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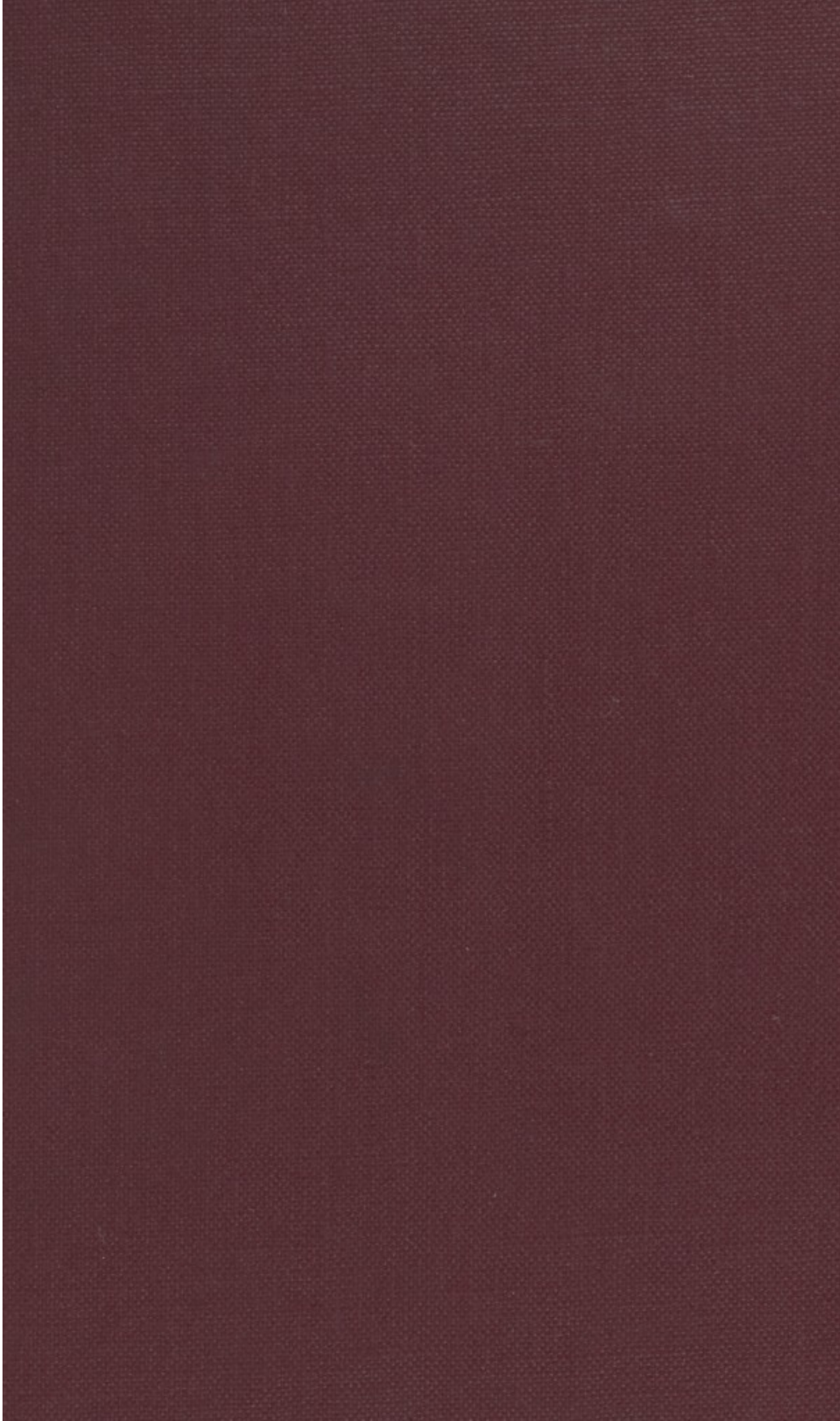
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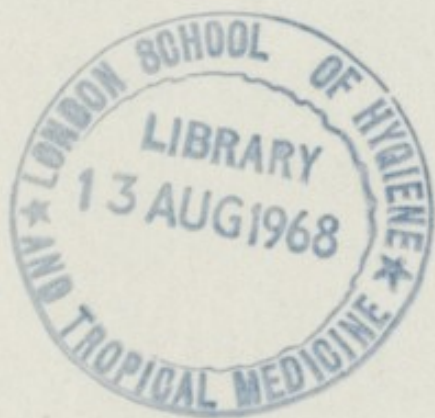
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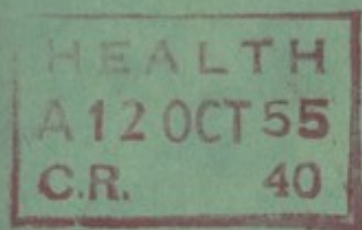


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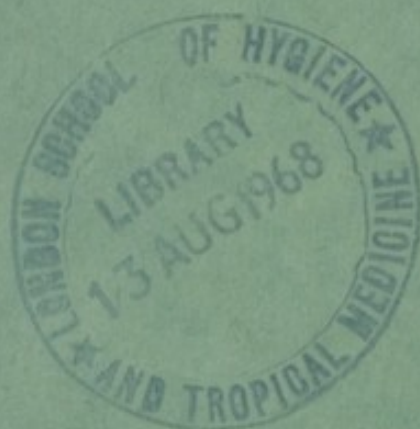


ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of
Health
for the Year
1954

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

together with the
Report of the Public Analyst

68680



REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1954

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

of the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1954, the third year for which I have had the privilege of being responsible for the health services in this Area. As in previous reports, most aspects of our work are covered, and in this introduction I refer mainly to one or two of the more interesting features of the work as they appeared during the year.

In my last Report, I drew attention to the slight reduction in the population of the Borough. In 1954, however, there was an increase from 331,000 to 333,900. This is associated with the new Housing Estates which have arisen in the Borough and to which families from other parts of London came. I make a little more reference later on to this question as a health and social problem. The birth rate was 13·27, a slight decrease from the previous year; while the standardized death-rate was 12·58, slightly lower than that of 1953. The infant mortality rate was 19·1. This figure is the lowest ever recorded in Wandsworth and is below that for the County of London and England and Wales which in 1954 was 20·7 and 25·5 respectively. There were two deaths from causes associated with childbirth.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was less than in the previous year owing to the diminished incidence of measles and whooping cough. The number of cases of tuberculosis which were primarily notified remained the same but the number of cases transferred from other Authorities showed a big increase—342 as compared with 253. The total number of new cases which came to the notice of the department, therefore, during 1954 was 738 compared with 663 in the previous year. This increase is associated with

the movement of populations into Wandsworth from other parts of London, following on the development of the new estates in the Borough. There were only seven cases of confirmed poliomyelitis and no deaths. Once again, I am pleased to report that there were no confirmed cases of diphtheria notified.

I referred last year to the importance of housing as a social and public health problem and to the importance of good and adequate housing as a basic need for the family in the same way as are good food, pure and wholesome water and fresh air. During the year, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, became law and its working imposed additional responsibility on the health department, particularly as to that part of the Act dealing with the issue of Certificates of Disrepair. In spite of the fact that these sections of the Act allowed some scope for differences of interpretation, no real difficulty was experienced and the work under the Act proceeded quite smoothly. As anticipated, after a period of inertia, there was a flood of applications by tenants which, however, have gradually tailed off. I should like to take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, on whom the bulk of the responsibility for the initial inspection and the making of reports fell. In spite of shortage of staff, I am glad to say that they met their extra responsibility very adequately.

The other important part of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act is that dealing with slum clearance and at the end of the year, measures had been taken to complete the returns necessary under the Act. In terms of legally unfit properties, it may be that Wandsworth has no problem of the magnitude of some of the large industrial areas in the North and the Midlands. But while the number of houses which are statutorily unfit for human habitation may be comparatively small in Wandsworth, the number of houses which are sub-standard in terms of modern ideas is large. The type of house I have in mind is the house which originally was intended for one family but which is now occupied by two or possibly three families. Such houses do not possess those modern amenities which are now generally accepted as being necessary for a happy family life. One of the big problems to which it will be necessary to turn our attention in the not distant future is how to provide housing accommodation for each family unit which is in accord with modern ideas. In other words, to effect a transformation of old and sub-standard property into family housing units which comply with modern standards.

A great deal is being done in Wandsworth, both by the Borough Council and by the London County Council to provide homes for

the people and there are large new estates being developed. So far as the estates developed by the Borough Council are concerned, the new tenants are already Wandsworth residents. In the case of the L.C.C. estates a high proportion of the tenants come from areas outside Wandsworth. We are experiencing something in the nature of a small social revolution in that large numbers of families are being brought into the Borough into new and up-to-date houses and flats from many areas in London where housing and living conditions have long presented a problem. The main estates where this is occurring are the Ackroyden and Argyle (population 5,400) and the Ashburton (population 4,500) Estates, and these will be further added to when the development of the large estate in the Roehampton Lane area is completed. I have referred in the body of the Report to a slight increased incidence of scarlet fever on one of these estates, thought to be associated with children from many areas of London coming together and playing together on the estate. The social problems which the erection of these new estates provide are not, at this stage, clearly defined and are not the immediate concern of the Borough Council Health Department although, of course, since health and welfare are indivisible they have an indirect health and social bearing on our work. In connection, however, with the personal health services, my colleagues and I have a responsibility for these matters and the whole situation is one which is being watched with a good deal of care and interest.

I made some mention in my Report for 1952 of the arrangements in this area by which the duties of Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth, Medical Officer of Health for Battersea and Divisional Medical Officer for the London County Council Health Division 9 are combined in a single appointment. I ventured the opinion, writing at that time on the basis of some 18 months' experience of the work, that the idea was basically sound and offered many advantages over forms of administration where there was a functional division between the environmental health services and the personal health services. Now, two years later, after some three and a half years' experience of the work, I am confirmed in my opinion that this form of public health administration is highly satisfactory and satisfying. From the point of view both of the services and of those responsible for operating them, there is a tremendous advantage in abolishing lines of demarcation between the personal and the environmental health services which, from the functional or working aspect, are largely artificial. Over the past three and a half years, no difficulties have been encountered, and a very important contributory

factor has been the ready help and co-operation which has been forthcoming from everyone connected with the work.

Over and above the statutory or generally accepted duties of a Medical Officer of Health are two ancillary functions which ought to be undertaken whenever opportunity presents, since apart from their intrinsic worth, they are valuable and stimulating adjuncts to the routine work of the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Department. I refer to the academic teaching of public health work and to the conduct of research into problems of public health and preventive medicine. I should like to say a word about some of the work which we are doing in this area which, although not exclusive to the Borough Council Health Department, has an interest and bearing on our work in the environmental health services.

Firstly, to deal with the question of teaching. We have been fortunate in making an arrangement with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine whereby a number of lectures on public health administration are given, and thereafter students of the School, who are all medical men and women studying for the London University Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health, attend our departments to study methods and practice of public health administration in this country. During the Spring and Summer terms, for one session per week, we receive about a dozen students from the School. Dealing as we do with both environmental and personal health services, we are able to give to the students what we hope is a wide, all-embracing, and at the same time well-balanced exposition of the principles and practice of public health administration in this country. Over the past three years some 70 students from many parts of the world and Commonwealth have passed through our departments. We hope that they will carry back with them to the various countries from which they come, useful ideas of what we have been able to show them.

Turning to the problem of research, there are many questions in public health and preventive medicine which need investigation. One of them is to decide whether three injections of a combined diphtheria/whooping cough preventative are as effective in the prevention of both diphtheria and whooping cough as injections against the two diseases given separately. The advantage of the "combined" method is that a child has to have only three injections instead of five.

Research of this kind is an expensive and a prolonged procedure and unless special staff and facilities are available, it is rarely that a

reliable answer can be provided. We are, however, fortunate in being enabled to participate in an investigation of this kind in conjunction with the staff of the Medical Research Council. A special team of nurses and clerical staff is available and the giving of the injections is a responsibility of the personal health services. By the participation of the Borough Health Department, a considerable advantage accrues to the investigation since we are able to utilize administrative services such as transport for taking specimens quickly to the Laboratory, and the ready access of certain records is also very useful. My senior medical colleagues and I supervise the team of workers in the field, while at the same time we work in close conjunction with the medical staff of the Medical Research Council and the local general practitioners, and we hope that in the course of a year or two we shall be able to give an answer to this important question.

I would not wish to end this introduction to my Report for 1954 without saying something about Mr. A. E. Vickers, Chief Sanitary Inspector for Wandsworth. Mr. Vickers was due to retire from the service of the Council in December 1954, but by an extension of his services, he continued with us until July 1955. Mr. Vickers joined the staff of the Wandsworth Public Health Department in 1915, and, apart from his war service with the R.A.M.C. in the first World War, he has been in the service of the Council since that date. He has been successively District Sanitary Inspector, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Chief Sanitary Inspector, and has given long years of loyal, unstinted and most efficient service to the Council. My own personal debt to Mr. Vickers is a very considerable one for when I took up my appointment, he placed all his knowledge of public health work in general and his knowledge of Wandsworth in particular, at my disposal. I was very glad to take advantage of his assistance and advice. Mr. Vickers will unquestionably be greatly missed, not only by his Departmental colleagues but by the members of the Health Committee and indeed of the Council. He leaves with an abundance of good will from everybody and best wishes for a long, happy and fruitful retirement.

Once again it is a great pleasure to acknowledge the kindness and help which I have received from all persons concerned with the work of my department. Again, I especially thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor T. V. Rowlands, for his courtesy and ready assistance; and the various Committees, particularly the Health Committee, with whose work I am concerned, for their continued confidence. The Chief Officers of the Council, and not least Major Jerman, the Town Clerk, have been very helpful to me,

and as in previous years, the officers and staff of the Health Department, in all sections, have given me every support. I would like again to thank my colleague, Dr. W. G. Harding, for the most efficient and competent way in which he carries out his duties.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1955

STAFF

The following changes occurred during the year:

Resignations

Mr. D. E. Williams, Sanitary Inspector (service, 1 year 5 months), resigned in January.

Mr. R. Lamey, Sanitary Inspector (service, 6 months), resigned in August.

Appointments

Mr. R. Lamey, Sanitary Inspector, appointed in January.

Mr. D. J. Hughes, Sanitary Inspector, appointed in March.

Mr. P. O'Grady, Sanitary Inspector, appointed in September.

Mrs. P. McKeown, Typist, appointed in April.

Mr. G. Langrish, Rodent Operative, appointed in August.

Mr. W. Maxwell, Rodent Operative, appointed in August.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	..	..	..	..	..	9,107 acres
Resident population in 1954	..	..	..	..	..	333,900

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 which are rapidly being added to by the development of new housing estates by the Borough Council and London County Council.

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	..	..	..	2,124	2,043	2,167
Illegitimate	..	..	..	131	134	265
Total live births				<hr/> 2,255 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,177 <hr/>	<hr/> 4,432 <hr/>
Number of Stillbirths	..	..		43	44	87
Number of deaths	..	..		2,333	2,555	4,888
Birth-rate	..	..	..	..	13·27	
Death-rate—Crude	..	..	..	..	14·63	
Standardized			..	..	12·58	

Rate per 1,000
(Live and Still) Births

Deaths from puerperal causes 2 0·44

Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births:

All infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Legitimate infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Illegitimate infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Deaths from Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,110
„ „ Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ „ Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ „ Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ „ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ „ Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Tuberculosis death-rate .. 0·20							

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 333,900, 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 1954
Putney ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85,452
Central ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95,845
Clapham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80,374
Streatham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72,229
Whole Borough				..	..	..	..	333,900

Births

The total number of births belonging to the Borough registered during 1954 was 4,432, consisting of 2,255 males and 2,177 females. The number for 1953 was 4,483.

The birth-rate was 13·27 per 1,000 persons living, compared with 13·54 for 1953.

The rate for the whole of London during 1954 was 15·2 and for England and Wales 15·2.

Two hundred and sixty-five illegitimate births took place in the Borough compared with 284 in 1953.

Deaths

The number of registered deaths which took place in the Borough during the year was 3,195 but 269 of these did not belong to the Borough, while 1,962 Borough residents died outside the Borough.

The corrected number of deaths for the Borough, after allowing for these factors, was 4,888 of whom 2,333 were males and 2,555 females.

The crude death-rate for the year was 14·63, compared with 14·86 for 1953, but after taking into account the area comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, the adjusted rate works out at 12·58. This compares with 10·7 for the whole of London and 11·3 for England and Wales.

Table II shows the total number of registered deaths and the death-rates for each division based on the approximate population in each division.

TABLE II

	Corrected Deaths			Death Rate
	Males	Females	Total	
Putney	482	548	1,030	12·05
Central	771	824	1,595	16·64
Clapham	683	749	1,432	17·71
Streatham	397	434	831	11·51
Whole Borough ..	2,333	2,555	4,888	14·63

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 1954

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	64	43	21	—	—	—	14	25	25	14	26	13	11
Tuberculosis, Other	4	2	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	1	1	—
Syphilitic Disease	21	14	7	—	—	—	—	7	14	8	6	5	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	3	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	10	5	5	1	1	2	2	4	—	3	1	4	2
Malignant Neoplasms	1,110	548	562	1	2	—	57	418	632	201	238	520	151
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	22	16	6	—	2	—	2	8	10	5	4	8	5
Diabetes	15	4	11	—	—	—	2	1	12	4	6	3	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	551	210	341	—	—	—	13	95	443	132	160	142	117
Diseases of Heart	1,710	783	927	—	—	1	23	214	1,472	322	773	371	244
Other Circulatory Disease	276	95	181	—	—	1	2	37	236	63	75	71	67
Influenza	23	12	11	—	—	—	—	4	19	6	4	9	4
Pneumonia	192	92	100	5	14	5	3	21	144	54	52	49	37
Bronchitis	231	157	74	2	1	1	—	48	179	56	61	65	49
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	20	13	7	—	1	1	1	7	10	4	5	7	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	54	39	15	—	—	—	1	16	37	12	16	15	11
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	17	6	11	2	—	—	2	2	11	4	6	4	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	40	23	17	1	1	1	6	12	19	9	11	10	10
Hyperplasia of Prostate	40	40	—	—	—	—	1	3	36	7	10	13	10
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Congenital Malformations	29	12	17	18	3	3	1	1	3	8	7	8	6
Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease ..	312	140	172	51	2	4	28	69	158	79	85	76	72
Motor Vehicle Accidents	22	15	7	—	—	2	6	5	9	7	5	6	4
All other Accidents	70	32	38	3	—	1	10	11	45	16	27	17	10
Suicide	45	26	19	—	—	—	14	19	12	12	13	11	9
Homicide and Operations of War	5	4	1	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	3	—	1
All Causes	4,888	2,333	2,555	85	28	22	194	1,031	3,528	1,030	1,595	1,432	831

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths under one year was 85, the infantile mortality-rate being 19·1 per 1,000 births. This compares with a rate of 23 for 1953, and 20 for 1952, and is the lowest rate ever recorded.

For the ten years ended 1944 the average infantile mortality rate was 48 while for the ten years ended 1954 the average rate was 26.

Maternal Mortality

Two deaths occurred from accidents and diseases of pregnancy or child-birth. This is equivalent to a rate of 0·44 for 1,000 live and still births, compared with 0·43 in 1953.

INFECTIVE DISEASES

The number of deaths from notifiable infectious diseases was 120. This included 68 from all forms of tuberculosis and 48 from the notifiable forms of pneumonia. There was one death from meningococcal infection, and two other deaths were subsequently attributed to this condition after post-mortem examination. One death was due to erysipelas.

From all notifiable infective diseases the death-rate was 0·36 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-district in which they occurred.

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 forty-five cases of scarlet fever were notified, compared with 336 in 1953, and 563 in 1952. The diagnosis was not confirmed in 7 cases. No deaths occurred.

On one of the new estates in Wandsworth a number of scarlet fever cases arose. The cases were carefully investigated and it was thought that the probable cause was the large number of children from many parts of London coming together on the new Estate. The children on the Estates naturally play together and during these play periods, there are probably opportunities for spread of infection. The same, of course, applies to school pupils where new schools are opened on the estate containing children from widely dispersed parts of the Metropolitan area. If a child or children harbouring one serological type of haemolytic streptococcus should come into contact with other children who have previously not had experience of that particular type, it is possible that a number of cases might occur.

Whooping Cough

Four hundred and thirty-one cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NO. OF CASES OF INFECTIVE DISEASES GROUPED IN AGE-PERIOD									
	Total	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and upwards
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	338	5	23	57	201	35	15	2	—	—
Measles	303	20	55	76	145	6	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	431	29	92	122	159	14	9	6	—	—
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	156	9	28	37	36	14	20	8	4	—
Erysipelas	58	—	—	—	—	6	7	27	15	3
Scabies	42	—	—	—	9	4	12	12	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	138	—	—	—	—	—	59	78	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	8	1	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	—	1	—	3	—	1	2	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia:										
Acute Influenzal	98	1	—	2	—	3	2	19	43	28
Acute Primary	171	1	5	12	14	13	19	37	53	17
Tuberculosis—All forms	738	3	11	8	27	16	159	353	115	46
Food Poisoning	124	4	9	14	8	11	24	47	7	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,626	82	228	328	603	124	330	593	243	95

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	20	13	12	58	24	34	36	18	5	19	18	9	10	3	5	9	10	17	6	12	338	—
Measles	15	4	14	14	8	15	9	15	8	29	10	14	37	58	14	14	9	8	4	4	303	—
Whooping Cough	21	8	17	36	18	19	39	40	28	43	9	6	9	7	15	10	21	31	21	33	431	—
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
Malaria	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Dysentery	8	7	9	6	12	22	6	29	14	5	7	3	3	3	2	2	6	3	2	7	156	—
Erysipelas	3	1	5	2	5	4	4	7	7	1	3	—	3	—	1	1	2	2	5	2	58	1
Scabies	1	1	2	4	1	9	1	7	2	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	42	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	1	—	5	3	4	3	2	—	8	64	21	13	4	2	3	3	—	138	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal	3	4	6	4	6	5	5	7	12	10	8	2	2	3	7	2	2	2	4	4	98	14
Acute Primary	6	7	8	8	11	11	10	21	14	11	8	7	6	8	9	5	3	4	5	9	171	34
Tuberculosis—All forms	91	39	35	46	47	39	29	41	34	29	25	36	43	41	41	26	23	28	19	24	738	68
Food Poisoning	13	3	13	12	8	26	8	4	1	9	1	1	2	3	1	3	4	1	7	4	124	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	184	87	124	199	142	189	150	193	131	161	95	91	182	149	111	78	84	101	76	99	2,626	120

Measles

The number of cases notified during the year was 303, compared with 2,850 in 1953, 2,290 in 1952 and 4,299 in 1951.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Forty-one cases of this disease were notified or reported during the year, of which 34 were subsequently not confirmed. Of the remaining 7 confirmed cases, 5 were of the paralytic type and 2 non-paralytic. There were no deaths.

In 1953, 27 cases were confirmed, with two deaths.

Acute Encephalitis

Of five cases investigated, none were confirmed.

Meningococcal Infection

Six confirmed cases were notified, of which one proved fatal. Two other deaths were attributed to this disease on post-mortem examination making a total of eight cases for 1954.

Twenty-seven other cases were investigated, but were subsequently not confirmed.

In 1953 there were five cases with two deaths.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

Of six cases reported during the year, three were subsequently confirmed as paratyphoid. Diagnosis was not confirmed in the remaining three cases. There were no deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year 138 cases were notified, of which 133 occurred in hospital and 5 at home. Sixty of the hospital notifications referred to patients whose home addresses were outside the borough.

Information was also received of 61 cases, referring to Wandsworth residents whose confinements took place in hospitals located in other Metropolitan boroughs.

Sonne Dysentery

Systematic follow-up of all cases of Dysentery continued throughout the year and where it was considered necessary, stool specimens were obtained from family contacts for bacteriological examination.

In addition to the cases for which formal notifications were received and which, in the main, were single unrelated cases, a number of other cases were discovered by investigation of diarrhoea outbreaks which occurred at Day Nurseries and Schools.

Influenza

The number of deaths from Influenza was 23 compared with 64 in 1953, 26 in 1952 and 122 in 1951.

Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia

These are the notifiable forms of pneumonia.

Ninety-eight cases of acute influenzal pneumonia and 171 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified. Fourteen of the former, and 34 of the latter died.

The total number of deaths credited to all forms of pneumonia during the year was 192, compared with 261 in 1953.

Malaria

Two cases were notified. One, a soldier, was a recurrent case, and the other was the wife of a Pakistan Army Captain, and had recently arrived in this country from Pakistan.

Erysipelas

Fifty-eight cases were notified. One death occurred.

Other Infective Diseases

Twenty-one deaths occurred from syphilis.

Scabies

Forty-two cases were notified.

Eighty-one 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. Fourteen other persons received cleansing treatment for various conditions.

Food Poisoning

One hundred and twenty-four formal notifications were received during the year. One hundred and two were unrelated cases and 12 were outbreaks involving two or more persons.

The majority of the single cases were only slightly affected and where bacteriological investigation was carried out, organisms likely to have caused the illness were discovered in only 4 cases. The organism isolated was *Salmonella typhimurium*.

In 11 of the outbreaks reported it was not possible to identify the causative agent and in the remaining one, which affected 73 persons at a factory in the Borough, the organism *Clostridium welchii* was isolated.

Full reports on the major outbreaks were submitted to the Ministry of Health in accordance with Circular 46/49 and revised Memo. 188/Med.

Diseases Reported from Schools

A total of 2,356 infective diseases was reported from schools in the Borough throughout the year. The numbers of each disease were:

Scarlet Fever	..	239	Chicken Pox	..	306
Diphtheria	..	—	Whooping Cough	..	108
Measles	..	402	Mumps	..	1,149
German Measles	..	20	Dysentery	..	31
Poliomyelitis	..	4	Other Diseases	..	97

Disinfection

During the year 911 rooms were disinfected after infectious and other disease and 340 rooms disinfested for vermin.

Bacteriological Examinations

All bacteriological examinations are 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	..	..	..	..	..	696
Faeces for the typhoid and dysentery groups	..	..	..	..	..	1,301
Miscellaneous specimens	..	..	..	..	..	27
Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,024

NON-INFECTIVE DISEASES

The total number of deaths from cancer and malignant disease was 1,110, the number of males being 548 and females 562. The death-rate was 3.33 per 1,000. The number of deaths in 1954 was 54 more than in 1953.

Deaths from disease of the heart and circulatory system were 1,986 compared with 1,872 in 1953. Of these deaths 1,708 were of persons of 65 years of age and above.

There were 443 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system compared with 651 in 1953. The number of deaths from bronchitis was 231 compared with 353 in 1953, and from pneumonia (all forms), 192 compared with 261 in 1953. Further particulars relative to pneumonia are given on page 18.

One hundred and forty-two deaths were due to violence, 22 of them being due to motor accidents, 45 to suicide and 75 to other forms of violence.

CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AND INOCULATION

Nine hundred and fifty-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 16 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 ten cases it was found necessary to recommend superannuation.

Thirty-eight 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 1954 was 738 compared with 663 in 1953.

The sources of information regarding the 738 new cases were as follows:

Primary notifications on Form A	..	..	..	..	387
Notifications from H.M. Forces	..	..	..	..	5
Unnotified at death	..	..	..	..	4
Transfers from other sanitary authorities	..	..	..	..	342
Total	..	..	..	..	738

It will be noted that the number of transfers from other boroughs was 342 compared with 253 in 1953. This increase is explained by the growth of the new housing estates in Wandsworth. A degree of medical priority is, of course, given to tuberculosis patients with regard to new housing and a proportion of the occupants of the new housing estates are cases of tuberculosis rehoused under medical and health priority.

Deaths

The number of deaths certified as due to various forms of tuberculosis was 68.

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	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2	7	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
2-5	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	12	10	3	2	—	—	—	—
10-15	5	9	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	52	98	3	6	—	—	—	—
25-45	175	157	10	11	5	9	1	1
45-65	83	25	1	6	22	3	1	—
65 and upwards	36	9	—	1	16	9	—	1
Totals	373	318	18	29	43	21	2	2

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 ..	7,876	25,476	33,352
Housing Reports	1,158	332	1,490
Notifiable diseases	1,140	583	1,723
Piggeries	5	—	5
Factories, Workplaces, etc. (in- cluding Outworkers) ..	1,490	54	1,544
Sanitary conveniences	40	—	40
Mews and stables	300	—	300
Other inspections	6,165	2,055	8,220
Totals	18,174	28,500	46,674

Smoke observations	93
Legal proceedings, attendances at court	14

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

The number of drains which were tested was 434 and 980 were cleansed or repaired. The drains of 42 houses were reconstructed.

Damp conditions have been remedied in 1,597 premises, and in 83 of these damp courses were inserted.

TABLE VIII

	Putney	Central	Clapham	Streatham	Whole Borough
1. Premises cleansed and repaired ..	318	353	423	218	1,312
2. Drains tested	121	96	98	119	434
3. Drains cleansed or repaired	260	239	236	245	980
4. Water closets cleansed or repaired ..	101	185	169	116	571
5. Soil pipes altered or repaired	8	22	25	14	69
6. Wastepipes provided altered or repaired	61	77	111	116	365
7. Rainwater pipes repaired	23	27	40	21	111
8. Roofs and gutters repaired	225	253	341	98	917
9. Damp courses inserted	27	42	8	6	83
10. Damp conditions otherwise remedied	205	239	298	140	882
11. Yards drained or paved	17	3	4	1	25
12. Dustbins provided	15	36	40	38	129
13. Water cisterns cleansed, covered or repaired	6	11	9	5	31
14. Water supply reinstated	145	125	80	151	501
15. Defective stoves and fireplaces remedied	36	98	79	35	248
16. Defective coppers remedied ..	—	1	—	—	1
17. Accumulations of rubbish, etc., removed	7	10	24	3	44
18. Urinals cleansed or repaired ..	—	5	—	1	6
19. Animals improperly kept	1	1	1	—	3
20. Smoke nuisances	5	13	4	—	22
21. Other nuisances	13	21	26	7	67
Total	1,594	1,857	2,016	1,334	6,801
Number of Preliminary Notices served ..	604	841	831	375	2,651
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	609	827	860	389	2,685
Number of Nuisance Notices served ..	139	208	218	107	672
Number of Nuisance Notices complied with	140	170	220	98	628

Water Supply—Cutting-off Notices

During the year notices with respect to 501 premises were received from the Metropolitan Water Board stating that the supply had been withdrawn.

In 22 premises the water supply was cut off for non-payment of rates, and in 479 premises because of defects in the service.

Dustbin Accommodation—Section 105, Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and Section 12, London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954

During the year new legislation was initiated in respect of dustbin accommodation by the provisions of Section 12 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1954; with certain provisos, this section enables the Council to serve a notice on the owner of a house, requiring him to provide dustbin accommodation where the existing accommodation is insufficient or unsuitable. Section 105 of the Public Health (London) Act, has been, in consequence, amended.

Action was taken under the above-mentioned Acts in respect of 116 premises and during this period 117 dustbins were provided.

Dustbins were also provided at 12 premises without the necessity of action under the Acts.

Rodent Control

One thousand nine hundred and sixty rat and mice complaints were received during the year. Following is a summary of the work of the rodent operatives:

Number of operatives' visits to premises	10,568
„ „ of premises prebaited and treated with poison	405
„ „ of premises treated with "Warfarin"	692
„ „ premises prebaited and found not troubled	107
„ „ premises "Warfarin" laid and found not troubled	119
„ „ premises investigated and found not troubled	2,122
„ „ prebaits laid	12,294
„ „ poison baits laid	8,083
„ „ drains tested by Sanitary Inspector	288
„ „ drains found defective	150
„ „ rats estimated killed	6,924

It is interesting to note that in March 1954 two live ship rats (*Rattus Rattus*) were trapped in a soil sewer—this is believed to be the first substantiated case of ship rats gaining entry to a house through sewers and drains.

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 1954, 166 certificates were issued and the amount received by this department was £49 16s. 0d.

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 174 houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and disinfestation was carried out in all cases.

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

Mortuary and Crematorium

The mortuary at Wandsworth was used throughout the year and 315 bodies were received there.

Under the Crematorium Regulations, 1930, 1,190 cremations were authorized during 1954 as compared with 1,175 in 1953.

Towards the end of the year certain improvements and additions were made in the lighting and heating at the mortuary, it having become evident that the existing arrangements were defective and inadequate. Fluorescent lighting was installed over the post-mortem tables, an additional light fixed over the table used by the Coroner and two convector type electric heaters installed to replace the old defective gas fire.

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 1954 was 19.

HOUSING

STATISTICS RELATING TO HOUSING

Public Health (London) Act, 1936

Number of houses inspected on account of complaints or illness	9,016
Re-inspections	26,059
Number of statutory notices served:	
Intimation notices	2,651
Nuisance notices	672
Number of houses in which nuisances were abated ..	2,643
The number of cases referred to the Solicitor for legal action during 1954 was	132
The following is a summary of Police Court proceedings:	
Number of summonses served	33
" " " withdrawn	18
" " " adjourned	3
" " Orders made for abatement of nuisances ..	12
Costs awarded in respect of six cases	£18. 18s. 0d

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Number of houses inspected—house to house (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	Nil
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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 ..	23
Number closed or modified occupation approved ..	22
Number of Closing Orders determined	Nil

Slum Clearance

Number of houses included in representations under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936	69
Number of houses demolished following such action ..	23

Overcrowding

Number of families found to be living in overcrowded conditions	87
Number of overcrowded families who have obtained alternative accommodation	103

New Accommodation

Number of dwellings erected by the borough council during the year	777
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The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

This Act came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, "to make further provision for the clearance and redevelopment of areas of unfit housing accommodation, and for securing or promoting the reconditioning or maintenance of houses; and otherwise to amend the enactments relating to housing, the exercise of certain powers relating to land, and rent control." Part II of the Act, *inter alia*, deals with certain amendments of the Rent Acts, and sets forth the conditions under which a landlord may recover from the tenants a repairs increase in excess of the normal rent. Under Sections 25-30 conditions are also laid down for the recovery of repairs increase by the tenant. If a tenant considers that his premises are not in good repair, or not reasonably suitable for occupation he can apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate of Disrepair. If this is granted, and the tenant has served a copy of the certificate on the landlord and his agent, then so long as the certificate is in force no sum is recoverable by way of repairs increase in respect of the premises.

These sections are administered by the Public Health Department and 202 applications were received up to the end of the year for Certificates of Disrepair.

- (a) One hundred and ninety-seven Certificates of Disrepair were granted;
- (b) Four Applications were withdrawn at the request of the tenants;
- (c) One Application was not granted as the premises were found to be in good repair and reasonably suitable for occupation.

Nineteen Applications were received for revocation of Certificates of Disrepair and these were granted.

Housing Accommodation—Medical Priority

During the year 1,429 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 362 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

SLUM CLEARANCE

3-7 (cons.) Newtons Yard

Following my official representations under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, the Council gave instructions that the London County Council be formally notified that it was the Council's intention to declare these properties a Clearance Area. The London County Council replied to the effect that as the area in question was zoned for light industry, they were desirous of dealing with it themselves. In the circumstances, the Council decided to take no further action with regard to my representations.

Prescott Place, Chip Street, Stonhouse Street, Cressett Street, East Hill, Oak Park, Emily Villas

These properties were declared Clearance Areas following my representations, and after the London County Council had been formally notified.

1, 2, 3 and 4 Kings Cottages, Streatham High Road

Following my representations, the Council gave instructions that the London County Council be formally notified that it was the Council's intention to consider a proposal that the above-named area should be declared a Clearance Area.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Closing Orders were made on basement premises at 10A Colinette Road, 41 Fernlea Road, 78 Lebanon Gardens, 16 Pitcairn Street, and 3 and 4 Waterman Street, comprising, in all, 14 underground rooms. In each case the owners had been invited to submit proposals to render the premises fit for human habitation, but none were received. Eight other underground rooms were voluntarily closed by the owners after consultation with the Sanitary Inspector.

At the end of the year proposals were still awaited from the owners of 199 New Park Road, in respect of basement premises there.

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.

The district Sanitary Inspectors who hold the additional certificate of Inspector for Food and Drugs carry out 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 2,779 and during 1954 they were visited on 44,588 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—1954

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 29 applications have been received from persons to be registered as distributors of milk. In each case the certificate of registration was granted. Sixteen notices of cancellation of registration have been received. At the end of the year there were 220 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 ..	90	178	100	82	98	105	78	142	137	61	153	166	153	94	157	113	105	139	84	80	2,315
Restaurant Kitchens ..	148	204	161	111	112	69	59	143	87	54	120	174	44	49	54	59	193	27	30	36	1,934
Ice Cream Premises ..	105	104	75	57	57	37	29	101	157	33	113	176	63	106	91	77	225	38	52	62	1,758
Butchers' Shops ..	280	256	168	112	191	144	70	141	340	60	242	215	70	286	169	168	381	36	73	161	3,563
Greengrocers' Shops ..	75	80	48	57	41	46	38	185	275	55	149	124	32	201	291	37	102	14	70	45	1,965
Fishmongers' Shops ..	31	69	24	37	22	28	20	84	89	10	92	124	49	132	107	34	171	11	32	35	1,201
Fried Fish Shops ..	7	27	13	4	28	24	15	4	48	1	124	103	1	15	6	6	—	5	15	32	478
Market Stalls ..	284	688	306	348	432	206	1,102	1,683	8,625	—	118	629	66	6,860	603	—	1,027	—	—	176	23,153
Other Premises ..	343	565	845	269	454	426	215	373	592	132	536	589	201	634	375	329	624	116	249	291	8,158
Slaughterhouses ..	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
Total Visits ..	1,363	2,199	1,740	1,077	1,435	1,085	1,626	2,856	10,350	406	1,682	2,300	679	8,377	1,853	823	2,828	386	605	918	44,588

Food and Drugs Act, 1938-1954

Three hundred and sixty-four samples of milk were submitted for analysis. Of these 19 were samples of Channel Island and South Devon milks with an average fat content of 4.43 per cent. The remaining 345 samples had an average fat content of 3.57 per cent. Twelve samples failed to comply with the regulations.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954

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:

“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'</i> <i>Supple-</i> <i>mentary</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pasteurized	..	..	..	..	186	34	220
Sterilized	..	..	..	..	261	34	295
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	145	31	176
					—	—	—
Total..	..	..	..	..	592	99	691
					—	—	—

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 218 butchers' shops in the Borough. The majority are registered under Section 14(1)(b) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938-1954, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, preserved, pickled or pressed foods. There were 3,563 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 63 occasions during the year.

The carcasses of two pigs and two cows were inspected after slaughter.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1954

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 four applications from persons desirous of acting as slaughtermen were submitted to the Council and granted.

Piggeries

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

Unsound Food

One hundred and thirty-five 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 1954 was 399, and 796 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	5
Domestic stores, ironmongers, etc. .. .	101	205
Drug stores	24	48
Grocers	248	479
Hairdressers	17	43
Nurserymen and florists	6	16
Total	399	796

Bakehouses

There are 78 bakehouses in the Borough, of which 18 are in basements and subject to the provisions of Section 54 of the Factories Act, 1937. Two hundred and ninety-four 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, 1938-1954

Section 14 (1) of the above Act provides that no premises shall be used for:

- (a) the sale, or 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 intended for sale, unless they are registered under this section for that purpose with a local authority.

During the year 51 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.

Public Health (London) Act, Sec. 144

During the year there have been no applications for licences under the provisions of Sec. 144, to use premises as slaughterhouses.

Bacteriological Examination of Food

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

Milk including Raw Milk	Fresh Cream including Tinned Cream	Synthetic Cream	Artesian Well waters	Ice-cream	Others	Total for 1954
494	30	26	13	88	24	675

Milk

Of the 494 samples of milk, 222 were submitted to the phosphatase test, 232 to the methylene-blue test, and 26 to the turbidity test. In 16 cases the atmospheric shade temperature exceeded 65°F., making the methylene-blue test void.

In addition 14 samples of raw milk were examined for the presence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Brucella abortus*. In each case negative results were obtained.

Fresh Cream

Thirty samples of fresh cream were examined for the presence of pathogenic organisms. Twenty-four of these were taken in conjunction with a national investigation, and as the results were reported collectively, we have no individual results for these creams taken in our borough. The remaining six were all reported sterile.

Synthetic Cream

Twenty-six samples were examined for the presence of pathogenic organisms. All were reported free of contamination, with the exception of four, which had high bacterial counts. These have since been rechecked and reported satisfactory.

Artesian Well Water

Thirteen samples were submitted for examination, of these twelve were reported satisfactory. The remaining one was found to contain faecal coli. The water from this well has now been rechecked and found free of contamination.

Ice-cream

During the year 88 samples of ice-cream were tested in accordance with the technique suggested by the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory.

The following table gives a summary of the results:

Methylene-Blue Reduction Test	
Number of Samples	Provisional Grade
47	1
21	2
8	3
12	4
Total 88	

In addition 12 samples of ice-lollies were submitted for examination. These have all been reported satisfactory.

Others

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

Analysis of Food and Drugs

During the year 1,002 samples of food and drugs were procured for analysis: 364 samples of milk, 572 other foodstuffs and 66 drugs. Of these 328 were submitted as formal samples while 674 were purchased informally. Fourteen or 4·3 per cent. of the formal and eleven or 1·6 per cent. of the informal samples, were found to be adulterated or not up to standard. The total adulterations reported were 25 or 2·5 per cent. of the samples submitted.

The 25 samples found to be adulterated were:

twelve samples of milk, three samples of ice-cream, two samples each of Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine, Friars Balsam, Citrate of Magnesia, and one sample each of butter, stuffing, tinned meat, bread and butter.

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	540	229	6	—
(2) Factories not included above in which Section 7 of the Act is enforced by the Local Authority ..	1,100	987	7	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	56	19	—	—
Total	1,696	1,235	13	—

(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	12	6	1	6	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	2	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	28	5	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	1	—	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).. ..	14	4	4	—	—
Total	57	16	6	8	—

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.	801	—	—
“ “ cleaning and washing	5	—	—
Household linen	3	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings	4	—	—
Fur pulling	1	—	—
Umbrellas, etc.	1	—	—
Artificial flowers	5	—	—
Paper bags	13	—	—
Boxes or other receptacles made wholly or partially of paper ..	26	—	—
Brush making	1	—	—
Feather sorting	1	—	—
Stuffed toys	1	—	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats ..	16	—	—
Lampshades	57	—	—
Total	935	—	—

REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR 1954

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, 1938-1954, 1,002 samples were examined during the year ended 31st December, 1954, 936 of these were articles of food, and the remaining 66, drugs. All were submitted by the Council's Food Inspector, 328 having been taken with the formalities required by the Act and 674 informally.

Samples of the following substances were analysed: cooking fat and lard, 16; beverages (cocoa, coffee, etc.) 20 samples; cereal preparations, 21; cream, 24; fish, canned, 24; fruit, canned, 67; meat products (other than sausages), 36; milk, 364; pickles and condiments (including spices), 46; preserves, 46; sausages, 17; soup, 17; vegetables, canned, 17; friars balsam, 4; iodine solutions, 5; ointments, 13; seidlitz powders.

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
Formal 492	Milk	1% deficient in fat
493	"	1% " " "
499	"	13% " " "
571	Bread and butter	Fat, margarine with 10% butter
575	Milk	Added water 4%
582	Friars Balsam	Total solids 25% deficient
388	Milk	7% deficient in fat
415	"	8% extraneous water
433	"	11% deficient in fat
434	"	18% " " "
435	"	4% " " "
436	"	13% " " "
438	"	23% " " "
439	"	10% " " "
Informal 243	Ice-cream	6% deficient in fat
260	"	6% " " "
194	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	25% deficient in ammonia
223	Citrate of magnesia	Excess of magnesium sulphate
228	" " "	" " "
438	Stuffing	Infested
481	Butter	Musty flavour and taste
409	Friars Balsam	Total solids 29% deficient
413	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	20% deficient in ammonia
51	Ice-cream	35% deficient in fat
78	Luncheon meat	Housefly in meat

Adulteration

The amount of adulteration detected during the year was:

For formal samples	..	..	..	4.3 per cent.
For informal samples	..	..	..	1.6 per cent.
For all samples	..	..	..	2.5 per cent.

Complaint Samples

Case No. 1906. Milk. Submitted on the complaint that water had been added. The complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 78. Luncheon Meat. Submitted on the complaint that there was a housefly partly buried in it. The complaint was considered justified.

Case No. 176. Oxtail Soup. This complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 277. Roll and butter. Submitted on the complaint that the roll did not contain butter. The complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 302. Bread. Submitted on the complaint that it contained rodent excrement. The complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 480. Cream. Submitted on the complaint that it had a chemical taste suggestive of preservative. The complaint was considered not justified.

Case No. 481. Butter. Submitted on the complaint that it had a musty flavour. The complaint was considered justified.

Special Sample. Chocolate Milky Lunch. Submitted on the complaint that it had a "disinfectant" taste. 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	36	12·31	3·62	8·69
February	31	12·31	3·64	8·67
March	39	12·31	3·58	8·73
April	33	12·14	3·48	8·66
May	47	12·32	3·97	8·85
June	39	12·18	3·40	8·78
July	29	12·24	3·51	8·73
August	42	12·44	3·67	8·77
September	17	12·58	3·74	8·84
October	17	12·98	4·04	8·94
November	10	13·03	4·06	8·97
December	24	12·71	3·89	8·82

The average composition of the 345 samples of milk analysed during the year and returned as genuine was as under:

Total milk solids	12·32 per cent.
Milk fat	3·57 per cent.
Non-fatty solids	8·75 per cent.

The average composition of the 19 samples of Channel Island and South Devon milks was as under:

Total milk solids	13·58 per cent.
Milk fat	4·43 per cent.
Non-fatty solids	9·15 per cent.

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