

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

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Borough of St. Marylebone



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944

H. A. BULMAN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

London :
Freame, Manning & Co., Ltd. (T.U.), 12a, Lee High Road, Lewisham



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Metropolitan Borough of St. Marylebone.

The standard of health in the Borough continued to be satisfactory during 1944. The birth-rate rose from 12.50 (1943) to 13.98. The death-rate declined from 17.02 (1943) to 15.34, and the infantile mortality rate of 47.18 remained at practically the same low level of the previous year. Infectious disease notifications dropped from 949 (1943) to 671, due mainly to a lessened incidence of measles and scarlet fever. Public health services were fully maintained throughout the year, and an increased demand for the facilities available is recorded in a number of directions.

Early in the year post-war reconstruction measures were considered and schemes provisionally approved for the erection of a combined mortuary, cleansing and disinfecting station and for the inclusion of a branch maternity and child welfare centre in the planning of a municipal housing estate in the St. John's Wood area.

With the introduction of new forms of aerial bombardment, enemy activity in the Borough was greater during 1944 than in the previous year. The personnel of the Civil Defence Casualty and Emergency Mortuary Services, which function under the direction of the Public Health Department, were called upon for operational duty on a number of occasions and in the work they carried out maintained fully the high standard of efficiency reached in earlier years of the War.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for their continued encouragement and unfailing support in the work of the Department. By the death of Alderman John Fettes, J.P., who had been a member for 26 years and its Chairman from 1920 to 1923, the Committee suffered a great loss. With his extensive knowledge, experience and understanding of the work, Mr. Fettes brought to the Committee's deliberations a shrewdness, discrimination and kindness which proved invaluable throughout his long and notable association with the public health activities of the area. Mr. Fettes had served the Council for 40 years; was Mayor of St. Marylebone on six occasions (1914-17 and 1932-35) and the first Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

Again I acknowledge with gratitude the loyal assistance and co-operation of the staff, who have carried out their normal and war-time duties untiringly and efficiently.

H. A. BULMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(who are also the Committee appointed for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes.)

1944.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR :

Alderman R. STILES ALLEN, D.L., J.P., L.C.C.

ALDERMEN :

*C. S. Steel, F.C.A.

J. Fettes, J.P. (*died 16th July, 1944*).

COUNCILLORS :

†Miss M. Barry.

F. Y. Bright.

J. Brodie, L.L.M.

†F. V. Cullen, F.S.I., F.A.I.

Mrs. E. B. Davis.

*Mrs. H. I. H. Feiling.

*Mrs. L. Fewster.

*Mrs. V. A. L. Freeman, J.P.

Dr. C. A. Fuller (Chairman).

Mrs. Carr Q. Henriques.

Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs.

Mrs. C. M. Phillips.

The Hon. Mrs. Peter Pleydell-Bouverie.

G. B. Ramsay.

T. W. Robinson, A.C.A.

†Capt. H. N. Toomey, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Capt. Robert Whitney, M.B.E.

* Members from November, 1944.

† Members until November, 1944.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough : (a) exclusive of area covered by water, 1,427.8 acres ; (b) including area covered by water, 1,473 acres.

Resident population : 1921 census—104,173 ; 1931 census—97,620.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population (used in calculating various rates in this report) : 1944—54,550.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

				Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	642	332	310	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population ... 13.98
Illegitimate	...	...	...	121	68	53	
Stillbirths—Legitimate	...	...	...	12	8	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 21.79
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	3	2	
Deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	837	411	426	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population ... 15.34

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Maternal Mortality—Deaths from " Other Maternal Causes " (Registrar-General's Code No. 30).	2	2.56

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age—Legitimate	25	14	11
Illegitimate	11	7	4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—All infants per 1,000 live births, 47.18 ; legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 38.94 ; illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 90.90.

Deaths—From Cancer (all ages), 140 ; from Measles (all ages), nil ; from Whooping Cough (all ages), 1 ; from Diarrhoea (under 2 years), 8.

Births—Notification.—The number of notifications received under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, Section 255, was 1,424 : live births, 1,393 ; stillbirths, 31. Sources of the notifications were : from doctors, 10 ; from midwives, 67 ; from hospitals, nursing homes, etc., 1,347. Of the births notified, 519 took place at the Middlesex Hospital ; 278 at Paddington Hospital ; and 116 occurred at home. Of those notified as taking place in St. Marylebone, 720 belonged to other Boroughs. Of the 31 stillbirths (17 males and 14 females) notified direct to the Department, 16 (9 males and 7 females) were to St. Marylebone mothers. In addition, information from other sources received through the Registrar-General brought the total number of stillbirths allocated to St. Marylebone to 17.

Marriages.—The total number of marriages was 1,097, being 22 below the number for 1943, and 333 below the average for the previous 10 years. The rate for persons married in 1944 was 40 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population.

TABLE 1.—DEATHS—ALL AGES.

Code No.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	Nett deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the Borough.							Deaths in Institutions in the Borough.		Deaths in Sub-Districts.			TOTAL.
		All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Resi- dents	Non- residents	All Souls.	St. Mary.	North Mary- lebone.	
2	Cerebro-spinal fever ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
4	Whooping cough ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	32	—	—	—	16	11	5	1	5	5	9	18	32
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	5	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	2	3	5
8	Syphilitic disease ...	8	—	—	—	2	4	2	1	1	2	3	3	8
9	Influenza ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	1	1	2	4
13M	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	7	—	—	—	—	1	6	2	9	2	2	3	7
13F	Cancer of uterus ...	12	—	—	—	1	7	4	3	6	2	3	7	12
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	24	—	—	—	1	7	16	1	13	6	8	10	24
15	Cancer of breast ...	16	—	—	—	3	9	4	1	7	3	5	8	16
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	81	—	1	—	7	33	40	5	82	22	16	43	81
17	Diabetes ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5	1	—	3	4
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	69	—	—	—	—	22	47	3	24	11	20	38	69
19	Heart disease ...	199	—	—	—	8	36	155	10	64	39	52	108	199
20	Other diseases of the circulatory system ...	51	—	—	—	—	16	35	8	18	6	15	30	51
21	Bronchitis ...	35	3	—	—	—	5	27	2	4	6	10	19	35
22	Pneumonia ...	47	2	—	—	7	14	24	4	19	10	16	21	47
23	Other respiratory diseases	6	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	3	1	1	4	6
24	Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum ...	11	—	—	—	3	5	3	—	12	2	2	7	11
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	8
26	Appendicitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	1	2	3
27	Other digestive diseases ...	22	1	—	—	2	9	10	—	8	8	5	9	22
28	Nephritis ...	25	—	—	—	3	9	13	2	9	4	5	16	25
30	Other maternal causes ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
31	Premature birth ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	15	—	1	4	5
32	Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease ...	14	12	1	—	—	1	—	1	5	4	4	6	14
33	Suicide ...	10	—	—	—	4	5	1	1	6	2	3	5	10
34	Road traffic accidents ...	5	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	8	2	1	2	5
35	Other violent causes ...	65	2	—	2	16	28	17	12	53	9	7	49	65
36	All other causes ...	64	3	1	1	9	21	29	6	29	14	11	39	64
	Totals ...	837	36	7	5	88	249	452	67	411	167	207	463	837

No death occurred from the following causes not shown in the table: Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers (Code No. 1), scarlet fever (No. 3), diphtheria (No. 5), measles (No. 10) acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (No. 11), acute infectious encephalitis (No. 12), puerperal and post-abortive sepsis (No. 29).

TABLE 2.—INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Code No.	CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	TOTAL
6	Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
8	Enteritis ...	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	7
12	Congenital malformation ...	4	—	—	2	1	—	—	7
13	Premature birth ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
15	Atelectasis ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
22	Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
24	Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3
25	Pneumonia (<i>all forms</i>) ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
27	Other causes ...	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	5
	Totals ...	15	1	2	6	5	3	4	36

No infantile death occurred from the following causes not shown in the table: Small-pox, chicken-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and membranous croup (Code Nos. 1—5), diarrhoea (No. 7), tuberculous meningitis, abdominal tuberculosis, other tuberculous diseases (Nos. 9—11), atrophy, debility and marasmus (No. 14), injury at birth, erysipelas, syphilis, rickets, meningitis (not tuberculous), convulsions (Nos. 16—21), laryngitis (No. 23), suffocation, overlying (No. 26).

Mortuary.—Nine bodies (4 male, 5 female) were deposited at the Emergency Mortuary, No. 24, Hill Road. No post-mortem examinations were carried out.

Crematorium.—One hundred and eighty-two certificates authorising cremation at the St. Marylebone Crematorium, Finchley, were issued—143 by the Medical Referee (Dr. H. A. Bulman) and 39 by the Deputy Medical Referee (Dr. M. MacGregor).

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff.—Owing to continued shortage of inspectorial staff, Mr. P. H. Hill, Sanitary Inspector and Outdoor Superintendent, who retired on the 8th April, 1944, after 40 years in the local government service (35 years with St. Marylebone Borough Council) continued in his appointment in a temporary capacity. Miss C. Walsh was appointed as a Health Visitor on the 1st February, 1944, in succession to Miss Chapman, resigned. The Council adopted the recommendations of the Second Report of the Nurses Salaries Committee (the Rushcliffe Committee) relative to the salaries and service conditions of health visitors and tuberculosis visitors, present officers being given the option of continuing on their existing terms of service. The recommendations of the Rushcliffe Committee affecting state registered nurses employed at war-time day nurseries, together with revised salary scales and service conditions for other nursery nursing personnel issued subsequently by the Minister of Health, were also brought into operation.

Laboratory Facilities.—Sir Lionel Whitby, C.V.O., M.C., is the Council's Bacteriologist, but during his absence on military duties, Dr. C. J. C. Britton, Assistant Pathologist, Middlesex Hospital, has acted in that capacity. The work is carried out in the Bland Sutton Institute of Pathology at the Middlesex Hospital.

Mr. Thomas McLachlan, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C., whose laboratory is situated at No. 4, Hanway Place, W.1, is the Public Analyst for the Borough.

Home Nursing.—The Paddington and St. Marylebone District Nursing Association continued to provide adequate nursing services in the home under an arrangement made with the Council. During 1944, visits were paid to cases (number shown within brackets) as follow: Maternity, 807 (43); pneumonia, 226 (14); tuberculosis, 121 (4); puerperal pyrexia, 6 (1); ophthalmia neonatorum, 5 (1); whooping cough, 8 (1); influenza, 110 (8); other ailments, 152 (13).

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Council have two maternity and child welfare centres: No. 1 in the Town Hall Extension comprising ante- and post-natal, infant welfare, artificial sunlight, massage, and diphtheria immunisation clinics; No. 2 at No. 217, Lisson Grove with provision for ante- and post-natal, infant welfare, artificial sunlight, massage, and dental clinics. In addition, ante- and post-natal and infant welfare clinics held at the Middlesex Hospital form part of the Council's maternity and child welfare scheme. A normal service was provided throughout the year and there was a considerable increase in attendances.

TABLE 3.—WORK OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

Centre	Clinic Sessions held				Attendances (figures in brackets indicate new cases).							
	Mater- nity	Infant	Light	Massage	Maternity Clinics		Infant Clinics		Light Clinic		Massage Clinic	
					Ante- natal	Post- natal	Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre No. 1	100	150	83	262	1,903 (386)	80 (40)	3,652 (279)	1,634 (28)	307 (36)	654 (49)	368 (38)	907 (50)
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre No. 2	103	201	78	238	1,241 (183)	124 (58)	3,496 (235)	1,403 (29)	244 (32)	1,208 (63)	190 (28)	975 (62)
The Middlesex Hospital	213	150	—	—	3,892 (393) *326 *(43)	462 (231) *29 *(20)	1,717 (132) *735 *(61)	1,156 (14) *422 *(9)	—	—	—	—

*St. Marylebone residents attending the Middlesex Hospital.

Classes for remedial exercises, held at Welfare Centres Nos. 1 and 2, were supported by 36 mothers who made a total of 143 attendances.

Home Visits.—The five whole-time and two part-time health visitors paid domiciliary visits as follow: (a) to expectant mothers, first visits, 440, total visits, 872; (b) to children under 1 year of age, first visits, 694, total visits, 3,827; (c) to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years, total visits, 3,527. With the appointment of a new health visitor the opportunity was taken to adjust and re-allocate the seven health visitors' districts in the light of present-day needs.

Milk and Vitamin Products.—The Food Executive Officer has kindly provided the following information as to dried milk supplied under the National Scheme during the period 2nd January, 1944, to 30th December, 1944; full cream, 2,016 20 oz. cartons at 1/2d. per carton; 256 cartons free: half cream, 184 cartons at 1/2d. per carton; 42 cartons free. Distribution of vitamin preparations was also made as follow: cod liver oil, 3,870 13½ oz. bottles; orange juice, 32,259 6 oz. bottles; vitamin A and D tablets, 1,146 packets, each packet containing 45 tablets.

Day Nurseries.—Four war-time day nurseries (whole-time) were functioning in the Borough throughout the year. All are affiliated to the National Society of Children's Nurseries as training centres for the Nursery Nurses' Diploma. The difficulty of obtaining and retaining sufficient nursing and domestic staff again constituted the major problem in operating this service. In accordance with the terms of Ministry of Health Circular 111/44, all nursery nursing personnel were examined and X-rayed by the Council's Tuberculosis Officer.

TABLE 4.—WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES.

No.	Nursery.	Date of Opening.	Number of Places.			Average Daily Attendance.		
			0—2 years.	2—5 years.	Total.	0—2 years.	2—5 years.	Total.
1	12-18, Salisbury Street	26.1.1942	30	30	60	21	28	49
2	St. Vincent's Creche, 14, Blandford Street	*1.9.1942	15	20	35	9	17	26
3	3, Devonshire Street	16.8.1943	21	36	57	12	25	37
4	86, Carlton Hill	1.12.1943	24	26	50	13	17	30
	Totals ... ..	...	90	112	202	55	87	142

*Approved by the Ministry of Health as a grant-aided nursery.

Home Helps.—A home help was provided in five cases. Great difficulty was again experienced in securing women suitable and willing to undertake this essential work. The Council were faced with a similar labour problem towards the end of the year in endeavouring to establish the domestic help scheme suggested in Ministry of Health Circular 179/44, which extended, as an experiment, the operation of the home helps service under maternity and child welfare powers to sick or infirm persons. No domestic help was supplied during the remainder of 1944.

Child Life Protection.—The number of persons on the register who, at the end of the year, were undertaking for reward the nursing and maintenance of foster children, was four, and the children in their care numbered four. The Council's health visitors, acting as child protection visitors, made a total of 19 inspections.

Illegitimate Children.—With the approval of the Minister of Health the Council adopted a scheme for the care of illegitimate children, including the establishment of a system of guaranteed payments to foster mothers and increased financial assistance to voluntary moral welfare associations.

Premature Infants.—Arrangements were made to give effect to the recommendations of Ministry of Health Circular 20/44, dated 22nd March, 1944, relating to the care of premature infants at home or in hospital.

Dental Treatment.—By arrangement, certain sessions at the Dental Clinic of the London County Council at No. 217, Lisson Grove are set aside for the inspection and treatment of mothers and children under the maternity and child welfare scheme of the Borough Council. Statistics for 1944: sessions held, 107; new cases—mothers 144, children 39; attendances—mothers 648, children 59; X-ray examinations, 21; extractions—mothers 315, children 27; patients provided with dentures at cost price, 24; fillings, 154; other operations, 475.

Maternity Cases.—Accommodation for maternity cases was available within the Borough at the Middlesex Hospital, and also at the Paddington Hospital of the London County Council. Miss Hilda Grace Johnson, M.D., B.S., one of the Council's part-time maternity and child welfare medical officers, filled a vacancy on the panel of local obstetric consultants set up to assist doctors in the area in difficulties or complications arising during pregnancy or at or after confinement. The emergency obstetric service of the London County Council also continued to be available in case of need.

Convalescent Homes.—One mother and baby were sent for four weeks to a post-natal home in Reading; four children were admitted to a convalescent home at Byfleet for periods varying from four to eighteen weeks.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.—Apart from water obtained for domestic purposes from private wells at three large blocks of flats, a constant supply throughout the Borough is provided through the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board, and no complaint as to insufficiency or quality was received during the year. In accordance with the provisions of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, the Board notified six instances where water had been cut off in occupied premises for non-payment of rate; in all cases the supply was reinstated, in two instances after service of an intimation notice. Private well waters were examined periodically by the Public Analyst and the Council's Bacteriologist with satisfactory results.

Drainage.—The number of plans approved was 55, all relating to old buildings. Inspections made by the sanitary inspectors numbered 896.

Combined Drainage.—Orders under seal as to combined drainage were issued in 3 cases.

Public Conveniences.—The usual supervision was exercised over the 15 public sanitary conveniences (11 for men, 4 for women).

Public Cleansing and Salvage.—Amounts dealt with: house and trade refuse, 24,434 tons; street sweepings and gully slop, 2,062½ tons; salvaged materials, 3,402½ tons, including 2,048 tons of kitchen waste for pig and poultry feeding collected from 550 bins placed at intervals in the streets for the reception of this material. A sum of £9,269 13s. 4d. was obtained from the sale of salvaged materials. In addition, £359 17s. 10d. was received for the removal of trade refuse, green offal, and the cleansing of petrol interceptors.

Shops.—Inspections under the Shops Act, 1934, numbered 488. In 23 instances service of notice was necessary.

Diseased or Infirm Persons.—Twenty-five of these difficult and often distressing cases were dealt with during the year. In one instance it was necessary to obtain a Magistrate's Order, under Section 224 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for the removal to hospital of an aged, infirm and physically incapacitated woman from an insanitary dwelling.

Bed Bugs.—Sixty-five dwellings (including 14 municipal flats) where bugs were found were disinfested. Verminous furniture belonging to 22 families, 2 of whom were dishoused as the result of enemy action, was treated by the hydrogen cyanide process. The mobile hot-air disinfector continued in use, and 2,104 bundles of bedding from air-raid shelters and 1,270 blankets from hostels were dealt with.

Verminous Persons.—The numbers of adults and school children using the Cleansing Station were 658 (561 men, 97 women) and 1,235 (330 boys, 905 girls) respectively.

Rats and Mice.—Complaints received numbered 466, and 70 food and 376 other premises were found to be infested. Of the 70 food premises, 34 were shops and 36 hotels and restaurants; the 376 other premises included 216 dwelling houses, 42 shops, 53 stores, 44 factories, 11 hospitals and 2 allotments. Ratproofing was carried out at all infested premises. The chief methods employed for the extermination of rats were poison baiting and trapping. Among the sources of infestation were sewers and drains damaged as a result of enemy action, and bombed sites. Preventive measures taken in this connection included the inspection of 475 premises and the sealing off of 17 sewer connections.

A system of charging for services carried out by the Council's rat catchers came into operation on the 1st November, 1944. During the remaining two months of the year advantage of the scheme was taken in 99 cases, in four of which, on the ground of inability to pay, the charges against the occupiers were waived. The two rat catchers made 6,087 visits in connection with this service.

Dog Nuisance.—Contravention of the bye-law relating to the fouling of footways by dogs was reported by police officers in three cases, in all of which, following prosecution, convictions were secured and penalties imposed. The total number of prosecutions since the bye-law came into operation in 1928 is 304, the amount of fines imposed being £113 16s. 0d.

Mosquitoes.—Four complaints of mosquitoes were received. The nuisance was mainly traced to breeding in emergency water tanks, and appropriate treatment proved effective.

Pigeons.—Nuisance from these birds was the subject of eight complaints—two relating to blocks of flats, two to churches, and one each to railway property, municipal buildings, general stores, and a cinema. All complaints were dealt with satisfactorily and a contractor was employed to reduce the number of pigeons in serious cases.

Noise.—Five complaints of noise were received. Four were concerned with wireless loudspeakers, and in one instance the issue of a notice was necessary to secure abatement of the nuisance. Noise from a bakehouse was the subject of the remaining complaint.

Poisons.—The names of 74 traders were on the Council's list of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List (Pharmacy and Poisons Acts, 1852 to 1941), the premises concerned numbering 85.

Factories.—The number of registered factories was 1,280. Frequent inspections were carried out, and conditions were remedied in 27 instances (want of cleanliness 5; insufficient or unsuitable sanitary conveniences 12; other defects 10). Outworkers lists were received from 65 employers in respect of 237 contractors and 526 workpeople.

Civil Defence.—Miscellaneous visits by the sanitary inspectors in connection with civil defence activities not referred to elsewhere in this report numbered 165 and included visits relating to maintenance of first-aid posts.

Sanitary Inspection.—The total number of complaints received was 1,242. Mainly as a result of publicity campaigns, rat infestations were again responsible for the largest single number of complaints (466). Details of the various nuisances detected and remedied, to the total number of 1,531, are set out in Table 5. In 384 cases the nuisances were abated upon service of a preliminary (intimation) notice. Statutory notices were issued in 38 instances, and referred to such matters as dirt, dampness, verminous rooms, unsatisfactory water-closet accommodation, inadequate water supply, defective roofs, defective and choked drains. In no case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings.

TABLE 5.—NUISANCES DETECTED AND REMEDIED.

Nature of Nuisance.	Districts.						The Borough.
	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.	
Houses damp, dirty or dilapidated remedied	23	22	73	50	16	35	219
Doors, windows, floors, ceilings, sash cords, grates and flues, etc., repaired	11	6	21	18	12	9	77
Verminous dwellings disinfested	1	1	36	15	8	4	65
Verminous furniture and bedding disinfested	—	2	5	8	4	3	22
Overcrowding abated	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Underground rooms (illegal occupation) dealt with	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water closet defects remedied	6	8	33	47	21	12	127
Insufficient and unsuitable water closet accommodation remedied	—	1	2	3	9	3	18
Urinal defects remedied	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Drain and water closet stoppages cleared	8	5	8	17	4	3	45
Drains relaid or amended	—	—	7	4	2	1	14
Soilpipes and ventilating shafts repaired or renewed	—	—	2	5	2	—	9
Waste pipe defects remedied	2	1	7	11	4	3	28
Yard defects remedied	—	1	9	6	1	1	18
Wash-house defects remedied	—	—	3	4	1	1	9
Area defects remedied	—	—	2	7	7	—	16
Basement defects remedied	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roofs and gutters repaired	19	12	49	45	7	21	153
Water supply to houses reinstated	—	2	—	5	1	—	8
Water supply laid on to upper storeys	—	2	—	3	—	—	5
Water cistern defects remedied	—	4	2	3	—	—	9
Dung or dust receptacles repaired or renewed	3	10	6	9	6	11	45
Rubbish, manure, etc., accumulations removed	1	14	32	20	10	4	81
Animal nuisances abated	1	—	5	3	2	—	11
Rat and mouse infestations dealt with	20	29	94	87	62	154	446
Bakehouses cleansed	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Smoke nuisances abated	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Shops—sanitary defects remedied	—	—	13	14	1	7	35
Miscellaneous	4	8	17	11	9	13	62

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

War-Damaged Dwellings.—Substantial progress was made, more particularly during the first half of 1944, in the repair of war-damaged properties and nearly 9,000 dwellings were rendered fit for habitation. Difficulties caused by restrictions on man-power and materials were increased later in the year by additional demands for urgent repairs as a result of renewed enemy activity. It was therefore necessary to augment the Council's labour resources by utilising the services of building operatives from the provinces who volunteered to work in London and by taking advantage of a mutual aid scheme with neighbouring boroughs.

Adaptation of Premises.—Shortage of labour and materials also curtailed conversion work in large empty houses. Efforts were, however, made to provide a greater amount of accommodation in requisitioned premises by carrying out the minimum repairs necessary to render the houses habitable. Properties thus conditioned formed part of a central housing pool for accommodating persons rendered homeless by enemy action in the London Region.

Empty Properties.—A survey of all unoccupied premises was undertaken to ascertain their suitability for housing purposes. In appropriate cases premises were requisitioned where no counter-proposals for occupation were received from the owners.

Factory-Made Houses.—Application was made to the Ministry of Health for approximately 100 Arcon Mark V type houses and negotiations commenced for acquiring sites for their erection.

New Blocks of Flats.—As part of the Council's immediate post-war housing programme, proposals were approved for the acquisition of two areas—one in St. John's Wood, the other in the Lisson Grove district—comprising nearly 8 acres. The plans of the St. John's Wood scheme include provision for a branch maternity and child welfare centre.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses.—Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts—1,287; number of inspections made—2,833; number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—360; number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action—357; number of houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936—25; number of underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made—6.

Common Lodging Houses.—Forty-one visits were paid to the two lodging houses in the Borough: one, registered for 436 men, owned by the Salvation Army and situated at No. 2, Burne Street and premises in Lisson Street; the other, accommodating 100 women, conducted by the Church Army at Portman House, No. 10, Daventry Street.

Public Air-Raid Shelters.—The shelters continued to be used as sleeping places from time to time, and 331 inspections were made by day and night.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—There are 164 premises from which milk is sold. Inspections made numbered 251.

During the year 35 applications under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1943, were received from 15 milk purveyors and licences were granted as follows: 1 pasteurising, 17 dealers' and 3 supplementary in the case of pasteurised milk; 1 bottling, 11 dealers' and 2 supplementary in respect of tuberculin tested milk.

The average composition of the 105 samples of milk analysed was: total solids, 12.55%; fat, 3.69%; solids not fat, 8.86%. No sample was found to be below standard.

Thirty-five samples of milk were submitted to bacteriological examination, and all were found to comply with the Ministry of Health standard.

Meat and other Foods—Unsound Food.—Some 17 tons of food condemned as unfit for human consumption included the following: meat (including bacon and rabbits), 6 tons 15 cwt.; fish, 1 ton 9 cwt. 2 qtrs. 22 lbs.; fruit, 1 ton 9 cwt. 3 qtrs. 6 lbs.; vegetables, 10 cwt. 1 qtr.; cereals, 9 cwt. 2 qtrs. 17 lbs.; canned goods, 10,679 tins; miscellaneous, 1 ton 18 cwt. 1 qtr. Practically all this unsound food was salvaged and diverted to other uses.

Slaughterhouse.—The only licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough is that at the Zoological Society's premises in Regent's Park. The slaughtering done in normal times is for the food for the animals in the gardens and humane killers are used. Two inspections were made. One licence to slaughter or stun animals, granted to skilled slaughtermen, was renewed.

Food Premises.—At the end of 1944, 109 premises were registered for the preparation or manufacture of foods (other than ice cream) intended for sale, and 256 inspections were made.

Ice Cream Premises.—The number of premises on the register was 71. The ban on the manufacture of ice cream was removed by the Ministry of Food on the 16th November, 1944.

Butter and Margarine Premises.—At the end of the year there were on the register 16 dealers in margarine, 1 wholesale dealer in milk-blended butter and 2 butter manufacturers. Fifty-one inspections were made.

Bakehouses.—Number on register—25, 19 being basement bakehouses; 81 inspections were made.

Fried Fish Vendors and Fish Curers.—The number of premises used by vendors of fried fish is 8 and by fish curers 3. Thirty-four inspections of fried fish shops and 8 inspections of fish curers' premises were carried out.

Restaurants, etc.—Premises in which meals are provided or food is sold already cooked or is prepared for sale numbered 419, including restaurant and dining-room kitchens, 370; hotel kitchens, 49: 930 inspections were made and 69 notices served.

Horseflesh.—Twenty-eight visits were paid to one shop selling horseflesh for human food.

Bacteriological Examinations.—Apart from milk, one sample of cooked pressed lambs' tongues was examined bacteriologically and found to contain no food poisoning organisms.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.—Samples taken under the Act numbered 700 (65 formal, 632 informal and 3 private) and included: milk 105, butter 107, margarine 45, cheese 5. The sum paid in respect of each analysis was 12s. 6d. (15s. 0d. as from the 1st July, 1944), except in the case of sausages for which the fee was £1 1s. 0d. per sample. Twenty-five samples were adversely reported upon: 2 formal (1 each of sherry and tincture of iodine); 22 informal (4 of malt vinegar, 2 each of bun flour, tomato ketchup, coffee essence, and semolina, 1 each of sherry, saccharin tablets, orange squash, tincture of iodine, powdered gelatin, mixed herbs, baking powder, mustard mixture, steak, and lime flavoured cordial; and 1 private sample (pork sausages). In no case were legal proceedings considered justified. In certain instances the facts were referred to the Ministry of Food: in others the matter was taken up with the manufacturers. Commodity Standard Orders subsequently issued provided against a number of the irregularities reported.

The Public Analyst (Mr. Thomas McLachlan) comments as follows: "Due partly to the recent general tightening up of food regulations the percentage of adulterated samples this year is higher than previously. Two samples of sherry, examined at the request of the Ministry of Food, were found to be of a hock or dry barsac type of wine. Although there have been several prosecutions in respect of wines described as port or sherry type but which are prepared primarily from cider, it was felt that your Council could take no legal steps in this matter but that any action should be initiated by the Ministry of Food itself. Your Analyst is unable to understand how the Ministry of Food can maintain that wines do not come under the provisions of the Food Substitutes (Control) Order, 1941, seeing that the definition of "food" in this Order is stated to be that given in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which definition must include wines. A sample of orange squash contained 40% excess sugar, and a sample of lime flavoured cordial was 50% deficient in citric acid and 18% deficient in sugar. The Soft Drinks Industry (War-Time) Association Limited, acting under the aegis of the Ministry of Food, has authority to withdraw licences where manufacturers continually fail to comply with the requirements of the Soft Drinks Orders and, with this power, the Association is now effecting considerable improvements in the quality of soft drinks being supplied to the public. Adverse reports were made on four samples of malt vinegar as they contained a small quantity of salt without disclosure. As the addition of salt causes a material alteration to the flavour of the vinegar, your Analyst feels that its presence should be divulged. Two samples of coffee essence had been filled into dirty bottles and were fermenting, as was a sample of tomato ketchup. None of the other forms of adulteration was of a serious nature, and again your Analyst is glad to note that no samples of milk were below standard."

At the end of the year five premises appeared on the register of premises where artificial cream is manufactured, sold or exposed or kept for sale for human consumption. In no instance was action under the statute necessary.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious diseases notifiable in St. Marylebone are listed in Table 6, which gives also information regarding notifications (civilians) received during 1944. Two unconnected cases of food poisoning, which is also notifiable in the Borough, were reported.

TABLE 6.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS.

*Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole Borough.													Cases notified in Sub-Districts.			Cases re-moved to hospital.	Cases iso-lated at home.
	At all ages	At ages—years.												All Souls.	St. Mary.	North Mary-lebone		
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—					
Diphtheria, including mem- branous croup	12	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	6	1	—	—	8	—	4	12	—
Erysipelas	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	6	7	9	1	8	11	7
Scarlet fever	62	—	2	7	3	6	15	8	6	11	2	2	—	23	10	29	62	—
Puerperal fever	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	3	—	3	6	—
Puerperal pyrexia	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	1	1	5	7	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	3	—
Tuberculosis—																		
Pulmonary	102	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	43	19	23	8	21	32	49	39	63
Non-pulmonary	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	4	3	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	34	—	2	3	1	—	2	1	1	4	6	6	8	10	5	19	16	18
Dysentery	91	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	9	75	77	—	14	90	1
Measles	57	5	12	1	6	2	7	3	4	11	3	3	—	16	6	35	27	30
Whooping cough	90	16	22	25	9	4	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	8	52	44	46
Scabies	181	5	2	4	4	4	16	20	19	53	23	24	7	53	36	92	—	181
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Totals	671	31	42	41	24	18	56	37	40	144	58	75	105	255	101	315	323	348

*There were no cases of the following diseases, which are also notifiable in the Borough: Smallpox, cholera, typhus fever, enteric fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, continued fever, plague, glanders, farcy, anthrax, polio-encephalitis, encephalitis lethargica, acute poliomyelitis, induced malaria.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Clinic facilities were available at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres Nos. 1 and 2 and at the Middlesex Hospital. Treatments were also carried out at the war-time day nurseries and at certain elementary schools. Eight general practitioners who wished to carry out immunisation of their patients in the home or at the surgery were supplied with the necessary prophylactic free of charge. A.P.T. (Alum Precipitated Toxoid) was the agent generally employed. T.A.F. (Toxoid-Antitoxin Floccules) was used in a small proportion of cases.

TABLE 7.—WORK OF THE DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS.

	Pre-school children.	School children.	Adults.	Totals.
Attendances... ..	959	242	29	1,230
New cases	343	78	11	432
Schick negative	—	—	4	4
Completely immunised but not retested	270	61	—	331
Retested	172	56	3	231
Positive after retest	39	7	—	46

At the end of 1944 it was considered that 78% of children under 5 years of age and 72% of those between 5 and 15 had been immunised. These estimates include, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in St. Marylebone by private arrangement and children who came into the Borough after being immunised elsewhere.

Smallpox.—Eleven cases of this disease were reported in the County of Middlesex and two in the metropolitan area during February and March. All occurred at, or in association with, the country branch of a hospital in the Borough. The outbreak was characterised by a high degree of virulence, and three of the patients died of haemorrhagic confluent smallpox (two had never been vaccinated, and one—an elderly woman—had not been vaccinated since infancy). With the close connection existing between the parent hospital and its branch in Middlesex and the frequent interchange of medical and nursing staff and patients, the necessary preventive measures were at once taken by the Department. The staff, patients and other contacts at the hospital and elsewhere in the Borough were kept under constant observation during the incubation period, and altogether over 2,000 vaccinations were carried out. No case of smallpox occurred in St. Marylebone.

Vaccination.—Vaccinations carried out numbered 2,711 (primary, 479; re-vaccinations, 2,232). Vaccination was successful in 2,691 instances; unsuccessful in 15; while 5 cases were awaiting inspection. Of the 944 children whose births were registered in 1943, 692 (73.3%) were successfully vaccinated.

Miss Evelyn Theodora Dalrymple MacLagan, M.B., B.S., was appointed as occasional deputy to the Public Vaccinator (Dr. Myles Colt) for North and South Marylebone Districts, in place of Dr. Alexander C. Gavin, deceased.

Scabies.—The Council's Cleansing Station in Lisson Grove dealt with 812 cases of scabies: adults 213 (men 51, women 162); children 599 (boys 230, girls 369). The Scabies Clinic at the Middlesex Hospital treated 2,465 cases: adults 2,215 (men 1,183, women 1,032); children 250 (boys 120, girls 130). Included in the figures for both centres are patients who came from outside the Borough. Domiciliary visits paid in connection with St. Marylebone cases numbered 293.

Impetigo.—Fifty boys and 51 girls received treatment for this condition at the Cleansing Station.

Dysentery.—During the last four months of the year an outbreak of Sonne dysentery occurred at the St. Marylebone Home (London County Council). Sixty-six cases (58 men, 8 women) were reported and all the patients were removed to an isolation hospital. Four of the cases (3 men, 1 woman) proved fatal.

Venereal Diseases.—Continued assistance was given to the propaganda campaign for drawing public attention to the dangers of these conditions and to the adequate facilities which exist for those in need of treatment.

Talks on venereal diseases were given in the Borough to civil defence personnel and other workers by lecturers of the Central Council for Health Education under the grant received by that body from the London County Council.

Blood specimens from patients attending the Council's ante-natal clinics continued to be submitted, as a routine measure, to a group laboratory of the London County Council for the Wassermann reaction and Kahn test.

Insulin.—Supplies of insulin for the poorer inhabitants suffering from diabetes were provided free of cost by the Council in three cases, under the authority of Ministry of Health Circular 2734, dated 4th January, 1943.

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality.—Table 8, prepared at the request of the Ministry of Health, contains information with regard to age and sex distribution of all forms of tuberculosis.

TABLE 8.—TUBERCULOSIS: NEW CASES AND DEATHS.

At ages— years	*NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—15 ...	2	—	3	1	—	—	1	—
15—25 ...	16	14	—	1	1	2	—	—
25—35 ...	14	20	1	1	3	—	—	—
35—45 ...	17	13	—	1	9	1	—	1
45—55 ...	10	5	—	1	4	2	—	—
55—65 ...	13	1	—	—	5	—	—	1
65 and upwards...	11	2	1	—	4	1	1	—
Totals ...	83	55	5	5	26	6	3	2

*Including all primary notifications and also any other new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Notifications.—Table 6 (p. 9) gives information regarding notifications of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis received during the year. The total number of cases of tuberculosis remaining at the 31st December, 1944, on the register was 608, 26 more than at the end of the previous year.

Dispensary.—The work of the Dispensary continued to increase generally. Statistics for 1944: new cases 645 (including 102 contacts), old cases, 402; attendances, 5,209; tuberculosis officer called into consultation on 543 occasions; home visits by tuberculosis officer—new 58, old 83; hospital visits by tuberculosis officer, 50; home visits by tuberculosis visitors—first visits 138, re-visits 1,234.

During the year 1,915 examinations (films, 958; screening only, 957) were made by means of the Council's X-ray plant. Forty patients received artificial pneumothorax treatment on the premises and 638 refills were given. Sputum examinations carried out in the dispensary numbered 334.

Expenditure on milk supplied to tuberculous persons amounted to £441 14s. 0d.; 615 orders were issued.

In addition to the Council's Tuberculosis Dispensary, forming part of the Town Hall Extension, there is situated in the Borough the Margaret Street Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, No. 26, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, which is maintained by a voluntary organisation and possesses facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Institutional Treatment.—Admissions to hospital or sanatorium during the year numbered 142.

Maintenance Allowances.—The scheme of maintenance allowances, etc., for tuberculous persons and their dependents, prescribed by Ministry of Health Memorandum 266/T, continued to operate smoothly and to attain its object of encouraging patients to secure early treatment and to stay in sanatorium until maximum benefit has been obtained. During the year, 61 patients applied for assistance and in 56 cases financial aid, totalling £1,856 4s. 8d., was afforded.

Government Rehabilitation Scheme.—Twenty-two patients were referred for training under this scheme.

Miniature Mass Radiography.—During its first year of operation, 1,150 factory and office workers were sent from the Borough to the mass radiography unit of the London County Council while it was stationed at St. Margaret's (L.C.C.) Hospital, Kentish Town. Transport was provided for those attending for examination. The unit was also visited by the Tuberculosis Officer and members of the local Tuberculosis Care Committee. From the whole of London 45,682 persons were examined, and as a result, 335 (0.73 per cent.) were referred for further investigation, and of these, 112 (0.24 per cent.) were advised to enter hospital or sanatorium.

Care Committee.—The Committee held 11 meetings and dealt with 307 cases.

Disinfection.—During the year 631 rooms and 25,944 articles (including 204 books) were disinfected after infectious diseases generally.

Bacteriological Examinations.—Table 9 shows the number of specimens examined for the purposes of diagnosis and indicates also the organisms in relation to which the examinations were made.

TABLE 9.—WORK OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Nature of Specimen and Examination.	Positive.	Negative.	TOTAL.
Throat and nasal swabs for—			
<i>B. diphtheriæ</i>	6	279	285
Hæmolytic streptococci	22	263	285
Sputa—for tubercle bacilli	4	34	38
Fæces—for typhoid, paratyphoid and dysentery bacilli ...	—	14	14
Eye swabs—for conjunctivitis	—	3	3
Blood smear—for malaria	—	1	1
Totals	32	594	626

TABLE 2.—WORK OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Age group.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
70-74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75-79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80-84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
85-89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
90-94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
95-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 3.—Tuberculosis, New Cases and Deaths.

Age group.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
70-74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75-79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80-84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
85-89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
90-94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
95-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 4.—Tuberculosis, New Cases and Deaths.

Age group.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
70-74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75-79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80-84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
85-89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
90-94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
95-99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—