the population which I noted last year continued in 1953, being 331,000 as compared with 331,700 in 1952. The live birth rate was 13·54, a slight increase over the previous year; while the death rate was 14·86, which was an increase of 2 over 1952—the possible reason for this is mentioned in the body of the report. The infant mortality rate was 23, which was three points above the figure recorded in the previous year. This is below that for the County of London and England and Wales, which in 1953 was 24·8 and 26·8 respectively. While this figure is below the average, it is one which should be reduced even further. The number of deaths from causes associated with child birth was two, a reduction of one over 1952.

There was a slight increase in the number of infectious diseases notified, due to an increased prevalence of measles and especially of whooping cough. The number of cases of tuberculosis, in all its forms, remained almost the same. There were 27 confirmed cases of poliomyelitis and of these 19 were of the paralytic type—unfortunately two of the paralytic cases died. In the previous year there were five deaths from this disease. There were 132 cases of dysentery notified, compared with 230 cases in the previous year. We have continued our special efforts in the investigation and control of this somewhat troublesome, but, fortunately, not severe disease.

Once again, throughout the year, a good deal of attention was paid to the important subject of food hygiene and the supervision of catering establishments, and in the latter part of the year, after due consideration, the Health Committee decided that the District Sanitary Inspectors should be given specific instructions to participate in the day-to-day work of safeguarding the Borough's food supplies. I am sure this was a wise decision which should pay good dividends.

The care and welfare of old people again occupied much of our time, working in close conjunction with both the voluntary bodies which are doing such excellent work for the old people in the Borough, and with the statutory organizations. As the proportion of old people in the population increases, this important part of our work will assume increasing dimensions.

One of the great social and health problems of the post-war period has been the housing of the people. Satisfactory and satisfying living conditions are as important to the individual and even more vital to the welfare of the family as a whole, as are the other essentials of wellbeing—good food, pure and wholesome water and fresh air. No community can ever be a really healthy community or can achieve complete social adjustment until it is satisfactorily housed. A great deal of the work of the Health Department is concerned directly or indirectly with the living conditions of the people of the Borough and we act both under the provisions of the Public Health Act and the Housing Act. Since the War, most of our work has been conducted under the Public Health Act, but during the year, action began to be taken to obtain the clearance of certain unfit houses under the Housing Act, and there are signs that shortly a vigorous attack will be made on houses unfit for human habitation.

The more I see of Public Health work in its wide sense and the practice of social and preventive medicine in the more narrow sense, the more certain do I become that all our efforts to improve the health, welfare and wellbeing of the people must be conducted as a team effort. I made some slight reference to this last year when I referred to the great help, kindness and co-operation which I had received from everyone concerned with the work of the Health Department, and I have the greatest pleasure in repeating that this kindly help was continued unstinted in 1953. I should like particularly to thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor T. V. Rowlands, and to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance which I have received from the Committees with whose work I am

concerned. In the same way, the Chief Officers have done everything to help me, particularly Major Jerman, the Town Clerk. Once again the Officers and Staff of the Health Department in all sections have given me loyal service, and it is a great pleasure to thank particularly the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. G. Harding, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Vickers.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

The following changes occurred during the year.

Resignations

Mr. E. C. George, Sanitary Inspector (service, $4\frac{1}{2}$ years), resigned in March.

Mr. J. D. Miles, Sanitary Inspector (service, 1 year), resigned in March.

Mr. J. Dallimore, Sanitary Inspector (service $2\frac{1}{2}$ years), resigned in August.

Miss M. Richards, Shorthand Typist (service, 18 years), resigned in September.

Miss P. Amy, Shorthand Typist (service, 3 months), resigned in March.

Mrs. D. Pettit, Rodent Operative (service, 7 years), resigned in October.

Mr. S. Boys, Motor Driver, Disinfecting Station (service, 19 years), resigned in July.

Appointments

Mr. J. Higgs, Sanitary Inspector, appointed in January.

Mr. J. Smith, Sanitary Inspector, appointed in June.

Mr. A. Norton, Clerk, appointed in April.

Miss P. Amy, Shorthand Typist, appointed in January.

Miss F. Gunter, Shorthand Typist, appointed in October.

Mr. G. Bamborough, Assistant Supervisor, Disinfecting Station, appointed in March.

Mr. F. Butcher, Motor Driver, Disinfecting Station, appointed in August.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area 9,107 acres

Resident population in 1953 331,000

Wandsworth is the largest of the Metropolitan Boroughs. It has an area of 9,107 acres which includes a number of open spaces, with an approximate combined area of 1,200 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.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Number of Live Births:—

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	2,173	2,026	4,199
Illegitimate	..	..	..	144	140	284
Total live births				2,317	2,166	4,483

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of stillbirths	..	..	..	57	50	107
Number of deaths	..	..	..	2,216	2,703	4,919
Birth-rate				13.54		
Death-rate				14.86		

Rate per 1,000
(Live and Still) Births

Deaths from puerperal causes 2 0.43

Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births:—

All infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Legitimate infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Illegitimate infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Deaths from Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,056
„ „ Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ „ Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ „ Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ „ Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Tuberculosis death-rate .. 0.22							

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The civilian population at the middle of the year was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 331,000, 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 1953
Putney	84,626
Central	95,041
Clapham	79,674
Streatham	71,659
Whole Borough	331,000

Births

The total number of births belonging to the Borough registered during 1953 was 4,483, consisting of 2,317 males and 2,166 females. The number for 1952 was 4,374.

The birth-rate was 13·54 per 1,000 persons living, compared with 13·18 for 1952.

The rate for the whole of London during 1953 was 17·5 and for England and Wales 15·5.

Two hundred and eighty-four illegitimate births took place in the Borough compared with 237 in 1952.

Deaths

The number of registered deaths which took place in the Borough during the year was 3,659 but 222 of these did not belong to the Borough, while 1,482 Borough residents died outside the Borough.

The corrected number of deaths for the Borough, after allowing for these factors, was 4,919 of whom 2,216 were males and 2,703 females.

The increase in the number of deaths is very largely accounted for by alterations in the allocation of deaths as set out in the Registrar General's memorandum enclosed with his Circular G.R.O. (M.O.H.) No. 4/1952.

The new procedure aims at assigning deaths to the area of the usual residence of the deceased and, as a result, deaths occurring in certain types of hospitals and institutions in the Borough, which, by reason of the patients' original addresses were formerly transferred to other authorities, are now deemed to be not transferable.

The crude death-rate for the year was 14·86, compared with 12·36 for 1952, but after taking into account the area comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, the adjusted rate works out at 12·98. This compares with 12·5 for the whole of London and 11·4 for England and Wales.

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	528	603	1,131	13·35
Central	681	825	1,506	15·84
Clapham	578	791	1,369	17·18
Streatham	429	484	913	12·74
Whole Borough . .	2,216	2,703	4,919	14·86

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 1953

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	67	46	21	—	—	1	19	18	29	15	18	21	13
Tuberculosis, Other	6	1	5	—	2	1	1	2	—	1	2	3	—
Syphilitic Disease	23	14	9	—	—	—	1	7	15	5	7	7	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Meningococcal Infections	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	14	7	7	—	1	—	2	2	9	1	7	4	2
Malignant Neoplasms	1,056	490	566	1	—	1	67	397	590	223	231	425	177
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	8	3	5	—	—	1	2	1	4	2	2	4	—
Diabetes	30	5	25	—	—	—	—	5	25	8	5	11	6
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	473	172	301	—	1	—	10	97	365	128	130	123	92
Diseases of Heart	1,622	672	950	—	—	—	18	201	1,403	349	694	306	273
Other Circulatory Disease	250	97	153	—	—	—	3	34	213	58	68	72	52
Influenza	64	20	44	—	—	—	3	12	49	14	20	21	9
Pneumonia	261	136	125	11	20	9	6	32	183	58	59	87	57
Bronchitis	353	208	145	3	—	—	6	63	281	87	90	92	84
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	37	19	18	—	1	1	7	6	22	10	11	9	7
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	54	36	18	—	—	—	2	10	42	9	15	18	12
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	20	9	11	5	2	—	1	4	8	5	6	5	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	43	21	22	—	—	—	3	11	29	10	12	9	12
Hyperplasia of Prostate	31	31	—	—	—	—	3	9	19	11	6	7	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
Congenital Malformations	31	13	18	19	3	—	6	3	—	12	4	8	7
Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease	324	141	183	59	5	6	19	59	176	92	78	88	66
Motor Vehicle Accidents	25	17	8	—	1	4	7	8	5	2	8	9	6
All other Accidents	75	33	42	1	3	5	11	13	42	19	21	23	12
Suicide	36	17	19	—	—	—	15	15	6	10	6	10	10
Homicide and Operations of War	6	5	1	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	4	2	—
All Causes	4,919	2,216	2,703	104	41	30	220	1,009	3,515	1,131	1,506	1,369	913

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths under one year was 104, the infantile mortality rate being 23 per 1,000 births. This compares with a rate of 20 for 1952 and 23 for 1951.

For the ten years ending 1943 the average infantile mortality rate was 49 while for the ten years ending 1953 the average rate was 28.

Maternal Mortality

Two deaths occurred from accidents and diseases of pregnancy or child-birth. This is equivalent to a rate of 0·43 for 1,000 live and still births, compared with 0·67 in 1952.

INFECTIVE DISEASES

The number of deaths from notifiable infectious diseases, including all forms of tuberculosis, was 167.

From all notifiable infective diseases the death-rate was 0.50 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.

Recent Legislation

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953

These Regulations came into operation on 1st April, 1953, superseding the Infectious Diseases (London) Regulations, 1927.

The new Regulations correspond with the revoked Regulations in requiring notification of malaria, dysentery, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, and in prescribing action, in conformity with the present working of the health services, in relation to the prevention and treatment of enteric, typhus and relapsing fever.

They amplify however, the precautionary measures provided for in the revoked Regulations against food poisoning, by relating them (instead of to enteric fever and dysentery, as formerly) to other salmonella infections, and to staphylococcal infections liable to cause food poisoning.

Smallpox

No case occurred in the Borough during the year.

Notification is frequently received from Port and Local 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.

Scarlet Fever

Three hundred and thirty-six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified or reported compared with 563 in 1952, 414 in 1951, and 584 in 1950. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 13 cases.

No deaths occurred.

Whooping Cough

Nine hundred and twenty-five cases were notified during the year. There were three deaths.

TABLE IV.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NO. OF CASES OF INFECTIVE DISEASES GROUPED IN AGE PERIOD									
	Total	Under 1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and upwards
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	323	3	20	67	174	38	18	3	—	—
Measles	2,850	89	501	432	1,655	118	42	13	—	—
Whooping Cough	925	109	176	211	314	84	30	1	—	—
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever	5	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	—
Malaria	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Dysentery	132	6	13	18	22	6	11	22	16	18
Erysipelas	55	—	—	—	—	1	3	23	17	11
Scabies	39	—	2	1	6	5	9	10	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	182	—	—	—	—	—	61	121	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	5	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	27	3	5	—	3	2	7	5	2	—
Acute Encephalitis	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia:—										
Acute Influenzal	129	4	5	7	4	2	7	23	37	40
Acute Primary	191	4	12	13	27	3	14	32	45	41
Tuberculosis—All forms	663	—	6	11	20	14	132	325	109	46
Food Poisoning	129	2	4	7	12	6	25	55	18	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5,666	226	745	768	2,240	280	365	634	250	158

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		
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	18	13	23	25	28	24	20	28	18	11	20	14	15	7	7	10	9	16	6	11	323	—
Measles	127	73	195	87	160	180	174	260	178	150	172	130	130	122	129	124	110	126	117	106	2,850	1
Whooping Cough .. .	24	42	86	52	49	43	53	123	52	44	68	46	50	19	28	15	20	26	39	46	925	3
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever .. .	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Malaria	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—
Dysentery	7	4	7	1	4	9	10	41	12	2	5	4	3	3	9	1	3	1	2	4	132	1
Erysipelas	3	2	5	4	2	2	5	7	4	4	2	2	3	—	2	2	2	—	2	2	55	—
Scabies	—	4	3	2	2	4	—	3	3	1	4	5	2	—	1	3	1	1	—	—	39	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .	2	1	5	2	4	3	3	7	3	7	4	7	56	45	11	9	2	7	2	2	182	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Meningococcal Infection .. .	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .	4	2	2	4	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	3	—	2	—	1	27	2
Acute Encephalitis .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia:—																						
Acute Influenzal .. .	5	8	5	6	12	8	9	13	5	9	6	8	6	4	5	3	3	5	5	4	129	40
Acute Primary .. .	8	11	12	12	17	18	13	15	5	11	4	10	9	4	4	5	9	8	7	9	191	41
Tuberculosis—All forms .. .	58	24	33	24	28	49	45	49	19	30	22	31	32	34	51	36	18	33	24	23	663	73
Food Poisoning	5	3	29	4	9	21	5	7	5	14	3	1	5	1	3	5	—	4	2	3	129	3
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	265	187	408	223	318	362	339	556	305	284	312	259	314	239	254	217	177	230	206	211	5,666	167

Measles

The number of cases notified during the year was 2,850, compared with 2,290 in 1952, 4,299 in 1951, and 1,720 in 1950.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Seventy-three cases of this disease were notified or reported during the year, of which 46 were subsequently not confirmed. Of the remaining 27 confirmed cases, 19 were of the paralytic type and 8 non-paralytic. Two of the paralytic cases died.

In 1952, 39 cases were confirmed, with five deaths.

Acute Encephalitis

Of nine cases investigated, two were confirmed.

Meningococcal Infection

Five confirmed cases were notified. There were two deaths. Fifteen other cases were investigated, but were subsequently not confirmed.

In the previous year there were seven cases with one death.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

Of seven cases reported during the year, four were subsequently confirmed as typhoid and one as paratyphoid. Diagnosis was not confirmed in the remaining two cases. There were no deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year 182 cases were notified, of which 172 occurred in hospital and 10 at home. Fifty-eight of the hospital notifications referred to patients whose home addresses were outside the borough.

Information was also received of 40 cases, referring to Wandsworth residents whose confinements took place in hospitals located in other Metropolitan boroughs.

Influenza

The number of deaths from Influenza was 64 compared with 26 in 1952, 122 in 1951 and 35 in 1950.

Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia

These are the notifiable forms of pneumonia.

One hundred and twenty-nine cases of acute influenzal pneumonia and 191 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified. Forty of the former, and 41 of the latter died.

The total number of deaths credited to all forms of pneumonia during the year was 261, compared with 180 in 1952.

Malaria

Five cases were notified. Two were recurrent cases, and three were soldiers who had recently returned to this country from service in Korea.

Erysipelas

Fifty-five cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

Other Infective Diseases

Twenty-three deaths occurred from syphilis.

Scabies

Thirty-nine cases were notified.

Ninety-two 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 two applications of benzyl benzoate and received a course of two baths each. Forty-nine other persons received cleansing treatment for various conditions.

Food Poisoning

One hundred and twenty-nine cases were notified during the year. One hundred and four were individual cases, and ten were outbreaks involving two or more persons and comprising 25 cases in all.

The majority of the cases were only slightly affected, and where bacteriological investigation was carried out, organisms likely to have caused the illness were discovered in only two cases.

An outbreak of diarrhoea among patients at a mental institution in the Borough was reported in June. Bacteriological investigation of the patients affected disclosed the presence of *Salmonella typhimurium* in six cases. Two of the latter cases died.

Diseases Reported from Schools

A total of 2,156 infective diseases was reported from schools in the Borough throughout the year. The numbers of each disease were:—

Scarlet Fever	..	221	Chicken Pox	..	..	606
Diphtheria	..	..	Whooping Cough	..	..	145
Measles	..	685	Mumps	..	..	426
German Measles	..	27	Ringworm	..	..	5
Poliomyelitis	..	2	Scabies	..	..	—
Other Diseases						39

Disinfection

During the year 905 rooms were disinfected after infectious and other disease and 339 rooms disinfested for vermin.

Bacteriological Examinations

These examinations continued to be carried out by the Camberwell Public Health Laboratory until the closing of that laboratory on the 30th September, when its Director, Dr. Guy Bousfield, retired.

The association of the Camberwell Laboratory with this Borough has covered a long period, both in its private capacity prior to 1948 and in its public capacity since that year when it came under the administration of the Medical Research Council as a Public Health Laboratory. During the whole of this period, Dr. Bousfield has provided an excellent personal service, giving unstinted help and advice to this department in matters connected with bacteriological work. The happiest relations and closest liaison have existed between his staff and this department.

All bacteriological examinations are now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at County Hall under its Director, Dr. A. J. H. Tomlinson.

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

Nose and throat swabs	..	..	..	..	..	319
Faeces for the typhoid and dysentery groups	..	..	..	..	..	652
Miscellaneous specimens	..	..	..	..	..	6
Total	..	..	..	..	..	977

NON-INFECTIVE DISEASES

The total number of deaths from cancer and malignant disease was 1,056, the number of males being 490 and females 566. The death-rate was 3·19 per 1,000. The number of deaths in 1953 was 251 more than in 1952.

Deaths from disease of the heart and circulatory system were 1,872 compared with 1,504 in 1952. Of these deaths 1,616 were of persons of 65 years of age and above.

There were 651 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system compared with 577 in 1952. The number of deaths from bronchitis was 353 compared with 365 in 1952, and from pneumonia (all forms), 261 compared with 180 in 1952. Further particulars relative to pneumonia are given on page 15.

One hundred and forty-two deaths were due to violence, 25 of them being due to motor accidents, 36 to suicide and 81 to other forms of violence.

CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AND INOCULATION

Eight hundred and thirty-six 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.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

At the request of the Committees and Chief Officers concerned, arrangements were made during the year for 15 members of the Council's staff to undergo special medical examinations. In the majority of cases the purpose of the examination was to determine the employee's future fitness for his occupation, following serious illness, and in one case it was found necessary to recommend superannuation.

Twenty-seven shorter reports on members of the staff who were sick were obtained from doctors and hospitals at the request of the departments concerned.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications

The total number of new cases which came to the notice of the Department during 1953 was 663 compared with 666 in 1952.

The sources of information regarding the 663 new cases were as follows:—

Primary notifications on Form A	..	..	..	..	388
Notifications from H.M. Forces	..	..	..	..	4
Unnotified at death	..	..	..	..	18
Transfers from other sanitary authorities	..	..	..	..	253
Total	..	..	..	..	663

Deaths

The number of deaths certified as due to various forms of tuberculosis was 73.

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 ..	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	1
2-5 ..	5	3	1	4	—	—	—	1
5-10 ..	10	3	3	4	—	1	—	1
10-15 ..	7	3	2	2	—	—	—	—
15-25 ..	56	66	6	4	1	3	—	—
25-45 ..	149	156	9	11	8	7	1	1
45-65 ..	77	28	3	1	13	5	—	1
65 and upwards ..	35	11	—	—	24	5	—	—
Totals ..	339	273	24	27	46	21	1	5

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.

	Inspections	Re- Inspections	Total
To investigate complaints ..	7,987	28,572	36,559
Housing Reports	951	358	1,309
Notifiable diseases	1,199	462	1,661
Piggeries	13	—	13
Factories, Workplaces, etc. (in- cluding Outworkers) ..	1,747	50	1,797
Sanitary conveniences	75	2	77
Mews and stables	256	—	256
Other inspections	5,534	1,616	7,150
Totals	17,762	31,060	48,822

Smoke observations	75
Legal proceedings, attendances at court	17

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

The number of drains which were tested was 701 and 1,075 were cleansed or repaired. The drains of 33 houses were reconstructed.

Damp conditions have been remedied in 1,857 premises, and in 70 of these damp courses were inserted.

TABLE VIII.

	Putney	Central	Clapham	Streatham	Whole Borough
1. Premises cleansed and repaired ..	439	400	446	226	1,511
2. Drains tested	132	120	246	203	701
3. Drains cleansed or repaired ..	281	303	247	244	1,075
4. Water closets cleansed or repaired ..	129	146	161	95	531
5. Soil pipes repaired	25	26	39	9	99
6. Waste pipes altered or repaired ..	38	49	68	70	225
7. Rainwater pipes repaired	36	21	34	18	109
8. Roofs and gutters repaired	298	316	248	145	1,007
9. Damp courses inserted	14	37	14	5	70
10. Damp conditions otherwise remedied	289	285	349	182	1,105
11. Yards drained or paved	19	6	9	16	50
12. Dustbins provided or repaired ..	24	33	39	44	140
13. Water cisterns cleansed, covered or repaired	17	15	14	7	53
14. Water supply reinstated	44	17	25	5	91
15. Defective fireplaces remedied ..	65	116	65	43	289
16. Defective coppers remedied ..	2	1	1	—	4
17. Accumulations of rubbish, etc., removed	13	16	19	6	54
18. Urinals cleansed or repaired ..	1	3	3	—	7
19. Animals improperly kept	1	1	—	3	5
20. Smoke nuisances	5	—	1	—	6
21. Other nuisances	94	78	61	104	337
Total	1,966	1,989	2,089	1,425	7,469
Number of Preliminary Notices served ..	701	894	868	484	2,947
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	776	930	829	510	3,045
Number of Nuisance Notices served ..	176	191	228	113	708
Number of Nuisance Notices complied with	235	226	235	135	831

Water Supply—Cutting-off Notices

During the year, notices with respect to 91 premises were received from the Metropolitan Water Board stating that the supply had been withdrawn.

In 28 premises the water supply was cut off for non-payment of rates, and in 63 premises because of defects in the service.

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 140 premises, and 114 dustbins were provided.

Dustbins were also provided at 26 premises without the necessity of action being taken under the Act.

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.

Rat and mice complaints received during the year totalled 2,027.

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

Number of operatives' visits to premises	10,608
„ „ premises prebaited and treated with poison ..	1,115
„ „ premises prebaited and found not troubled ..	241
„ „ premises investigated and found not troubled	2,137
„ „ prebaits laid	24,138
„ „ poison baits laid	5,882
„ „ drains tested by Sanitary Inspector	410
„ „ drains found defective	209
„ „ rats estimated killed	8,576

At the close of the year there were six rodent operatives and one clerk engaged on rodent control duties 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 recognized 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.

Disinfection and Fumigation of Clothing and Rags for Export

At one factory in the Borough rags are washed and disinfected prior to export, under the supervision of the Council's Inspector, and certificates are issued for which a charge is made. During 1953, 158 certificates were issued and the amount received by this department was £47 8s. 0d.

Disinfection in bulk of clothing intended for export was carried out at the Disinfecting Station and £8 was received for this service during the year.

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

In dealing with the problems of the many aged and infirm persons in the Borough, close liaison has been maintained between the Public Health Staff and those members of the London County Council divisional staff who are concerned with the care of the aged.

This co-operation with the County Council has meant that in dealing with the large number of aged persons whose capacity to look after themselves adequately was in question, it was again possible to make satisfactory arrangements for their care and attention without the necessity of having to take action under 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 application of a blow lamp to the room surfaces. 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 184 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 342 bodies were received there.

Under the Crematorium Regulations, 1930, 1,175 cremations were authorised during 1953 as compared with 1,239 in 1952.

Burial of the Dead

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, it is the responsibility of the Council to arrange for the burial of persons who die or are found dead in the Borough, and for whom no suitable burial arrangements are made or are being made.

The number of persons buried under the provisions of the Act during 1953 was 26.

HOUSING

STATISTICS RELATING TO HOUSING

Public Health (London) Act, 1936

Number of houses inspected on account of complaints of illness	9,186
Re-inspections	29,034
Number of statutory notices served:—	
Intimation notices	2,947
Nuisance notices	708
Number of houses in which nuisances were abated ..	3,001
The number of cases referred to the Solicitor for legal action during 1953 was	148
The following is a summary of Police Court proceedings:—	
Number of summonses served	31
" " " withdrawn	17
" " " adjourned	12
" " Orders made for abatement of nuisances ..	2
Costs awarded in respect of two cases	£2 2s. 0d.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Number of houses inspected—house to house (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	Nil
--	-----

Repair of Houses

Number of notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil
Number of houses made fit for habitation:—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil

Demolition Orders

Number of orders made under Section II of the Housing Act 1936	Nil
Number of houses demolished:—	
(a) as the result of such orders	Nil
(b) voluntarily	Nil

Closing Orders (other than underground rooms)

Number of houses closed (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953)	Nil
Number of such orders determined	Nil
Number of rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 ..	Nil
Number of such orders determined	Nil

Closing Orders (underground rooms)

Number of rooms found to be unfit for habitation ..	28
Number closed or modified occupation approved ..	26
Number of Closing Orders determined	1

Slum Clearance

Number of houses included in representations under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936.. ..	37
Number of houses demolished following such action..	16

Overcrowding

Number of families found to be living in overcrowded conditions	93
Number of overcrowded families who have obtained alternative accommodation	104

New Accommodation

Number of dwellings erected by the borough council during the year... ..	346
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Bye-laws in Respect of Houses Let in Lodgings

Number in Borough (Registered since 1946)	3
Number of inspections made	15
Number of notices served	Nil
Number of prosecutions.. .. .	Nil
Number of complaints remedied	Nil

Housing Accommodation—Medical Priority

During the year, 1,206 of the applications made to the Council for rehousing were referred to me for consideration of additional points on health grounds in accordance with the Council's Points Scheme.

I also made 168 recommendations for transfer on health grounds in respect of applications received from tenants of Council's permanent and requisitioned properties for the provision of more suitable alternative accommodation.

UNFIT HOUSES

Basement Premises

Closing Orders were made on basement premises at 24b Old Devonshire Road, 8 Carlton Drive, 19a Putney Hill, 15 Newby Street, 140 Upper Richmond Road, 21 Christchurch Road, 2 St. Nicholas Mansions, Trinity Crescent, 199a Bedford Hill and 4 Ulva Road. In each case the owners had been invited to submit proposals to render the premises fit for human habitation, but none were received.

My predecessor represented the basement premises at 861a Garratt Lane in 1950, and a Closing Order was made. As a result of alterations by the owner, these premises have now been rendered fit for habitation, and the Closing Order was determined on 20th October.

Clearance Areas

The Council, on 27th January, declared the Dormay Street Area a Clearance Area, after consideration of my official representations submitted on 21st October, 1952. The Council's decision was subsequently confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 18th August.

The Putney Bridge Road and Matrimony Place Areas were similarly declared Clearance Areas on the 24th February and confirmed as such by the Minister on the 12th December.

On the 15th December, I submitted official representations under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, upon the condition of the properties, Nos. 23-31 (odd) Hazelhurst Road, and, in accordance with the usual practice, the Council formally notified the London County Council that a proposal to declare these properties a Clearance Area was under consideration.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

There are four Inspectors engaged wholly 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 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.

In November the Council agreed with my proposal that the district Sanitary Inspectors holding the additional certificate of Inspector for Food and Drugs should take over the day-to-day supervision of the catering establishments in their respective areas.

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 2,716 and during 1953 they were visited on 40,796 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 24 applications have been received from persons to be registered as distributors of milk. In each case the certificate of registration was granted. Fifteen notices of cancellation of registration have been received. At the end of the year there were 207 persons on the register, including 17 persons with premises outside the Borough. 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 TO FOOD PREMISES

	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	Whole Borough
Dairies and Shops distributing Milk ..	42	146	71	49	93	83	49	101	135	35	161	142	132	102	158	83	55	153	51	65	1,906
Restaurant Kitchens ..	69	127	89	43	47	46	30	141	72	31	96	146	73	105	113	33	195	35	18	20	1,529
Ice Cream Premises ..	80	71	50	31	52	41	43	82	178	14	78	157	89	110	82	57	182	26	48	70	1,541
Butchers' Shops ..	253	290	209	126	212	187	50	145	293	56	214	173	90	237	145	124	399	44	63	215	3,525
Greengrocers' Shops ..	78	62	35	43	33	59	28	72	246	53	121	96	26	125	227	23	71	15	62	46	1,521
Fishmongers' Shops ..	24	40	28	25	17	35	22	102	83	11	86	74	42	116	88	36	121	9	35	28	1,022
Fried Fish Shops ..	3	25	10	1	20	18	12	13	50	1	98	52	—	16	3	9	2	5	16	35	389
Market Stalls ..	334	800	324	386	506	254	1,043	1,765	8,853	—	145	617	71	5,337	613	—	948	—	—	198	22,194
Other Premises ..	269	352	805	163	383	290	196	408	564	92	471	508	221	730	345	221	491	96	206	314	7,125
Slaughterhouses ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
Total Visits ..	1,152	1,918	1,621	867	1,363	1,013	1,473	2,829	10,474	293	1,509	1,965	744	6,878	1,774	586	2,464	383	499	991	40,796

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Two hundred and sixty-five samples of milk were submitted for analysis. All were reported as genuine; 39 were samples of Channel Island and South Devon milks with an average fat content of 4.30 per cent. The remaining 226 samples had an average fat content of 3.61 per cent.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-50, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949-50

These regulations, which came into force on 1st October, 1949, provide for the issue of licences to persons who sell milk under any of the following designations:—

“Accredited”

“Pasteurized”

“Sterilized”

“Tuberculin Tested”

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

					<i>Dealers'</i>	<i>Dealers' Supple- mentary</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accredited	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pasteurized	..	..	..	..	168	33	201
Sterilized	..	..	..	..	232	32	264
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	128	32	160
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	..	..	..	..	528	97	625
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Three dealers' (pasteurizers') licences were granted during the year and are included in the above figures.

A person who holds a “Tuberculin Tested” licence and a “Pasteurized” or “Sterilized” licence may use the designations “Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurized)” or “Tuberculin Tested (Sterilized)” as the case may be.

Meat

There are 216 butchers' 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. There were 3,525 visits made to these shops during the year.

Slaughter of Animals

There are three private slaughter-houses in the Borough and they were visited on 44 occasions during the year.

One pig carcase was inspected after slaughter.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-51

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.

Piggeries

There are now seven piggeries in this Borough and they were inspected on 13 occasions.

Unsound Food

One hundred and seventy-two varieties of foodstuff 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 1953 was 399, and 783 visits were made to the premises of the listed persons by the Food Inspectors.

The principal business 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	Number of Premises	Number of Visits
Confectioners	3	4
Domestic stores, ironmongers, etc. .. .	104	208
Drug stores	25	51
Grocers	242	461
Hairdressers	19	45
Nurserymen and florists	6	14
Total	399	783

Bakehouses

There are 82 bakehouses in the Borough, of which 20 are in basements and subject to the provisions of Section 54 of the Factories Act, 1937. One hundred and eighty-two 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.

Registration of Premises

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938

During the year 86 applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14(1)(a) and 14 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.

Public Health (London) Act, Sec. 144

During the year three applications for the renewal of licences under the provisions of Sec. 57 (1) (a), to use premises as slaughterhouses were submitted to the Council and granted.

Bacteriological Examination of Food

Seven hundred and twenty-five samples of food were examined bacteriologically at the Public Health Laboratory during the year. They were as follows:—

Milk (including Raw Raw Milk)	Fresh Cream	Synthetic Cream (Shops and Factories)	Cake Fillings (other than synthetic cream)	Artesian Well Waters	Ice- Cream	Others	Total for 1953
453	25	72	45	16	80	34	725

Milk

Of the 453 samples of milk, 199 were submitted to the phosphatase test, 214 to the methylene blue reduction test, and 23 to the turbidity test. All these samples have been reported as complying with the prescribed tests.

Fifteen samples of raw milk were examined for the presence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Brucella abortus*. In each case negative results were obtained.

Of two samples submitted on receipt of complaints of ratepayers both complaints were found to be justified.

Fresh Cream

Twenty-five samples were examined for the presence of pathogenic organisms. All were reported free of contamination.

Synthetic Cream

Seventy-two samples were examined for the presence of pathogenic organisms. All were reported free of contamination, with the exception of two, both of which had high bacterial counts and non-faecal coli. These have since been rechecked and found free of contamination.

Cake Fillings

Forty-five samples from six shops were examined for the presence of pathogenic organisms. Thirty-nine of these were reported free of contamination. In the remaining six staphylococcus aureus was found. The cake fillings manufactured at the six shops have been rechecked and found free of contamination.

Artesian Well Water

Sixteen samples were submitted for examination, eleven were reported satisfactory, of the remaining five, all had a small plate count and three of these contained non-faecal coli. The five have been rechecked and four of them are now satisfactory. The water from the remaining well is not now being used for drinking purposes.

Ice-cream

During the year 80 samples of ice-cream were tested in accordance with the technique suggested by the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service. In two cases the laboratory was unable to carry out the methylene blue reduction test due to the presence in the ice-cream of certain colouring matters. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Camberwell.

The following table gives a summary of the results:—

Methylene Blue Reduction Test		Coliform Test	
Provisional Grade	Number of Samples	Coliform in 1/10th ml. (non-faecal)	Number of Samples
1	33	Bacillus coli—absent	40
2	4	.. .. —present	0
3	1		
4	0		
Total ..	38	Total	40

In addition, one sample of ice lollie was submitted to the coliform and methylene blue reduction tests. *Bacillus coli* was isolated and provisional grading was grade 1.

Others

The remaining miscellaneous samples were all reported free of pathogenic organisms.

Analysis of Food and Drugs

During the year 1,000 samples of foods and drugs were procured for analysis: 265 samples of milk, 638 other foodstuffs and 97 drugs. Of these 251 were submitted as formal samples while 749 were purchased informally. None of the formal samples, and 2·0 per cent. of the informal samples, were found to be adulterated or not up to standard. The total adulterations reported were 15 or 1·5 per cent. of the samples submitted.

The 15 samples found to be adulterated were:—

three samples of tomato ketchup, two of ice-cream and one each of butter, cakeoma, fizz powder, peppermint flavour, canned beans, fish powder, canned sliced apples, soused herrings, bread, and lemonade powder.

It was not necessary to take Police Court proceedings in any of the above cases of adulterated samples.

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	528	335	8	—
(2) Factories not included above in which Section 7 of the Act is enforced by the Local Authority ..	1,065	1,026	15	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	7	7	1	—
Total	1,600	1,368	24	—

(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	4	3	1	4	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation	2	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	3	3	—	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	77	42	—	24	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	18	14	5	4	—
Total	105	64	6	36	—

PART VIII.

SECTION 110. OUTWORK.

Nature of work	Number of outworkers in August list	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel—making, etc. ..	588	—	—
" " cleaning and	2	—	—
washing	—	—	—
Fur pulling	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery	21	—	—
Umbrellas, etc.	1	—	—
Artificial flowers	4	—	—
Household linen	5	—	—
Paper bags	12	—	—
Boxes or other receptacles made wholly or partially of paper ..	23	—	—
Brush making	—	—	—
Feather sorting	1	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ..	1	—	—
Stuffed toys	4	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, etc.	15	—	—
Lampshades	34	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets ..	1	—	—
Basket making	1	—	—
Total	713	—	—

REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC

ANALYST FOR 1953

The Public Analyst, J. E. Woodhead, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Ph.C. reports as follows. By virtue of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, 1,000 samples were examined during the year ended 31st December, 1953, 903 of these were articles of food, and the remaining 97, drugs. All were submitted by the Council's Food Inspector, 251 having been taken with the formalities required by the Act and 749 informally.

Samples of the following substances were analysed:—Beverages (cocoa, coffee, etc.) 14 samples; cereal preparations, 21; cream, 40; fish, canned, 34; fruit, canned, 46; ice-cream, 22; milk, 265; pickles and sauces, 36; saccharin tablets, 10; spices and condiments, 19; suet, 3; vegetables, canned, 36; water ices, 23; aspirin tablets, 6; iodine solutions, 7; ointments, 11; seidlitz powders, 10.

Adulterated Samples

Particulars of the samples reported as adulterated or not up to standard are given in the following table:—

Case No.	Nature of Sample	Nature of Report
Informal 1100	Tomato ketchup	Copper on total solids 100 parts per million
1123	Canned beans	Tin. 4 grains per lb.
1146	Tomato ketchup	Copper on total solids 96 parts per million
1159	Fish paste	Tin punctured, contents unfit for consumption
1199	Canned sliced apples	Tin, 5.1 grains per lb.
1218	Tomato ketchup	Copper on total solids, 25 parts per million
1352	Ice-cream	50% deficient in fat
1380	Cakeoma	Rancid
1395	Butter	Acid value too high, becoming rancid
1441	Ice-cream	13% deficient in milk solids not fat
1456	"Fizz Powder"	Contains free sodium bicarbonate
1466	Peppermint Flavour	Dirty particles derived from cork
1611	Soused Herrings (canned)	Unfit for consumption
1716	Lemonade Powder	Contained undisclosed calcium acid phosphate.
1720	Bread	Foreign matter; agglutinated fibres

Adulteration

The amount of adulteration detected during the year was:—

For formal samples	..	..	..	None
For informal samples	..	..	..	2.0 per cent.
For all samples	..	..	..	1.5 per cent.

Complaint Samples

Case No. 1154. Milk Coffee Chocolate. The nature of the complaint was that the article did not taste of coffee and the texture was not sufficiently smooth. Analysis proved that all the ingredients stated on the label were present and the article compared favourably with similar articles which have a wide sale.

Case No. 1568. Yeastless Sausage Rusks. The complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 1612. Dried Skim Milk Powder. Submitted on the complaint that it was sour. The complaint was considered not justified.

Special Sample—Ambrosia Chocolate. Submitted on the complaint that it caused poisoning. Analysis of this sample failed to reveal any poisonous metal or other substance likely to cause the stated symptoms. The complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 1283. Tinned Red Cherries. Submitted on the complaint that they were of poor quality. The complaint was considered not justified.

Cases Nos. 1810 and 1811. Milk. Submitted on the complaint that they were sour. The complaint was considered justified.

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	6	12·37	3·60	8·77
February	39	12·35	3·58	8·77
March	36	12·21	3·48	8·73
April	9	12·12	3·34	8·78
May	12	12·13	3·37	8·76
June	12	13·18	4·20	8·98
July	12	12·12	3·48	8·64
August	12	12·08	3·43	8·65
September	18	12·43	3·66	8·77
October	41	12·54	3·68	8·86
November	36	12·63	3·79	8·84
December	18	12·51	3·74	8·77

The average composition of the 226 samples of milk analysed during the year and returned as genuine was as under:—

Total milk solids	..	..	..	..	12·39 per cent.
Milk fat	..	..	..	..	3·61 per cent.
Non-fatty solids	..	..	..	..	8·78 per cent.

The average composition of the 39 samples of Channel Island and South Devon milks was as under:—

Total milk solids	13·39 per cent.
Milk fat	4·30 per cent.
Non-fatty solids	9·09 per cent.

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