

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Bexley].

Contributors

Bexley (London, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

[1955?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/gbenb9bn>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

PRC Region 12 BEX 19

TC 4412(1) BEXLEY Pa W.B.



BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

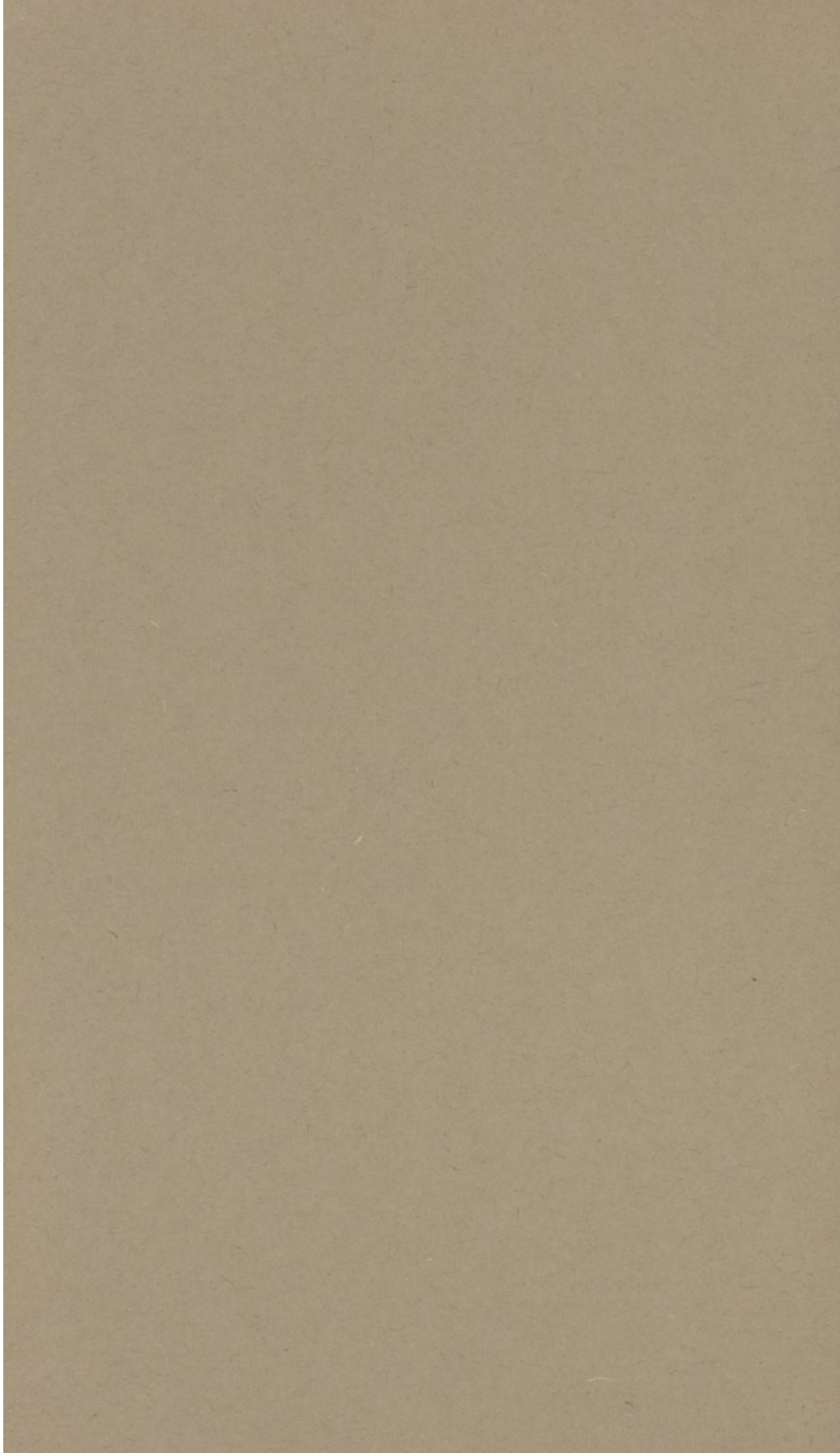
and

**Report on the
School Health Services**

For the Year 1954

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health





BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1954

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Borough of Bexley.

Mayor: Councillor John Mason, B.A. (Cantab.), J.P.

Deputy Mayor: Councillor J. W. Bateman.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J. W. Bateman.

Alderman M. J. Corr.

Councillor F. W. Archer

Alderman J. C. McLean, J.P.

Councillor A. S. Mildwater.

Alderman P. R. Relph.

Councillor E. S. Newton.

Councillor W. P. Webster.

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF,
1954.**

Medical Officer of Health	...	John Landon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Joint appointment with Borough of Erith and U.D. Crayford).		
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Public Cleansing Officer and Shops Acts Inspector.	*†	G. Hind, M.S.I.A.
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	*†	J. T. Boocock.
District Sanitary Inspectors	...	*† F. W. Willington. *† G. F. Lovegrove. *† W. E. Moses.
Chief Clerk	... ..	G. A. Pearson.
Senior Clerk	... ..	R. V. Hoad.
Clerks	... ..	E. M. Pearmine (Miss). M. E. Smith (Miss) (Shorthand Typist). J. M. Moon (Mrs.) (Temporary Shorthand Typist, 12.4.54- 26.6.54).
Public Analyst	... ..	H. E. Monk, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Refuse Foreman	... ..	G. E. Packman.

* Certificate for Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

† Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Bexley.*

MR MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The assessment of the health of the Borough is based on a judicious mixture of knowledge and opinion. The former is represented by the vital statistics relating to births, deaths and infectious disease which are compiled in the Health Department and are collated by the General Register Office to allow for comparison with the country as a whole; the latter is based on personal observation and on information reaching the Department from doctors, sanitary inspectors, health visitors, voluntary organisations and the Press. In a highly developed modern community enjoying the benefits of over a 100 years of Public Health one can no longer be content to regard health as the mere absence of infectious or other recognisable disease although this was the case during the many decades when the amelioration of the external environment was the main preoccupation of the Health Services. This is not to suggest that all the environmental hazards have been removed and, indeed, this is far from being the case. It is true that we now have a pure water supply which has almost totally eliminated the diarrhoeal diseases but we are still confronted with the perils of atmospheric pollution, of the chemical sophistication of much of our food and of a host of less obvious but equally insidious causes of loss of health, happiness and efficiency including those resulting from industrial mechanisation and sociological changes affecting work, recreation and personal objectives. In other words, the state of a modern civilised community must be judged far more from the viewpoint of its mental health than was considered necessary, or even possible, in earlier days. We have no statistics to measure the mental health of the people nor the amount of sub-normal health in general resulting in a departure from that functional "wholeness" which is the essence of health and, while it is true that such philosophical speculations may lead one into fields far removed from the conventional activities of the older public health, they are, nevertheless, an important part of the newer social

medicine. It is necessary to point this out before proceeding to examine some of the statistical pointers to the health of the Borough.

The birth rate for 1954 was 11.8 per thousand of the population compared with 12.7 per 1,000 in 1953 and represents the lowest birth rate ever recorded in the Borough. Thus the downward trend of the past four years has continued. The standardised birth rate, which allows for comparison with other parts of the country, is 12.2, but the rate is well below that for England and Wales which was 15.2. It looks as if we may have to regard a low birth rate as a permanent feature of our modern society. When this is coupled with a low death rate and a greater expectation of life, the result can only be an ageing population with the many social and industrial problems which that must bring.

The death rate for the Borough fell still further to 8.1 per thousand of the estimated home population compared with 8.8 in 1953 and a rate of 11.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales. The two main causes of death, as in recent years, were diseases of the heart and blood vessels and cancer, the latter including 32 deaths from cancer of the lung. The prevention of cancer is one of the great public health tasks of the future and may well be, in part, wrapped up with a Clean Air policy as fore-shadowed by the Beaver Report. Since we are mortal and must die of something the best we can hope for is that life should come quietly and peacefully to an end without the intervention of any preventable catastrophe in which category at least some forms of cancer probably fall.

The infant mortality rate for 1954, that is the number of children dying in the first year of life for every 1,000 live births, was 22.1 per 1,000 against 14.36 per 1,000 in 1953. This is the highest rate since 1951 when the rate was 24.76. Of the 23 deaths which were responsible for this rate, no less than 13 were due to congenital malformation and premature birth, conditions of which too little is still known for any form of prevention to be applied. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 25.5. In 1952 the low figure of 11.34 was recorded in the Borough, but there is no need for undue concern in that the overall trend of infant mortality is favourable and there are bound to be annual variations which are to a large extent fortuitous.

Although there were 1,056 total births during the year there were no maternal deaths. This is a fine record and

speaks well for the obstetrical services in the area and for the standard of ante-natal care available for the expectant mother.

The incidence of infectious disease was again low. Once again no case of diphtheria occurred but it is still very necessary that mothers should not fail to have their children immunised as only thus can a continued freedom from this disease be ensured. Only two paralytic cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough compared with eight in the previous year. The number of cases of tuberculosis during 1954 was 89 compared with 91 during 1953. The number of deaths, however, was only 5 as against 9 in 1953. A comparison of notifications and deaths over the past 10 years is in keeping with the national tendency for deaths from this disease to decrease at a greater rate than notifications. In other words, the curative services are tending to outstrip the preventive services and very much more needs to be done to track down the infectious cases within the community and to lessen the chances of infection of susceptible persons.

During the year a survey was commenced in accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, to ascertain how many houses would require to be demolished within the next five years, and it was found that the number of obviously unfit houses was relatively small as was to be expected in an area in which so much housing development took place between the two wars. The demolition of these houses will not, necessarily, be followed by 100% replacement on the site as some of these may be considered unsuitable for new development. The rehousing of these tenants may, therefore, be a matter of some difficulty but it is hoped that the rate of demolition will be such as to allow for the assimilation of such families into the Council's rehousing programme in general.

The Clean Food Campaign continued to make real, if not spectacular progress, and at the time of writing 156 plaques have been awarded by the Bexley, Erith and Crayford Clean Food Traders' Guild. Far more could, no doubt, be achieved if the necessary staff were available, and indeed this applies to Health Education in general. A good case could be made for the appointment of a Health Education Officer to serve the Borough or such wider area as appeared to be indicated.

The work of the Bexley, Erith and Crayford Home Safety Committee is gaining momentum and will undoubtedly increase the scope of its activities in the near future. Our thanks are due to the Woolwich and Dartford Hospital Management Committees for providing statistics of home accidents treated at hospital over the past year. These undoubtedly emphasise the need for the instruction of the public in the causes of these accidents and the methods by which they may be prevented.

The Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, now on a voluntary basis but sponsored originally by the Bexley Borough Council, has done excellent work in alleviating the lot of many old people by friendly help, by assistance in kind when necessary, by making arrangements for inexpensive holidays and in other ways. Their work to some extent co-ordinates and is complementary to that of the many old peoples' organisations in the Borough providing clubs and other recreational facilities. The work of these voluntary organisations is invaluable to the old people in the Borough.

In October, 1954, the Report of the Kent Paediatric Society "A Study in the Epidemiology of Health" was published from the Health department, with the aid of a grant from the Eugenics Society, after five years work. The report was based on an investigation into the incidence and causation of health among 10—11 year old children in the Borough of Bexley and has been widely reviewed by the medical press in this and other countries.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Chief Clerk and all members of the Health Department for their devoted service during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area.

4,869 acres.

Population.

Registrar General's
Estimate mid-
year, 88,180.

New Dwellings Erected.

Houses 503

Relative figures for previous years.

Population—Mid-Year.

New Houses Erected.

1931 (Census)	...	33,150	1944	...	Nil
1935	...	59,970	1945	...	2
1940	...	77,670	1946	...	82 + 64 rebuilt
1945	...	75,040	1947	...	199 + 216 rebuilt
1950	...	89,410	1948	...	334 + 286 rebuilt
1951 (Census)	...	88,420	1949	...	138 + 73 rebuilt
1952	...	88,160	1950	...	102 + 15 rebuilt
1953	...	87,990	1951	...	319
			1952	...	355
			1953	...	265

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1954

(according to Rate Books) approximately 27,096

Rateable Value £685,457

Sum represented by a penny rate £2,800

Unemployment.

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
December 31st, 1953	248	115	35	12	410
December 31st, 1954	167	118	19	13	317

Social Conditions and Amenities.

The Borough of Bexley continues to be a healthy residential district and is specially favoured in that it has ample open spaces and recreational facilities for its inhabitants. Like other districts, however, that suffered severe bombing during the war, and whose population has increased considerably, housing shortages, at present, constitute the main barrier to the health of relatively large number of its citizens. The housing programme has been accelerated as much as possible and it can only be hoped that the housing position of the Borough will gradually reach the optimum standards for which the Council are striving.

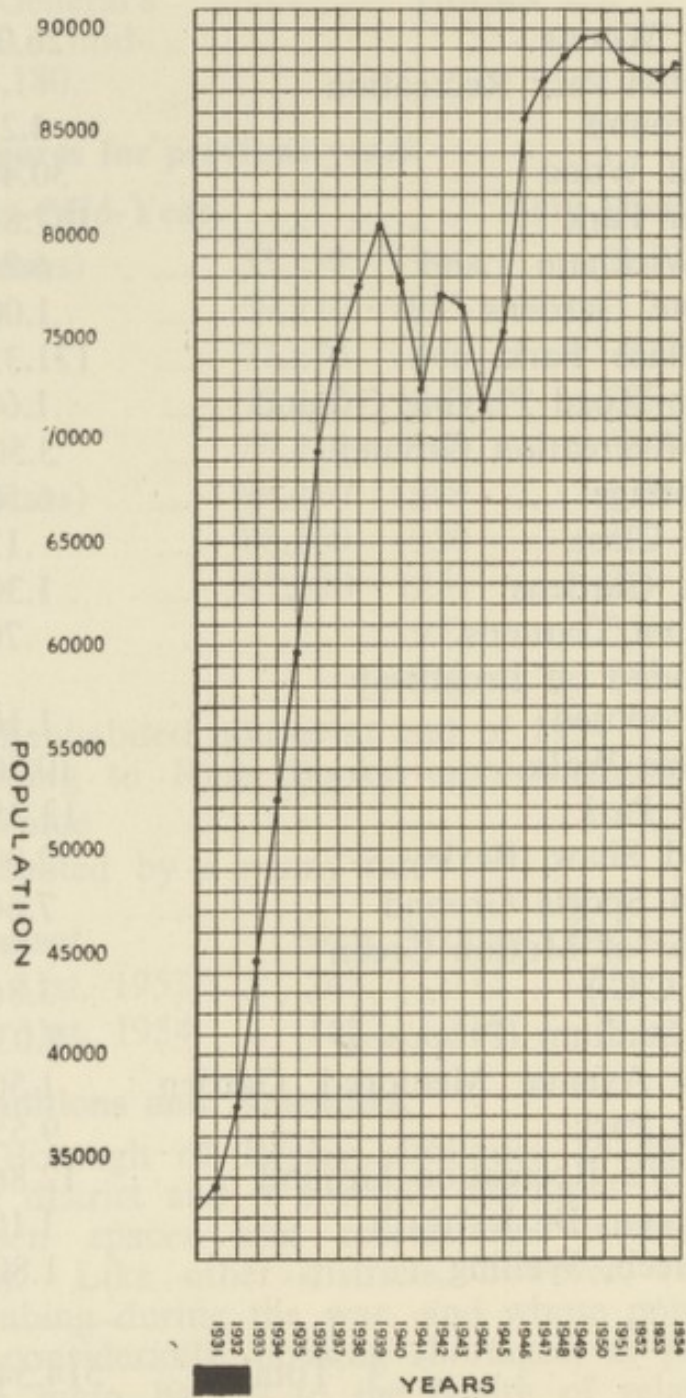
The Corporation supplied the district with electricity until the date of transfer of this service to the London Electricity Board, and the South Eastern Gas Board supplies gas.

The following public open spaces have been provided by the Corporation:—

Bexley Woods	...	...	...	26.00	acres
Brampton Park Recreation Ground	...	...	...	4.21	..
Bursted Wood	...	...	...	30.47	..
Danson Park	...	...	...	187.84	..
East Wickham Land	...	...	...	6.80	..
Eastcote Gardens	...	...	...	1.00	..
Hall Place Park	...	...	...	171.32	..
Hudson Road Playing Ground	...	...	...	1.60	..
Hurst Recreation Ground	...	...	...	3.50	..
Ivy Cottage	...	...	...	6.50	..
Oxleas Close	...	...	...	.13	..
Palmar Gardens	...	...	...	1.30	..
Parkhurst Gardens	...	...	...	.70	..
Playground off Broadway (Proposed)	...	...	...	1.16	..
Riverside Walk	...	...	...	10.50	..
Russell Park	...	...	...	13.25	..
Rutland Shaw, Bexley	...	...	...	2.90	..
Sheldon Sports Ground	...	...	...	7.66	..
Shoulder of Mutton Green (L.C.C.)	...	...	...	3.86	..
Sports Stadium (Proposed)	...	...	...	7.03	..
Steeple Avenue Memorial Garden	...	...	...	1.50	..
Stevens Park	...	...	...	9.55	..
St. Mary's Recreation Ground	...	...	...	12.86	..
The Green, Bexleyheath	...	..	...	1.10	..
The Green, Welling	...	...	...	1.80	..
				514.54	..

Facilities for outdoor games are provided in many of these open spaces, including the large Swimming Pool in Danson Park, opened in July, 1936.

GRAPH SHOWING RISE IN POPULATION
SINCE 1931



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	England and Wales.	Borough of Bexley.
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population.	
Births—		
Live	15.2	11.8
Still	0.36	0.16
	23.4(a)	13.26(a)
Deaths—		
All Causes	11.3	8.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.18	0.06
Influenza	0.05	0.02
Smallpox	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis	0.00	—
Pneumonia	0.48	0.32
Notifications (corrected)		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	—
Para Typhoid Fever	0.01	—
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	—
Scarlet Fever	0.97	1.39
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.61
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Erysipelas	0.12	0.25
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	3.32	0.51
Pneumonia	0.60	0.36
Acute Poliomyelitis (Including Polioencephalitis)		
Paralytic	0.03	0.02
Non-Paralytic	0.01	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.20	0.09
Puerperal Pyrexia	17.74(a)	8.52(a)
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
Deaths		
All causes under one year of age	25.5(b)	22.1
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	0.8	0.96

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

Maternal Mortality

	England and Wales	Borough of Bexley
	Rates per 1,000 total live and still births	
Maternal causes, excluding abortion	0.58	Nil
Due to abortion	0.11	Nil
Total maternal mortality ...	0.69	Nil

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE Year 1954.

The Registrar General's Estimate of home population for the mid-year is 88,180 and this figure is assigned for the purpose of calculation of all rates.

Births.	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Total	555	487	1,042
Legitimate	453	464	1,007
Illegitimate	12	23	35

Birth Rate.

Rate per 1,000 estimated home population 11.8

The following relates to the Birth Rate during the past ten years:—

1944	Birth Rate	21.06	per thousand
1945	.. ..	18.81	.. ..
1946	.. ..	19.75	.. ..
1947	.. ..	18.72	.. ..
1948	.. ..	15.36	.. ..
1949	.. ..	14.02	.. ..
1950	.. ..	13.13	.. ..
1951	.. ..	12.79	.. ..
1952	.. ..	12.00	.. ..
1953	.. ..	12.70	.. ..

Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales 1954 15.2

35 illegitimate live births were registered against 34 in 1953.

The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1954. The standardised birth rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 12.2.

Stillbirths.	Males	Females	Total
Total	7	7	14
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			13.26

14 Stillbirths were registered during the year. This represents a rate of 0.16 per 1,000 population against 0.28 per 1,000 population in 1953.

The following relates to the Stillbirth Rate during the past ten years:—

Year	Rate per Thousand	
	Total Live and Still Births	Population
1944	19.0	0.42
1945	21.4	0.41
1946	23.6	0.48
1947	21.5	0.41
1948	21.5	0.34
1949	31.01	0.45
1950	11.78	0.16
1951	18.23	0.24
1952	12.18	0.18
1953	12.94	0.28

Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1954 0.36

There were no stillbirths registered as illegitimate.

Deaths.	Males	Females	Total
All causes	392	324	716
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated home population			8.1
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:			
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis		—	—
From other Puerperal Causes		—	—
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	16	7	23
Legitimate	16	7	23
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:			
Total per 1,000 live births ...			22.1
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births			22.8
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1	—	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1	—	1
" " Cancer (all ages)	89	69	158
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1954			11.3

Death Rate of Area during last ten years:—

1944	...	...	10.20	per thousand.
1945	...	...	9.28	„ „
1946	...	...	8.55	„ „
1947	...	...	9.17	„ „
1948	...	...	7.53	„ „
1949	...	...	8.15	„ „
1950	...	...	8.56	„ „
1951	...	...	9.6	„ „
1952	...	...	9.14	„ „
1953	...	...	8.8	„ „

The rate for Bexley compares favourably with that for England and Wales. The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1954. The standardised death rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 9.2.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH.
REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1954.**

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	392	324	716
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	2	4
2 Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
3 Syphilitic disease	2	—	2
4 Diphtheria	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6 Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8 Measles	—	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	17	10	27
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	25	7	32
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	13	13
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	6	6
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	47	33	80
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	8	10
16 Diabetes	1	4	5
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	36	56	92
18 Coronary disease, angina	83	30	113
19 Hypertension with heart disease	10	16	26
20 Other heart disease	31	48	79
21 Other circulatory disease	21	22	43
22 Influenza	—	2	2
23 Pneumonia	16	12	28
24 Bronchitis	22	8	30
25 Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	4	8
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	8	1	9
27 Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	6	5	11
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	6	3	9
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31 Congenital malformations ...	3	2	5
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	25	51
33 Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34 All other accidents	1	3	4
35 Suicide	9	1	10
36 Homicide and operations of war	1	1	2

INFANT MORTALITY, 1954

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

These relate to deaths occurring in 1954 but not necessarily registered in that year.

CAUSES OF DEATH AS CERTIFIED.	DAYS												MONTHS											
	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	6—	7—	14—	21—	28—	2—	3—	4—	5—	6—	7—	8—	9—	10—	11—	12—		
Congenital Malformation, Premature Birth	7	1	1		1	1		1	1															
Convulsions, Gastro- enteritis																		1						
Atelectasis	1	2	1																					
Broncho Pneumonia ...									2					1	1									
B. Coli Meningitis, Lumbar Meningo- Myocele														1										
Totals	8	3	2	—	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		

The number of infants under one year of age who died during the year 1954 as shown by the table is 23. 19 of these deaths, that is 82.6 per cent., occurred in the neonatal period (within one month of birth). In 1953 the corresponding figure was 37.5 per cent.

23 were registered during the year giving an infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 22.1.

Rates over previous years have been:—

1944	...	...	31.37	per	1,000	live	births
1945	...	...	33.9	"	"	"	"
1946	...	...	29.5	"	"	"	"
1947	...	...	28.6	"	"	"	"
1948	...	...	19.03	"	"	"	"
1949	...	...	24.0	"	"	"	"
1950	...	...	14.48	"	"	"	"
1951	...	...	24.76	"	"	"	"
1952	...	...	11.34	"	"	"	"
1953	...	...	14.36	"	"	"	"

Maternal Deaths.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Rates over previous years have been:—

1944	...	...	1.30	per	1,000	live	and	stillbirths
1945	...	..	Nil	"	"	"	"	"
1946	...	...	1.73	"	"	"	"	"
1947	...	...	1.19	"	"	"	"	"
1948	...	...	Nil	"	"	"	"	"
1949	...	...	0.78	"	"	"	"	"
1950	...	...	0.84	"	"	"	"	"
1951	...	...	Nil	"	"	"	"	"
1952	...	...	0.93	"	"	"	"	"
1953	...	...	2.63	"	"	"	"	"

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

This had been available in the past at the Bow Arrow Hospital of the Dartford Joint Hospital Committee of which the Council was the largest contributing member. With the transfer of the Hospital to the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948, the Joint Hospital Committee became redundant and there is now no control of this Hospital by the Local Authority. Patients suffering from infectious disease are now admitted to hospitals controlled by the Woolwich and Dartford Hospital Management Committees (S.E. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board).

General Hospitals.

Provision made by S.E. Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The provision of these facilities now rest with the Kent County Council as Local Health Authority.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Action taken under Section 47.

It was not necessary during the year under review to take statutory action under this Section owing to the removal of patients by voluntary co-operation.

Action taken under Section 50.

Two burials were arranged under this Section during the year.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

During 1951 the public mortuary was enlarged and equipped with refrigeration for six bodies. The total work was completed in February, 1952. The mortuary is also used by Erith and Crayford Authorities by arrangement with the Bexley Borough Council.

During the year it was used on 122 occasions and 114 post-mortem examinations were made. 22 inquests were held.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological work for the area is carried out at the County Hall, Maidstone, through the Public Health Laboratory Service.

NURSING HOMES.

Registration of Nursing Homes, Public Health Act, 1936.
(Authority of Registration transferred from Kent County Council to the Bexley Borough Council—17.4.39).

No. of Homes on the Register at beginning of year	5
No. of patients provided for:—	
Maternity	5
Others	66
Total ...	71
No. of Homes first registered during year	1
No. of patients provided for:—	
Maternity	—
Others	20
Total ...	20
No. of Homes on the Register at end of year	5
No. of patients provided for:—	
Maternity	5
Others	78
Total ...	83

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

List of Adoptive Acts, etc., in force.

Acts.	Date Adopted
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	
Parts 1, 2, 3 and 5	Apr. 1891
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	Apr. 1891
Public Libraries Act, 1892-1919	Oct. 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	Jan. 1899
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,	
Parts 8 and 9	Apr. 1909
Part 2—the whole	
„ 6—the whole	May 1909
„ 10—Sec. 95	
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 2	Jan. 1926
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	Jan. 1934

Byelaws.

Wireless Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc. ...	Mar. 1939
Fouling by Dogs of Footways	July 1938
Baths, Wash-houses, Swimming Baths and Bathing Places	Aug. 1938
Parks and Pleasure Grounds	May 1939
Building	June 1939
Defacing of Pavements	Nov. 1939
Deposit of Litter to the Detriment of Public amenities	„
Deposit of Dangerous Substances	„
Organs	„
Loitering at Church Doors	„
Indecent Language, etc	„
Noisy Hawking	„
Touting	„
Noisy Animals	„
Violent Behaviour, etc., on School Premises ...	„
Nursing Homes	June 1940
Sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines ...	Dec. 1949
Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air	May 1950

1. (i) **Water Supply.**

The water to the district is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board and is derived from several sources, namely, Wilmington, Darenth, Wansunt, Crayford, Bexley and Deptford wells, the latter mixed with Thames-derived water, filtered at Walton. All the water is chlorinated as it leaves the works.

Bacteriological analyses are made at least five times per week of all supplies and, in the case of the wells, the water is sampled both before and after chlorination. Water derived from the River Thames is sampled at each stage of the purification process. Tanks to provide an adequate period of contact of the chlorine with the water are now in operation at all the well stations and Walton works.

All new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to use and samples of water from them are tested bacteriologically.

The examination of samples of water from piped supplies to houses at least monthly has given the following results:—

Bacteriological.

(Minimum and maximum numbers of organisms.)		B. coli presumptive
No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at:		
37° C.	22° C.	0-1 in 100 c.c.
0-39	0-15	

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Private sewers have been constructed on the following estates:—

Ravenswood, Lynsted Close, Stratton Close, Southview Close, Margaret Road, and Hurst Springs.

These sewers are of the back drainage system and have not as yet been taken over as Public Sewers.

Thirteen cesspools were emptied a total of 32 times.

2. **Rivers and Streams.**

No serious case of pollution of rivers or streams was found during the year.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Health Department,
14, Brampton Road,
Bexleyheath.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Bexley.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report as Chief Sanitary Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer to your Council for the year 1954.

The report consists mainly of a tabulated record of work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

TABLE No. 1.

Details of Inspection Work Carried Out.

	Inspections	Re-inspections
Houses inspected (all particulars recorded)...	19	62
Houses inspected (defects only recorded) ...	187	843
Houses inspected (certificates of disrepair)...	9	10
Houses inspected (Housing Act, 1936, Over-crowding)	42	10
Houses inspected <i>re</i> Infectious Disease (including scabies)	220	51
Factories with mechanical power	253	15
Factories without mechanical power	31	1
Outworkers' premises	32	—
Other premises under the Act	5	—
Bakehouses	101	13
Water Samples	20	2
Food and Drugs Act <i>re</i> Samples	321	5
Dairies and distributors	92	1
Ice Cream premises	148	4
Restaurants, etc.	266	5
Fish premises	187	9
Meat Shops	836	12
Public Houses	30	—
Shops <i>re</i> unsound food	373	38
Other premises where food is prepared	916	64
Offensive accumulations	46	16
Stables	62	5
Keeping of Animals	17	4
Rats	213	290
Drains inspected	979	864
Drains tested (water, smoke or colour) ..	83	2
Dustbins	53	16
Verminous premises	42	107
Smoke observations	18	27
Tents, Vans and Sheds	7	6
Refuse Tips	507	—
Refuse Removal and Salvage	587	15
Conveniences	303	2
Pet Animals Act, 1951	40	7
Cleansing Station and Mortuary	47	—
Council House applicants	329	180
Shops Act, 1950	850	3
Miscellaneous inspections	1,265	131

TABLE No. 2.**Improvements effected and defective sanitary conditions remedied.**

Houses—	No.
Provided with sufficient w.c. accommodation ...	24
Provided with sufficient ashplace accommodation	8
Provided with sufficient water supply	5
Houses Improved Internally—	
Dirty rooms cleansed	9
Walls and ceilings repaired	67
Dampness in rooms remedied	107
Defective floors repaired	17
Ventilation of Rooms improved	25
Windows repaired	33
Stoves, fireplaces, etc. provided or repaired ...	8
Houses Improved Externally—	
Roofs repaired	16
Eaves gutters and down spouts fixed or repaired	36
Yards paved or repaired	—
Chimney stacks repaired	10
Walls repointed or repaired	17
Miscellaneous repairs	19
Drainage—	
Drains cleansed or repaired	690
New drains constructed	6
New Gullies provided	2
Ventilation of drainage system improved ...	3
Inspection chambers built or improved ...	16
Waste pipes provided or improved	11
New sinks provided	—
Offensive accumulation removed	7
Nuisances from animals abated	—
Other nuisances abated	2

TABLE No. 3.**Infectious Diseases.**

Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals	36
Houses visited including revisits	271
Rooms disinfected	19
Notices delivered to Education Authorities, etc. ...	381

TABLE No. 4.

Food Inspection.

The following is a summary of unsound food surrendered.

Beef	..	...	...	...	...	lbs.	2,087
Ox Liver	...	...	...	...	...	"	83
Ox Cheeks	...	...	...	...	...	"	529
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	"	79
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	...	"	168
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	"	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	"	296 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	...	"	233 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ham and Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	"	115
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	"	140
Figs	...	...	...	...	...	"	10
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	"	707 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	"	36
Suet	...	...	...	...	...	"	8
Raisins	...	...	...	...	...	"	30
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	"	60 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	"	$\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	"	555
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	Tins	217
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	"	529
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	"	383
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	"	963
Fruit and Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	...	"	1,448
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	"	83
Soups	...	...	...	...	...	"	85
Meat Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	"	14
Baby Foods	...	...	...	...	...	"	48
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	"	1
Synthetic Cream Powder	...	...	...	...	...	Pkts	110
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	"	73
Almond Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	"	42
Coconut	...	...	...	...	...	"	15
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	"	17
Figs	...	...	...	...	...	"	56
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	...	...	Jars	27
Bread	...	...	...	...	...	Loaves	4
Miscellaneous Items	...	...	...	...	...		45

All condemned food is disposed of by burying at the Council's refuse tip.

TABLE No. 5.
Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. 1	Number of :—		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions. 4
Factories without mechanical power	66	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	382	3	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	5	—	—
<small>*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.</small>			
Total	453	3	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
<small>(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)</small>				
Total	9	9	—	—

Closest Accommodation.

With the exception of a few houses, all the closet accommodation in the Borough is on the water carriage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

The Health Committee is responsible for the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse, the collection and sale of salvageable materials and the cleansing and maintenance of public conveniences.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The following table gives details of the transport used for the collection of refuse and salvage:—

S. & D. Dust Carts (Side loading)	12
Karrier Lorries	3
Commer Utility Van	1
Trailers	12

Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining a weekly collection at certain periods of the year, largely due to shortage of staff. The manpower position is becoming acute, and it is extremely difficult to replace men leaving the service or on holiday.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at East Wickham. A muledozer is used for levelling and consolidating the refuse, and a large proportion of the covering material obtained by excavating soil from the site by means of a Chaseside shovel.

The site at East Wickham will be filled in some three years time, and there is no other suitable tipping land in the area. This being so, the Council have found it necessary to look for another site outside the area, and after visiting a number of sites, disused gravel pits at Stone, near Dartford, appeared to offer the best facilities for the purpose. An agreement has been reached to use certain portions of these pits, subject to planning consent being obtained. A public enquiry has recently been held with regard to the use of these pits, together with other chalk pits in the North-West Kent area, and the decision of the Minister of Housing and Local Government is awaited.

The proposal to use these pits, if approved, will increase the average haul to the disposal point from $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to 7

miles, and the Council are considering the question of a larger type of vehicle for collection purposes in order to cope with the additional distance.

Salvage.

Details of salvage sales for the financial year ended 31st March, 1955, are set out below:

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	556	15	2	4,071	17	2
Textiles	21	13	3	462	0	1
Ferrous Metal	76	9	3	208	6	5
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	8	1	130	16	2
Miscellaneous Items	4	18	1	18	19	3
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	661	5	2	4,891	19	1
	<hr/>			<hr/>		

The collection of kitchen waste from the 350 communal street bins in the area was carried out by a contractor under an agreement with the Council, and this arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

Public Conveniences.

Public Conveniences for men and women are situated at the following sites:—

Market Place, Bexleyheath.

Townley Road, Bexleyheath.

Brampton Road, Bexleyheath.

Danson Park, Welling.

Library Building, Bellegrove Road, Welling.

High Street, Bexley.

St. Mary's Recreation Ground, Bexley.

Riverside Walk, Bexley

Hudson Road Children's Playground.

Westwood Lane, Blackfen. (Maintained jointly by the Chislehurst and Sidcup Urban District Council and Bexley Corporation).

New conveniences at Riverside Walk, Bexley, were completed and opened during the year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Council is represented on the Thameside Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution. By arrangement with this Committee a deposit gauge was placed on the roof of the Education Office in Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, on the 1st August, 1953, and the following table gives the results obtained during 1954.

MONTH	TONS PER SQUARE MILE.									
	Rainfall inches	Total water insoluble matter	Soluble in C.S.2.	Ash	Other combustible matter	Total water soluble matter	Calcium	Chlorine	Sulphates	Total solids
January	0.97	13.47	0.15	10.60	2.72	8.32	1.06	1.64	3.14	21.79
February	1.70	7.44	0.25	5.60	1.60	7.48	1.11	0.92	3.41	14.93
March	1.40	9.95	0.08	7.83	2.04	6.63	1.34	0.82	3.39	16.58
April	0.20	7.57	0.11	5.71	1.75	4.87	1.07	0.54	2.06	12.44
May	1.49	11.34	0.13	8.49	2.72	7.00	1.04	0.81	2.35	18.34
June	3.17	6.82	0.12	5.16	1.54	6.24	0.97	0.67	3.44	13.06
July	2.52	4.53	0.09	3.24	1.20	4.03	0.27	0.44	1.55	8.56
August	2.96	4.38	0.11	3.05	1.22	3.93	0.54	0.50	1.38	8.32
September	1.51	3.93	0.10	2.68	1.14	4.01	0.47	0.59	1.45	7.94
October	1.44	2.69	0.10	2.24	0.35	3.15	0.30	0.45	1.32	5.84
November	3.86	4.68	0.15	3.36	1.16	8.79	0.60	2.05	1.94	13.47
December	1.31	3.91	0.15	2.70	1.05	5.71	0.57	1.43	1.87	9.61

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One full time Rodent Operative is employed by the Department for the treatment of surface infestations, and the test baiting and maintenance treatment of sewers is carried out by men under the control of the Borough Engineer.

No charge is made for treatment carried out at private dwelling houses, but the occupiers of business premises are charged for disinfection work.

Most of the infestations found are of minor character, and a large proportion of the cases dealt with at private dwelling houses are connected with the keeping of animals.

Details of surface infestations dealt with during the period are set out below.

Number of Properties Inspected	1,078
Number of Inspections	3,179
Number of Infestations found: Rats — Major	2
Minor	299
Mice ...	44
Number of Properties Treated	Rats Mice
Local Authority's premises ...	6 1
Dwelling Houses	266 29
Business Premises	29 14

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences to keep pet shops were issued to 4 persons under the above Act.

One contravention of the conditions of the Licence was found and a warning issued to the person concerned.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The following Closing Orders are in operation in the area:—

Bexley Urban District (Butchers) No. 6 Order, 1920.

Bexley Urban District (Grocers and Provisions Merchants) No. 7 Order, 1923.

Bexley Urban District (Miscellaneous Trades) No. 8 Order, 1923.

The Bexley Hairdressers and Barbers Shops Closing Order, 1946.

There were approximately 750 shops on the Council's Register at the end of the year.

During the year 853 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1950, and no legal proceedings were instituted.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. HIND,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Swimming Pool.

The only swimming pool in the Borough open to the Public is in Danson Park and is owned by the Council. The layout includes three open-air pools, one large for adults and two small pools for children. Showers and foot baths are provided for the pre-cleansing of bathers. The water is kept pure by continuous filtration and sterilisation by means of the latest method of break-point chlorination.

Samples of water have been taken by this department from time to time and the results of bacteriological examinations have been satisfactory on each occasion.

Results.

(Minimum and maximum numbers of organisms.)

No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at:			B. coli presumptive
	37° C.	22° C.	
Deep end	0 - 12	0 - 14	Absent
Shallow end	0	0	Absent

Verminous Premises.

During the year a total of 26 premises found to be infested with bed bugs were treated with satisfactory results; 6 of these were Council Houses, and 20 other premises.

Five infestations were found by the District Sanitary Inspectors as a result of visits to applicants who had been allocated Council Houses or were being transferred from one house to another. Whilst these visits take up considerable time, there is no doubt that they serve a useful purpose in preventing the spread of infestations.

One house was treated with hydrogen cyanide.

Infestations by cockroaches at 2 Public Houses, 1 Bakehouse, 1 Sweetshop and 1 Private School were also dealt with.

Wasps.

The destruction of wasps nests is undertaken by the Department and during the year 35 nests were destroyed.

Schools.

There are 26 County Modern and County Primary Schools, 6 non-provided schools and a Day Technical School for Girls in the Borough.

SECTION D — HOUSING.

The following particulars relate to the houses built by the Council on the various Estates and still occupiable:—

		Houses	Flats
Welling—			
Welling Estate	428		
Westwood Lane Estate	126		
Carlton Road	16		
Dovedale Close	14		
John Newton Court	—	132	
Marwood Estate	—	22	
Lodge Hill	154		
East Wickham—			
Glenmore Road No. 1	116		
Glenmore Road No. 2	88		
Bexleyheath—			
Highland Road Estate and Pickford Road Estate (including bunga- lows)	304		
Cannon Road	—	28	
Alers Road	84		
Halcot Estate No. 1	200		
Halcot Estate No. 2 (including Bungalows)	126		
Faygate Estate	58		
Bristow Road	—	60	
Upton Close	15		
Bexley—			
Hartford Road Estate and Victoria Road Estate	54		
Royal Park Estate No. 1	57		
Royal Park Estate No. 2	74		
Midhurst Hill	20		
Newick Close	14		
Henfield Close	8		
Rye Close and Extension	38		
Glenhurst Avenue	34		
Merlin Road	1		
S.D.A. Houses	9		
Hurst Place Estate	144		
	2,182	252	

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	206
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose (including re-inspection) ...	1,111
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	19
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose (including re-inspection) ...	81
(3)	Number of dwelling houses to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	180

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	147
--	--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	—
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	18
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	6
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(a) Number of Closing Orders made ...	—
(b) Parts of Buildings closed	1

Clearance Schemes.

Lodge Lane Hutments (Compulsory Purchase) Order, 1938.

During the year 93 hutments on the Lodge Lane Estate were demolished and the re-development of the estate continued.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

This Act came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, and to the end of the year eight applications for certificates of disrepair were received, one of which was withdrawn.

Seven certificates were issued.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk retailed for consumption in the area is all pasteurised and bottled.

No. of Distributors with Dairy Premises	...	...	5
No. of Distributors with Shop Premises	...	...	30
No. of Distributors from outside area	...	...	6

Licences granted by the Council under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers' Licences:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	27
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	27
Sterilised Milk	...	...	35

Supplementary Licences:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	5
Sterilised Milk	...	...	6

(b) Slaughterhouses.

There is no public slaughterhouse in the area, and no licences have been granted for private slaughterhouses.

The majority of the butchers in the area obtain their supplies through Smithfield Market, and only three indicated any interest in slaughtering facilities. These butchers were able to make satisfactory arrangements at slaughterhouses in adjoining areas.

It has been necessary to inspect the following carcasses at shops in the area following slaughter:—

Cattle	...	...	4
Calves	...	...	19
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	22
Pigs	...	...	72

4 Pigs Heads (weight 42 lbs.) and 1 mesenteric fat (weight 2 lbs.) were condemned with Tuberculosis, and one set of lungs (weight 3½ lbs.) with pneumonia.

(c) **Adulteration of Food. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

The following table summarises the 255 samples taken during the year.

	Formal	Informal
Milk	14	—
Soup, Meat Extracts	1	6
Pastes, Potted Meat	—	11
Pudding or Cake Mixture, Flour etc.	2	6
Jellies, Custard Powders, etc.	5	2
Patent Medicines	—	3
Sausages, Sausage Meat, etc.	17	—
Fruit, Fruit Juices and Fruit Puree	4	5
Condiments, Sauces, Pickles, Spices, etc.	1	15
Pure Coffee, Coffee Extract, Coffee and Chicory	2	1
Meat Pies and Puddings	4	3
Cereals	7	1
Sweets and Confectionery	27	15
Essences	—	3
Butter and Fats	19	2
Water Ices	—	1
Ice Cream	8	—
Minerals	2	2
Beverages	8	5
Wines and Spirits	5	—
Peanut Butter	—	1
Preserves	10	2
Fruit Pie and Pie Filling	1	3
Ground Almonds	3	—
Cream	1	4
Synthetic Cream Powder	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Cakes	7	2
Mincemeat	1	—
Fish and Fish Cakes	1	3
Glace Cherries	2	—
Sugar	1	1
Olive Oil	—	1
Desiccated Coconut	1	—
Lamb Chop	—	1
	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 99

Legal Proceedings.

The following legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

(1) Butterscotch—Contained no significant amount of butter. Vendor fined £15. Wholesaler fined £10, and Manufacturer fined £20.

(d) Food Shops and Food Manufacturing Premises.

The classification of the various food shops and food manufacturing premises in the Borough is as follows:—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	44
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	28
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	44
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	72
General Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	101
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	28
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	41
						<hr/>
						384
						<hr/>

During the year 3,095 visits were made and the following is a summary of various improvements carried out.

Hot Water supply provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors, walls, ceilings, etc. repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cockroach infestation dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	22
Water closet accommodation improved	...	...	...	...	...	8
Additional protection provided for foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
New cutting block provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accommodation for storage of refuse improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food preparing room improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Washing accommodation improved	...	...	...	...	...	1

Registration of Premises under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No. of premises registered for:—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	128
Preparation of Sausages, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	47

25 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

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

Scarlet Fever.

During the year 123 cases were notified as compared with 245 the previous year. Of these 7 were isolated in hospital and 116 were isolated at home.

No. of deaths	Nil
Return cases from Hospital cases	Nil
Return cases from home nursed cases ...	1

During the past 15 years the character of this disease has changed from one of considerable severity to one of extreme mildness. The acute stage is, nowadays, in most cases, short and unaccompanied by high pyrexia and complications are in most cases mild or completely absent. Scarlet fever can now be disregarded as an important cause of acute endocarditis and acute nephritis which, in the past, were frequently encountered.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified during the year.

The following figures on Immunisation and Vaccination have been supplied by the County Medical Officer:—

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1954.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Borough of Bexley who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1954:—

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Total
Primary Inoculations	141	763	63	21	8	20	28	5	8	7	2	3	1	2	—	1072
Re-inforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	63	733	250	73	40	23	17	23	3	2	1	1228

(B) Vaccination.

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Before 1940	Total
Primary Vaccination	498	259	11	3	4	6	5	3	3	6	1	3	—	3	2	31	838
Re-vaccination... ..	—	—	—	1	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	—	104	126

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1954.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Borough of Bexley under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1940).

Year of Birth	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1950—1954	235	84	170	302	389	811	1075	1355	1074	1402	1088	996	951	903	141	10976
1949 or earlier	620	608	562	528	707	91	43	70	239	88	—	—	—	—	—	3556

Typhoid Fever and Para Typhoid Fever.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

9 cases were notified during the year, of which 3 were from Bexleyheath Maternity Hospital, where they were isolated and treated. 5 cases were removed to other hospitals and one case was isolated at home.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Measles.

45 cases were notified during the year. 1 case was treated in hospital.

Whooping Cough.

230 cases were notified, 3 of which were treated in hospital. There was one death of an unnotified case.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

2 Paralytic cases and 1 Non Paralytic case were notified and all were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Scabies.

1 case was notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.

8 cases were notified during the year. Of these 3 were treated in hospital.

The following table gives the particulars concerning the cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) notified in the area during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1954.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified	Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age unknown	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	123	—	7	15	88	10	2	1	—	7	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	8	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
Acute Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	32	1	3	2	4	—	—	22	—	10	2
Erysipelas	22	—	1	—	—	1	1	19	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	8	2	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	3	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	45	1	5	9	28	1	1	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	230	11	40	64	103	7	1	4	—	3	1
Scabies	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	477	15	57	90	226	19	11	59	—	36	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 89 new cases were notified.

Particulars relating to the same, and also to the deaths which occurred during 1954 are contained in the following table:—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ...	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—24 ...	12	10	3	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 ...	18	16	—	3	—	—	—	—
45—64 ...	14	6	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	46	35	4	4	3	2	—	—

Of the 5 deaths shown in the table the number in non-notified cases was 1.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M	F	M	F	
No. on Register at commencement of year	499	333	40	43	915
No. on Register at end of year ...	512	347	43	44	946

Rehousing.

8 cases were referred to me by the Chest Physician for rehousing and during the year four cases were rehoused by the Housing Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 89 new cases were notified.

Particulars relating to the cases, and also to the deaths which occurred during 1954 are contained in the following table:—

Sex	Males		Females		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Under 15	1	1	1	1	2
15-24	10	1	1	1	12
25-34	15	1	1	1	18
35-44	14	1	1	1	17
45-54	1	1	1	1	4
55-64	1	1	1	1	4
65-74	1	1	1	1	4
75-84	1	1	1	1	4
85-94	1	1	1	1	4
95-104	1	1	1	1	4
105-114	1	1	1	1	4
115-124	1	1	1	1	4
125-134	1	1	1	1	4
135-144	1	1	1	1	4
145-154	1	1	1	1	4
155-164	1	1	1	1	4
165-174	1	1	1	1	4
175-184	1	1	1	1	4
185-194	1	1	1	1	4
195-204	1	1	1	1	4
205-214	1	1	1	1	4
215-224	1	1	1	1	4
225-234	1	1	1	1	4
235-244	1	1	1	1	4
245-254	1	1	1	1	4
255-264	1	1	1	1	4
265-274	1	1	1	1	4
275-284	1	1	1	1	4
285-294	1	1	1	1	4
295-304	1	1	1	1	4
305-314	1	1	1	1	4
315-324	1	1	1	1	4
325-334	1	1	1	1	4
335-344	1	1	1	1	4
345-354	1	1	1	1	4
355-364	1	1	1	1	4
365-374	1	1	1	1	4
375-384	1	1	1	1	4
385-394	1	1	1	1	4
395-404	1	1	1	1	4
405-414	1	1	1	1	4
415-424	1	1	1	1	4
425-434	1	1	1	1	4
435-444	1	1	1	1	4
445-454	1	1	1	1	4
455-464	1	1	1	1	4
465-474	1	1	1	1	4
475-484	1	1	1	1	4
485-494	1	1	1	1	4
495-504	1	1	1	1	4
505-514	1	1	1	1	4
515-524	1	1	1	1	4
525-534	1	1	1	1	4
535-544	1	1	1	1	4
545-554	1	1	1	1	4
555-564	1	1	1	1	4
565-574	1	1	1	1	4
575-584	1	1	1	1	4
585-594	1	1	1	1	4
595-604	1	1	1	1	4
605-614	1	1	1	1	4
615-624	1	1	1	1	4
625-634	1	1	1	1	4
635-644	1	1	1	1	4
645-654	1	1	1	1	4
655-664	1	1	1	1	4
665-674	1	1	1	1	4
675-684	1	1	1	1	4
685-694	1	1	1	1	4
695-704	1	1	1	1	4
705-714	1	1	1	1	4
715-724	1	1	1	1	4
725-734	1	1	1	1	4
735-744	1	1	1	1	4
745-754	1	1	1	1	4
755-764	1	1	1	1	4
765-774	1	1	1	1	4
775-784	1	1	1	1	4
785-794	1	1	1	1	4
795-804	1	1	1	1	4
805-814	1	1	1	1	4
815-824	1	1	1	1	4
825-834	1	1	1	1	4
835-844	1	1	1	1	4
845-854	1	1	1	1	4
855-864	1	1	1	1	4
865-874	1	1	1	1	4
875-884	1	1	1	1	4
885-894	1	1	1	1	4
895-904	1	1	1	1	4
905-914	1	1	1	1	4
915-924	1	1	1	1	4
925-934	1	1	1	1	4
935-944	1	1	1	1	4
945-954	1	1	1	1	4
955-964	1	1	1	1	4
965-974	1	1	1	1	4
975-984	1	1	1	1	4
985-994	1	1	1	1	4
995-1004	1	1	1	1	4

Of the 5 deaths shown in the table the number in non-notified cases was 1.

Sex	Tuberculous		Non-Tuberculous		Total
	M	F	M	F	
At commencement of year	499	331	40	43	912
At end of year	512	347	43	44	916

Cases were notified as per the Chest Physician for treatment and during the year four cases were reposed by the Housing Committee.



BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

Annual Report

on the

School Health Services

For the Year 1954

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

**EXCEPTED DISTRICT OF BEXLEY
WELFARE AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
SUB-COMMITTEE**

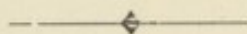
Chairman: Miss M. Woodward, L.L.A.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott.

Alderman M. J. Corr	Alderman A. S. Masey
Councillor F. W. Archer	Councillor John Cronin
Councillor L. D. Riches	Councillor S. W. Tinham
Councillor W. P. Webster	

Co-opted Members:

Miss D. C. Collins, O.B.E.	Revd. E. Maynard Wilson
Borough Education Officer ...	W. E. D. Stephens, M.A.
Deputy Borough Education Officer	R. R. Sutton



SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Officer of Health ...	John Landon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers ...	Nora Walter, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.C.H. (Part-time). Stella M. Ring, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.C.H. (Part-time) Sybil R. Yeates, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Ophthalmic Surgeon	Roland M. Chambers, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.
Orthopædic Surgeons	K. F. Hulbert, F.R.C.S. B. Lawson, F.R.C.S.
Dental Officers	H. Wade, L.D.S. (Resigned 5.8.54). Elizabeth Francis, B.D.S., L.D.S. (Resigned 26.4.54). P. G. Arnold, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.). (Part-time). Mrs. A. M. Readett, L.D.S. (Resigned 31.12.54). G. Wilson Lawrence, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Appointed 19.7.54) (Part- time).

Orthodontist	...	...	Neil K. Thorn, L.D.S., R.C.S., (London). (Part-time).
Health Visitors	...	...	Miss K. P. Hart, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate. Mrs. A. E. Matthews, S.R.N. (Temporary). Miss P. D. Martin, S.R.N., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time). Miss L. G. Exley, S.R.N., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time). Mrs. C. A. Tucker, S.R.N., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time). Mrs. M. T. Layton, S.R.N., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time). Miss Golding, S.R.N., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Transferred to another area 1.4.54). Mrs. M. Ayers, S.R.N. (from 24.5.54) (Part-time).
Physiotherapist	..	...	Miss R. Cheeseman, M.C.S.P., M.S.R.
Speech Therapist	...	...	Mrs. D. Rant, L.C.S.T.
Dental Attendants	...	...	Mrs. Ivy Birtchnell. Miss K. M. Dunkley. Mrs. Sproul. Miss Soley — Hygienist.
School Health Service Clerk	...	...	Miss M. C. A. Smith.
General Clerks	...	...	Miss C. E. Anderson (Resigned 6.10.54). Miss O. G. Turnbull. Miss A. C. Jopling (Resigned 14.8.54). Miss R. Thomas (Appointed 17.8.54). Miss E. Turner (Appointed 4.10.54).

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE DURING THE YEAR 1954.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Welfare and School
Attendance Sub-Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1954.

It may fairly be said that the general health of the schoolchildren in the Borough during the year under review has been satisfactory. Standards of nutrition and general care and cleanliness are of a high order. Apart from a small number of schoolchildren with recurrent minor infestations, cleanliness surveys are serving only to point out these exceptions to the general rule.

The staffing position in the School Dental Service has shown little change during the past four years during which we have averaged the equivalent of one and eight elevenths of dental surgeons' time. The amount of dental inspections has shown a progressive increase, however, and the number of dental inspections in 1954 was 6,783 as compared with 4,754 in 1953. There has, also, been a marked increase in the amount of treatment provided and some progress has been made towards a return to the pre-war system of systematic routine inspection and treatment. The appointment of another whole time dental surgeon would probably complete this process and it is hoped that this may be possible in the not too distant future. A modern dental unit is now in readiness at the Murchison Avenue Clinic and could come into operation as soon as the necessary staff can be recruited. The objective is, of course, to inspect the teeth of every pupil at least once a year and to offer prompt treatment to such children as are found to need it. The extension of the Murchison Avenue Clinic includes, also, a Speech Therapy Unit which is now staffed by the equivalent of a whole time Speech Therapist and the waiting list for treatment has been reduced very considerably.

During the year an audiometric survey of 10 year old schoolchildren in the Borough was completed and an analy-

sis of the results has re-affirmed how worthwhile such surveys can be. A further survey of other age groups is in progress at the present time. It is felt that in a Borough with a school population of 11,662, audiometry should be a regular part of the School Health Service, and it is hoped that this will be possible in the future either by the provision of an audiometer for exclusive use in the Borough or by making adequate provision for the Borough within the ambit of a wider scheme for the County as a whole. The Medical Research Council's Committee on the Educational Treatment of Deafness has considered the relative merits of group audiometer and sweep-frequency testing of children with defective hearing by means of the pure-tone audiometer and has decided in favour of the latter. This method is also replacing the gramophone audiometer in routine screening tests of hearing and has much to recommend it. Not the smallest advantage is that the sweep-frequency test can be made in a small room which is usually more easily available and a greater degree of quiet can also be ensured. The method is also reasonably economical of time as compared with the gramophone audiometer.

As from January, 1956, the intermediate periodic medical examination, at present being carried out during the last year of primary school, will be transferred to the first year in the secondary school. This will allow for two assessments in the primary school at 5 and 8 years respectively and two in the secondary school at 11 years and school leaving age respectively.

The opening of the new Grammar School and the Gravel Hill School in 1955 will increase the responsibilities of the School Health Service and may require some addition to the medical and health visiting staff and any further extension of the Bexley Technical School for Girls may have a similar effect.

Once again it is my pleasure to acknowledge the excellent co-operation that exists between headteachers, parents, school medical officers and health visitors and to refer to the work of the school enquiry officers whose reports on families and individual children are instrumental in bringing to our notice any departures from health as early as possible.

I have also to record the excellent team work of all members of the staff on which the success of the School

Health Service so largely depends and, finally, I wish to express my appreciation of the help which I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Committee, from Miss Smith, the Senior Clerk, from the County Medical Officer and his staff and the Borough Education Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

John Landon,

Medical Officer of Health

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
EXCEPTED DISTRICT OF BEXLEY.

Schools.

Bexley County Technical School for Girls.

Average number on Roll at 31st December, 1954.

Bexley	...	...	...	...	...	...	796
Wilmington Annex	...	...	...	...	...	...	213

Seven County Secondary Schools.

Average number on Roll 2,982

Twenty-five County Primary Schools.

Average number on Roll 7,671

Clinics.

Minor Ailments.

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance — Wednesday and Saturday.

Welling—Wrotham Road.

Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Thursday.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Tuesday, 2-4 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday,
9.30-11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Tuesday and Saturday.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

Tuesday and Friday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Friday.

Dental.

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30-11 a.m., 2-4 p.m.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday morning 9.30-11 a.m.

Thursday, Friday afternoon, 2-4 p.m.

Crayford—Woodside Road.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9.30-11 a.m.,
2-4 p.m.

Specialist's Clinics.

Ophthalmic.

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Monday and Friday, 9.30-11 a.m., 2-4 p.m.

Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Orthopædic.

Welling—Station Approach.

Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Specialist in attendance 1st and 3rd Wednesday
at 10 a.m.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

Monday, 2-5 p.m. Thursday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Specialist in attendance 1st Monday in month,
10-12.30 a.m.

Appointments made through County Medical Officer
by the Borough Medical Officer of Health.

Speech.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

Each morning, except Saturday 9.30-12.30 noon.

Each afternoon, except Saturday 2-4.30 p.m.

Child Guidance.

Crayford—Woodside Road.

Clinics held daily.

Appointments made through County Medical Officer
by the Borough Medical Officer of Health.

CO-ORDINATION.

In spite of the transfer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services from the local Council to the Kent County Council, a satisfactory degree of co-ordination of effort between the School Health Service and the Infant Welfare Services has been maintained as a result of the co-operative attitude of all members of the Staff concerned.

Periodic Medical Inspections. See Table 1.

The successful carrying out of routine medical inspections was made possible by the excellent co-operation of Head Teachers and their staffs and it is true to say that this is now regarded as an integral part of the school curriculum. It is at these inspections that the greatest number of defects are discovered and where a great deal of information is obtained in regard to the school children by discussions with the parents.

Generally speaking, it was found that entrants, 8-year-olds and 11-year-olds showed a uniformly high standard of personal hygiene. Clothing was good and clean and the incidence of skin diseases very low. In only a few cases was it necessary to record a defect in clothing or of footwear.

The attendance of parents at routine medical inspection was good, being practically 100 per cent. in the case of entrants, but as might be expected there was a falling off in the case of senior children.

Reference to the Statistical Table on Page 62 emphasizes the number of defects discovered. Bearing in mind that these defects are nearly always diagnosed in the early stages and observation or treatment instituted at once, periodic inspections will be seen to represent the truly preventive aspect of School Health Work.

School Meals—1954.

Average number of pupils in attendance:—

Primary Schools	...	...	...	...	7,234
Secondary Schools	...	...	...	...	3,677
					<hr/>
					10,911

Average number of dinners served to children daily:—

			<i>Paid</i>	<i>Free</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	...	...	3,265	76	3,341
Secondary	...	...	2,934	90	3,024

Milk.

Average number of pupils taking milk daily:—

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	7,008
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	2,399
				Total	...	<u>9,407</u>

Orthopædic Clinic.

I am indebted to Mr. K. F. Hulbert, F.R.C.S., for the following report on the Orthopædic Clinic:—

The Orthopaedic Clinics have continued throughout the past year on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. There has been a falling off of the total numbers of attendances but there is still no marked change in the type of case.

The problem of the treatment and handling of spastics still occupies a great deal of our time and the facilities for looking after these unfortunate children are still very inadequate.

The remarks of previous years with regard to the accommodation at this clinic still apply.

And to Mr. B. Lawson, F.R.C.S.E. for the following:—

I do not think there has been any alteration in the trend of the Clinics since I first undertook this work. The majority of the patients were referred for flat feet, knock knees and postural scoliosis. The greatest difficulty at present appears to be the lack of schools for physically handicapped patients.

Dental Treatment.

I am indebted to Mr. N. K. Thorn, L.D.S., R.C.S. for the following report:—

Thank you for your letter concerning the orthodontic treatment we are undertaking at Little Danson Clinic. Personally I have under treatment 200 patients; the number of visits for treatment during the period were 666; 27 were successfully terminated. I am averaging an attendance here of two sessions weekly during the school year. Mr. Hall also had a considerable number of orthodontic cases under treatment; his statistics are not, of course, included here.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

I am indebted to Mr. R. M. Chambers, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S., for the following report:—

The attendance at Little Danson Ophthalmic Clinic has been well maintained during the year and the waiting list has rarely exceeded four weeks.

The number of squint cases shows little change and those needing orthoptic treatment are still faced with the journey to London which may have to be made each week for some months.

In a few particularly difficult cases it has been possible to arrange treatment at an L.C.C. centre nearer Welling but this can be done only on rare occasions.

I have often been impressed by the connection between squints and family tensions is so far as they can be divined at one or two visits.

Frequently a temporary breakdown of binocular vision coincides with a crisis at home and the awareness of this has often avoided a change of glasses which might otherwise have been thought necessary. In connection with this it is of great help to receive some hints of the family habits, if they appear to have a bearing on the case.

I would like to record my appreciation of the ready help I have received from The Head Teachers of the various schools whose pupils come to me.

Speech Therapy.

I am indebted to Miss Joan Pollitt, Chief Speech Therapist to the Kent Education Committee for the following report.

Plans have proceeded during the year for the opening of a new clinic at Murchison Avenue. The opening of this clinic will enable sessions to be given throughout the week, instead of on Fridays only as at present. The additional sessions will considerably decrease the waiting list of 81, which was being carried at the end of 1954 by the Wrotham Road Clinic. It has been possible even this year to relieve the waiting list to some extent by arranging for certain cases to attend the Sidcup and Crayford Clinics.

Forty-seven cases have been closed during the year; twenty-two having been dealt with at the Wrotham Road Clinic, two at Crayford, twenty at Sidcup, and three cases having been closed without being seen.

The following table shows the reason for closing these cases:—

Very satisfactory result—					
Wrotham Road	...	...	...	13	
Crayford	...	...	...	1	
Sidcup	...	...	...	3	... 17
Treatment incomplete as families left district—in one case considerable progress had been made—					
Wrotham Road	...	...	...	2	
Crayford	...	...	...	1	
Sidcup	...	...	...	0	... 3
Little if any change of condition—					
(Sidcup)	...	...	...		... 2
Consultation only, followed by the necessary recommendation—					
(Sidcup)	...	...	...		... 1
Found to have improved when first seen by the therapist—					
(Sidcup)	...	...	...		... 3
Reported to have improved prior to appointments being offered ...					
Appointments offered but not kept—many of these cases had been on the waiting list for some considerable time and it is possible that appointments were no longer necessary ...					
					... 18
					<hr/> 47 <hr/>

Thirty-three cases who were attending at the clinics during 1954 will continue to attend into 1955. Of these, eighteen are being seen at Wrotham Road, four at Crayford and eleven at Sidcup.

Cleanliness Inspections.

(See Table III).

During the year the School Nurses carried out 16,266 examinations of children in School and 62 were found to have some infestation with vermin. In nearly all cases, the condition was cleared up by parents who were assisted, where necessary, by the School Nurses. The infestation rate is commendably low and speaks well for the standard of child care in the Borough.

Physical Education.

Physical Education during the year 1954 has shown steady progress and marked consolidation of many useful schemes of work. The modern approach demands greater effort in every way from the teaching in the skilful planning and presentation of the lesson and encourages purposeful work of good standard, self-discipline, courage and self-reliance from the child.

Suitable facilities in most schools and an adequate supply of equipment provided by the Education Committee have done much to encourage effort generally and to assist, in particular, with the possible attainment of objectives. Unfortunately, during 1954 adverse weather conditions have seriously interfered with many outdoor activities and the temporary use of hall space as classrooms, due to the increased school population, has deprived some schools of essential alternative indoor accommodation. Every effort has been made to carry out the normal games programme but this year the exceptionally sodden state of the ground, together with the unsuitable footwear often worn by many children, has limited the scope of the training. For several years the provision of special clothing and footwear for Physical Education has been a serious problem but it is pleasing to note again that the praiseworthy support of parents has, in general, been further maintained. It is hoped that more adequate provision will be possible in the near future so that opportunities for field activities will thus be more regular and allow of active participation by greater numbers of children. In this connection the hygiene of the lesson should become a more positive part of the programme. It is pleasing to note that, where available, the regular use of showerbaths has been conducive to much higher standards of cleanliness and self-respect.

The general training at the Primary level with an emphasis on freedom of effort and activity provides an ideal groundwork for the development of specific techniques in all branches of Physical Education in the Secondary Schools. The broader outlook encouraged in the subject should allow every boy and girl to develop some aspect of physical activity in which he or she has special interest or aptitude; it is hoped that the excellent groundwork provided in the schools will be utilised in Youth and Adult life so that school leavers can pursue some healthy indoor or outdoor recreation in their leisure hours.

Swimming.

The continued co-operation of the Baths Department is greatly appreciated. Facilities at the baths at Plumstead, Eltham and Danson Park are now used to their fullest extent and requests for accommodation have always been granted whenever possible.

Provision was made for a session of ten weeks duration during the Summer Term, but inclement weather reduced rather seriously the teaching value of some of these swimming periods in the open air.

Schools.	Attendances.	No. of Children.
5 Secondary	14 classes of 25-30 children each week	approx. 350 per week.
11 Primary	27 classes of 30-35 children each week	approx. 900 per week.
	Total	... 1,250 per week.

The number of Swimming Certificates issued to the pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough during 1954 for distances between 25 yards and one mile was 398.

Arrangements were made for classes from one secondary school and one primary school to attend the Baths at the beginning of 1954 and classes were sent from two Primary schools during the Autumn Term. This extension of the Swimming Season enabled indoor facilities to be enjoyed by schools whose normal programme has previously been chequered by the problems connected with an open air swimming bath; any future expansion in this sphere must depend upon a relaxation in the present financial restrictions.

Further Training of Teachers.

The further training of teachers has continued steadily throughout the year, providing a wide choice of subjects to cover the many aspects of modern Physical Education. Opportunities to attend the following Courses have been available to teachers:—

- (1) *Basket Ball Course* for men teachers. Held on seven evenings during the Autumn Term.
- (2) *Athletics Course* for teachers in Secondary Schools. Held on five evenings during the Autumn Term.

- (3) *Physical Education in the Primary School* for men and women teachers. Demonstration lessons and a lecture held during one evening during the Summer Term.
- (4) *Physical Education in the Infant School* for men and women teachers. Held on five evenings during the Autumn Term.
- (5) *Remedial Course* for men and women at Kingsgate, Broadstairs, for one week-end during the Summer Term.
- (6) *Athletics Course* for women teachers held at Maidstone for one Saturday during the Summer Term.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

Statistical Tables.

Table I — Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

- A. Periodic Medical Inspections.
- B. Other Inspections.
- C. Pupils found to require Treatment.

Table II —

- A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection.
- B. Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the year in the Age Groups.

Table III — Infestation with Vermin.

Table IV — Treatment Tables.

- Group I Diseases of the Skin.
- Group II Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.
- Group III Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.
- Group IV Orthopædic and Postural Defects.
- Group V Other Treatment given.

Table V — Dental Inspection and Treatment including Orthodontics.

Table VI — Handicapped Children.

TABLE I.

**Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained
Primary and Secondary Schools.**

A. — Periodic Medical Inspections.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups:

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,278
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	1,123
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	841
				Total	3,242

Number of other Periodic Inspections ... 1,251

Grand Total ... 4,493

B. — Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections ... 1,627

Number of Re-Inspections ... 2,716

Total ... 4,343

C. — Pupils Found to Require Treatment.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require Treatment:

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	30	245	234
Second Age Group	107	272	318
Third Age Group	66	260	280
Total (prescribed groups)	203	777	832
Other Periodic Inspections	149	248	334
Grand Total	352	1025	1166

TABLE II.

A.—Return of Defects Found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1954.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease (1)	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring Treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring Treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (5)
4.	Skin ...	182	137	91	11
5.	Eyes—				
	a. Vision ..	352	397	70	10
	b. Squint ..	85	72	15	2
	c. Other ..	80	48	43	2
6.	Ears—				
	a. Hearing ..	27	200	47	34
	b. Otitis media ..	10	100	10	6
	c. Other ..	48	99	17	4
7.	Nose or Throat ..	149	624	131	58
8.	Speech ...	12	46	19	2
9.	Cervical Glands	20	264	7	8
10.	Heart and Circulation ..	9	119	11	20
11.	Lungs ...	20	367	58	69
12.	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ..	9	22	2	2
	b. Other ...	19	154	2	—
13.	Orthopædic—				
	a. Posture ..	156	145	6	2
	b. Flat Foot ..	148	156	15	2
	c. Other ...	124	398	48	15
14.	Nervous System—				
	a. Epilepsy ..	2	18	—	4
	b. Other ...	—	36	7	11
15.	Psychological—				
	a. Development ..	—	41	4	73
	b. Stability ..	9	210	38	54
16.	Other ...	44	192	225	104

**B. — Classification of the General Condition of Pupils
Inspected during the Year in the Age Groups.**

Age Groups (1)	No. of Pupils Inspected (2)	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No. (3)	% of col. 2 (4)	No. (5)	% of col. 2 (6)	No. (7)	% of col. 2 (8)
Entrants	1278	461	36.1	761	59.5	56	4.4
Second Age Group ...	1123	535	47.6	551	49.1	37	3.3
Third Age Group ...	841	470	55.9	356	42.3	15	1.8
Other Periodic Inspections ...	1251	574	45.9	632	50.5	45	3.6
Total	4493	2040	45.40	2300	51.19	153	3.41

**TABLE III.
Infestation with Vermin.**

Primary and Secondary Schools.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	16,266
(ii) Total number of pupils on roll of schools visited	10,779
(iii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	62
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	12
(v) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—

Grammar and Technical Schools.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	—
(ii) Total number of pupils on roll of schools visited	—

(iii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	—
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	—
(v)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE IV.—Treatment Tables.

Group I.—Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III).

		Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year			
		by the Authority	otherwise		
Ringworm—(i)	Scalp	...	...	—	—
	(ii) Body	...	...	6	—
Scabies	...	...	...	2	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	5	—
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	131	—
Total				144	—

Group II.—Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

		No. of Cases dealt with by the			
		Authority	otherwise		
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	...	...	...	198	31
Errors of refraction (including squint	...	...	...	1,998	25
Total				2,196	56
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were					
	(a) Prescribed	...	...	531	—
	(b) Obtained	...	...	491	—

Group III.—Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear ...	—	1
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	—	83
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	1
Received other forms of treatment	—	28
	—	—
Total	—	113
	—	—

Group IV.—Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	10	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , in clinics or out- patients departments ...	172	25

Group V.—Other Treatment Given.

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	686	—
(b) Other		
1. Minor Eye Defects ...	95	—
2. Minor Ear Defects ...	109	—
3. Minor Injuries	34	—
	—	—
Total	924	—
	—	—

TABLE V.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—		
(a) Periodic age groups	... ..	5,205
(b) Specials	... ..	1,578
	Total	6,783
(2) Number found to require treatment	... ..	4,601
(3) Number referred for treatment	... ..	4,601
(4) Number actually treated	... ..	2,339*
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment		8,094*
(6) Half-days devoted to:		
Inspection	... ..	30
Treatment	... ..	941
	Total (6)	971
(7) Fillings:		
Permanent Teeth	... ..	2,636
Temporary Teeth	... ..	1,171
	Total (7)	3,807
(8) Number of teeth filled:		
Permanent Teeth		2,301
Temporary Teeth		1,149
	Total (8)	3,450
(9) Extractions:		
Permanent Teeth	... ..	1,040
Temporary Teeth	... ..	3,281
	Total (9)	4,321
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	... ..	1,428
(11) Other operations:		
Permanent Teeth	... ..	1,514*
Temporary Teeth	... ..	291
	Total (11)	1,805

* These figures include orthodontic work.

TABLE VI.
**Handicapped Pupils requiring Education at special
Schools or boarding in Boarding Homes.**

	(1) Blind	(2) Partially sighted	(3) Deaf	(4) Partially Deaf	(5) Delicate	(6) Physically Handicapped	(7) Educationally sub-normal	(8) Mal-adjusted	(9) Epileptic	TOTAL (1) to (9)
In the calendar year ended 31st December, 1954 :—	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Day Special Schools or Boarding Homes	—	2	—	1	32	4	3	4	1	47
B. Handicapped Pupils newly ascertained as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes	—	1	—	—	34	4	10	—	—	49
On or about December 1st, 1954 :—										
C. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area :—										
(i) attending Special Schools as										
(a) Day Pupils	—	7	5	4	—	16	19	—	—	51
(b) Boarding Pupils ...	2	—	3	—	26	7	5	7	1	51
(ii) Attending independent schools under arrangement made by the Authority ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
(iii) Boarded in Homes and not already included under (i) or (ii)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (C)	2	7	8	5	26	23	24	7	1	103
D. Number of Handicapped Pupils being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944:—										
(i) In hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
(ii) In other groups (e.g. units for spastics)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
(iii) At home	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	6
E. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area requiring places in Day Special Schools										
(Including any such children who are temporarily receiving home tuition or whose parents have not yet consented to their attending a Special School) :—										
(i) Day	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
(ii) Boarding	—	—	—	—	10	3	2	1	—	16
Number of children reported during the year :—										
(a) Under Section 57(3) (excluding any returned under (b)) ...										2
(b) " " " relying on Section 57(4)										—
(c) " " 57(5)										4
of the Education Act, 1944.										

INDEX.

ITEM	PAGE
Health Committee	2
Public Health Staff	3
Foreword	4—7

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Acreage	8
Population	8
New Houses Erected	8
Unemployment	8
Social Conditions and Amenities	8—9
Population Graph	10
Summary of Vital Statistics	11—12
Extracts from Vital Statistics—	
Births and Birth Rates	12—13
Stillbirths and Stillbirth Rates	13
Deaths and Death Rates	14—15
Causes of Death	16
Infantile Mortality	17—18
Maternal Deaths	18

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation	19
General Hospitals	19
Ambulance Facilities	19
National Assistance Act, 1948	19
Public Mortuary	19
Laboratory Facilities	20
Registration of Nursing Homes	20

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Adoptive Acts and Byelaws	21
Water Supply	22
Drainage and Sewerage	22
Rivers and Streams	22
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report—	
Tables of Inspections and Improvements, etc.	24—25
Food Inspection	26
Tables—Factories Act, 1937	27
Closet Accommodation	28
Public Cleansing Service	28
Refuse Collection and Disposal	28—29
Salvage	29
Public Conveniences	29
Atmospheric Pollution	30
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	30—31
Pet Animals Act, 1951	31
Shops Act, 1950	31
Swimming Pool	32
Verminous Premises	32
Wasp Destruction	32
Schools	32

HOUSING.

Council Estates	33
Inspection of Dwelling Houses	34
Remedy of Defects without formal notice	34
Action under Statutory Powers	34—35
Clearance Schemes	35
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	35

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

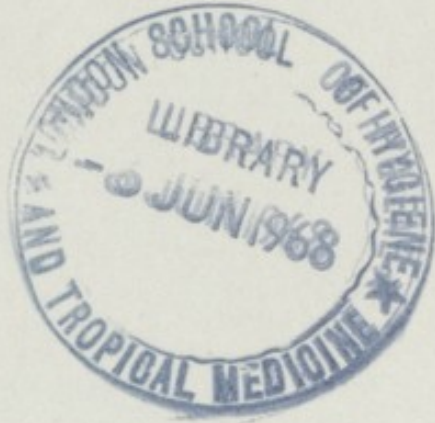
Milk Supply	36
Slaughterhouses	36
Adulteration of Food—Food & Drugs Act, 1938	37—38
Food Shops and Food Manufacturing Premises	38
Registration of Premises	38

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever	39
Diphtheria	39
Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination	40
Typhoid Fever and Para Typhoid Fever	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	41
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	41
Measles	41
Whooping Cough	41
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	41
Scabies	41
Food Poisoning	41
Tables of Infectious Diseases Notified	42
Tuberculosis	43

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT, 1954.

Welfare and School Attendance Sub-Committee	46
Staff	46—47
Foreword	48—50
Schools	51
Clinics	51—52
Co-ordination—	
Periodic Medical Inspections	53
School Meals and Milk	53—54
Orthopædic Clinic	54
Dental Treatment	54
Ophthalmic Clinic	55
Speech Therapy	55—56
Cleanliness Inspections	56
Physical Education	57
Swimming	58
Further Training of Teachers	58—59
Statistical Tables	60—67



JR/1/8

