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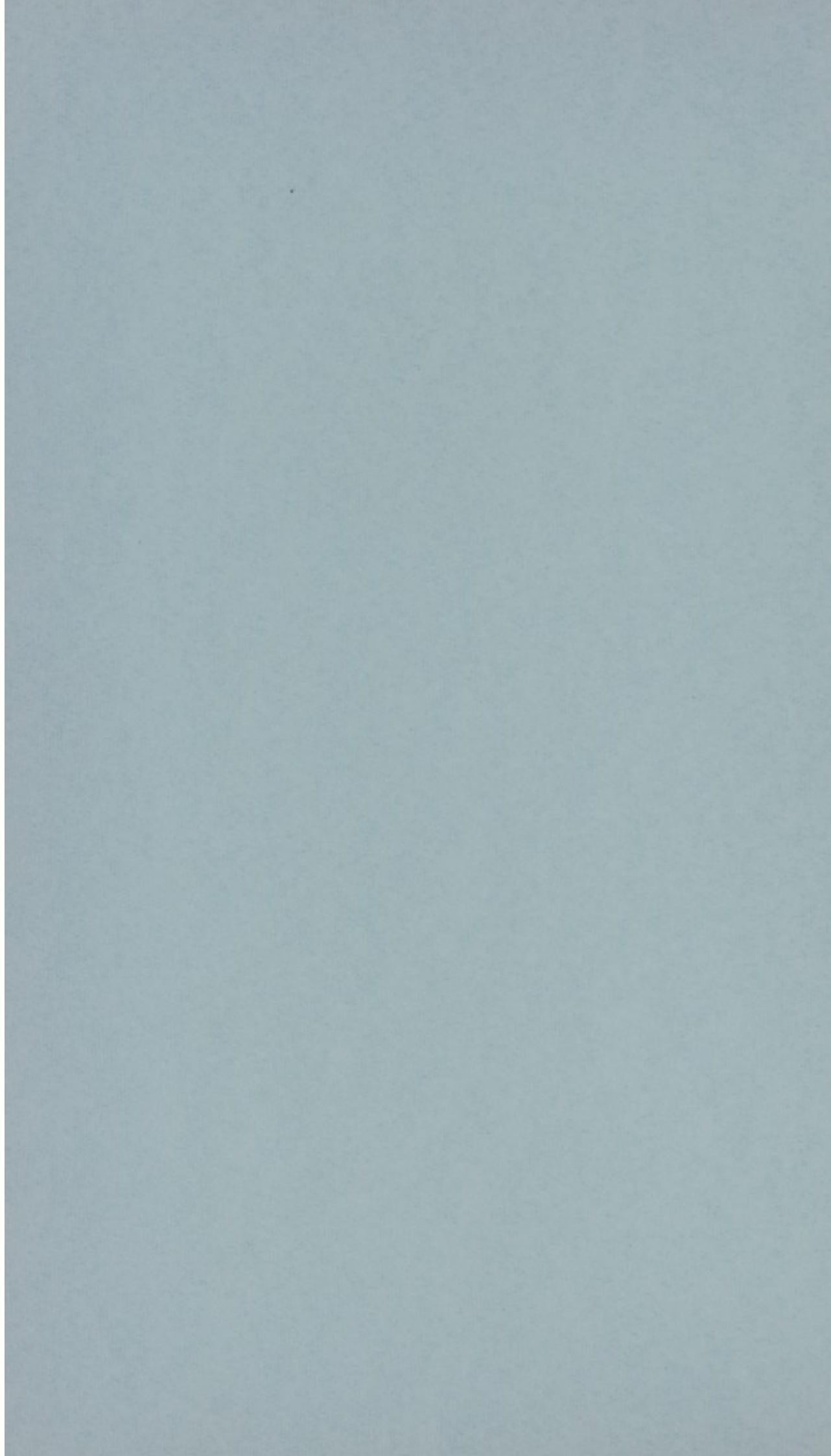
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Medical Officer of Health





BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1957

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

Medical Officer of Health

Borough of Bexley.

Mayor: Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott, J.P.

Deputy Mayor: Alderman J. M. Pawson.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor S. H. Philpot.

Alderman M. J. Corr.

Councillor N. S. Harrild.

Alderman J. M. Pawson.

Councillor Mrs. D. A. Shearn.

Councillor Mrs. B. Bursill.

Councillor Mrs. E. M. Sheppard.

Councillor F. G. Donovan.

Councillor Mrs. J. Tatham.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF,

1957.

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 Public Health Inspector, *† G. Hind, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Cleansing Officer and
Shops Acts Inspector.

Deputy Chief Public Health *† J. T. Boocock.
Inspector.

District Public Health Inspectors *† W. E. Moses.

*† W. C. B. Gilhespy.

*† D. T. Rees.

Chief Clerk G. A. Pearson.

Senior Clerk R. V. Hoad.

Clerks E. M. Pearmine (Miss).

I. D. Dashfield (Mrs.) (Shorthand
Typist).

Public Analyst H. E. Monk, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Refuse Foreman G. E. Packman.

Public Health General Assistant A. C. Ward.

* 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 submit my Annual Report for the year, 1957.

As in previous years, in attempting to assess the health of the Borough it is necessary to consider the vital statistics for the area. The infant mortality rate of 1957 was 22.9 per 1,000 live births, compared with 24.6 in 1956 and a rate for England and Wales of 23. For the fourth year in succession no mother died as a result of childbirth and for the eighth year there has not been a case of diphtheria in the Borough. The standardized birth rate remains practically stationary at 13.9 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 16.1 per 1,000 for England and Wales while the standardized death rate at 11.3 per 1,000 is almost the same as that for the country as a whole (11.5 per 1,000).

There is nothing in these figures to warrant either concern or undue complacency. When one observes the great changes wrought in our civilization by the industrial, social, educational and scientific developments of the past 50 years and their profound influence on our whole way of life, one cannot help feeling that the yardsticks used in the past to measure the health of a community need to be interpreted with great caution. Designed as they originally were for conditions of widespread poverty and disease and the absence of medical care they served, in bygone years, not only as a measure of environmental hazards but, also, as a spur to their amelioration. Nowadays, however, having overcome the gross hazards of environment, we can turn our attention to the more insidious and subtle ones which remain, as well as to the new hazards which are constantly arising as a result of the application of scientific developments as, for example in the field of electronics and nuclear physics.

A good example of the subjection of present-day vital statistics to the high power of the microscope is afforded by the study of infant mortality where the emphasis has shifted

from the main causes of death during the first year of life (which at one time were gastro-enteritis and broncho-pneumonia) to deaths during the neo-natal period (the first four weeks of life, the commonest causes of death being congenital malformations and prematurity) and, latterly, to the perinatal period in which the deaths during the first week of life are studied alongside with stillbirths. The latter highlights the combined effects of toxæmia of pregnancy and prematurity and, in a few cases, obstetrical difficulties and it will be seen on analysis of the Table on page 20 that the perinatal mortality during 1957 was 36.8 per 1,000 related births. It is, indeed, remarkable that of the 27 Bexley babies on whom the infant mortality rate is based, no less than 22 died within the first week of life. It is clear that a closer study needs, now, to be made of the causes of toxæmia and of the significance of maternal infections in early pregnancy (particularly german measles and, possibly, other virus diseases as well) in relation both to prematurity and congenital malformations. The fall in deaths during the perinatal period has not kept pace over the past 25 years with the fall in infant mortality generally and further improvements in the infant mortality rate depend on further research on these lines as well as on the maintenance of satisfactory conditions of living and levels of child care generally.

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung during 1957 was 40 as against 28 in 1956 and 48 in 1955. The fact that there is an association between smoking and cancer of the lung has received very wide publicity and is now, I think, accepted by most reasonable people. There is no evidence, however, that this has had much effect on the smoking habits of people in general although one does meet individuals, here and there, who have given up cigarette smoking as a direct result of this newly-gained knowledge. It appears that the general attitude among the majority of smokers is a fatalistic acceptance of the risk; which can only mean that the smoking habit may fulfil a deep physical and psychological need in the stressful world in which we live. It is good to learn, therefore, that attempts are being made, by selective cultivation of particular varieties of tobacco leaf and by other means, to reduce the amount of carcinogenic substances in tobacco and I believe that some progress is being made in this respect. I have given a number of talks on this subject to senior schoolchildren and have been impressed by the grasp shown by them in regard to the hazard of lung cancer in relation to smoking. Nevertheless, although they received the information in a responsible way, one could not help feeling that the remoteness of the risk

in point of time tended to reduce its impact for, to a boy or girl of 15, to talk of what may happen in 30 or 40 years time is somewhat akin to a voyage into eternity. However, this particular form of health education must continue, and teachers as well as doctors and health visitors have their responsibilities, particularly when one bears in mind the seductive advertisements on television and in the Press which are designed to inculcate, in the adolescent mind, the impression that smoking is a sign of emancipation and growing up and stepping-stone to social ease and acceptance.

In considering lung diseases in general and perhaps chronic bronchitis in particular, one must not forget that the abatement of atmospheric pollution is one of the most important tasks facing both central and local government at the present time. In a way this problem is comparable in its complexity with the cleaning up of urban water supplies in the 19th century and just as important. The Clean Air Act, 1956 grants, among its many provisions, permissive power to local authorities to declare smoke control areas in which only smokeless fuels will be burnt in suitable boilers and domestic heating appliances. In Bexley a beginning has been made, the Council having authorised a pilot survey to be carried out in a selected area with a view to obtaining reliable information as to the cost of replacing unsuitable appliances and adapting others to make them capable of burning smokeless fuels. It took over 50 years to provide a clean and safe water supply to the great towns thus ridding the population of such diseases as cholera, typhoid and dysentery. By sustained and determined action in regard to clean air one may similarly see, in years to come, a reduction in lung diseases which are responsible for so much mortality and ill-health, as well as the removal from the atmosphere of pollution which causes much unnecessary work for the harassed housewife and does untold damage to vegetation and the fabric of buildings. We have now installed, in the Health Department, a volumetric apparatus for the daily estimation of sulphur dioxide (one of the most lethal constituents of smoke) and figures are being collected which will serve as a guide to future action in regard to smoke abatement.

It is unfortunate, to say the least of it, that the time when the prevention of atmospheric pollution is becoming a matter of major policy should coincide with the introduction of yet another serious hazard from nuclear and allied radiations resulting from the peaceful uses of atomic energy in industry including the use of x-rays and of radioactive isotopes and from international efforts to build up

the "atomic deterrent." The addition of these radiations to those occurring, naturally, from certain heavy elements in the earth's crust and from cosmic rays reaching us from outer space may one day, and before long, induce a level of radioactivity in our surroundings harmful to the maintenance of health and, by causing undesirable genetic mutations, constitute a threat to future generations. Indeed, one can foresee the time when the Geiger counter will become as important a piece of public health equipment as the sampling bottle or deposit gauge is today.

During the year steady progress was made in regard to the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Much work and constant vigilance is necessary to ensure that satisfactory standards of production and handling of food are not only achieved but, also, maintained. Even when cleanliness, repair of food premises, the supply of wash hand basins, hot and cold water and facilities for washing food and equipment are of a satisfactory standard, real cleanliness depends, ultimately, on the acceptance by food handlers, both management and staff, of a personal responsibility to the public; and we cannot say that this is invariably the case. During the year 2779 inspections of food and food preparing premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and improvements were carried out or defects remedied under the Regulations at 93 premises. Twelve premises were dealt with for infestations by rats and mice.

During the year the Housing Act, 1957 and the Rent Act, 1957 came into operation. The former was largely a consolidating Act, while the latter, in that it aimed, among other things, at the preservation of the structure of existing houses, placed a good deal of extra work on the Chief Public Health Inspector and his colleagues, particularly in connection with certificates of disrepair.

Steady progress has been made during the year in the clearance of unfit houses within the framework of the five year plan submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955.

The work of the Bexley, Erith and Crayford Home Safety Committee continued during the year, with steady propaganda in the interests of the reduction of accidents in the home, chiefly through falls and burns and scalds. Officially this responsibility lies with the Local Health Authority under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1948. In practice, the local voluntary committee, closely linked with the district Health Department and the local Council is in a far better strategic position to increase the

public awareness of a problem, the magnitude of which, both as regards morbidity and mortality, exceeds that of accidents on the roads.

During 1957, seven cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified in the Borough. The number of children resident in the Borough who received a course of two injections against this disease, under arrangements made by the local Health Authority, was 3,172. The extension of vaccination to all children of school age and possibly, in due course, to members of the public generally may, it is hoped, in years to come, considerably reduce the ill effects of this annual visitation.

Although, broadly speaking, the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis is on the wane, there is evidence to show that much still remains to be done in the abolition of this incapacitating and killing disease. The chronic open case in the community and the undiagnosed case, often in middle-aged and elderly people, remain two potent sources of infection. The main spearheads in the attack against this disease are the unremitting tracing of sources of infection, the protection of contacts and young children by B.C.G. inoculation and a more intensive search for new cases by means of mass miniature radiography.

During the latter part of the year influenza of the Asian type reached epidemic proportions in the Borough, this being part of a world epidemic. Although widespread, the disease did not reach the severity which had been anticipated and most cases were of a relatively mild type, necessitating a few days in bed followed by a short period of convalescence. Much absenteeism resulted in factories and in schools from this cause in the area. No deaths were recorded as due to influenza during the year.

So much for these objective factors for which figures are available, but this is by no means the whole story. There are no statistics by which we can study the health of the individual and of the community in the sense of happy and successful living as integrated members of society which is the essence of true health. It is, I think, true that, despite the great advances in clinical medicine over the past 40 years and the operation of the National Health Service for 10 years, there has been no reduction in the total incidence of disease although the pattern of disease has changed. The old-fashioned epidemics have been largely brought under control but have been largely offset by the increase in the incidence of the so-called psychosomatic diseases such as coronary thrombosis, peptic ulcer, certain forms of cancer, the psychoneuroses and by the new endemics, accidents on the

roads and in the home. Most disturbing of all is the great increase, in the last few decades, of mental ill-health as shown by the high proportion of hospital beds taken up by the mentally sick. The causes of this social malaise are very complex and have their roots in the rapid changes which our society has undergone in recent years. Prevention and cure of disease is not enough to ensure true health in a modern society. The promotion of health by a consciously-directed policy based, not only on the causes of disease, but on the causes of health remains, as always, the greatest challenge to statesmanship at the present time.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement, and the Chief Public Health 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, 90,020

New Dwellings Erected.

Houses 384

Relative figures for previous years.

Population—Mid-Year.

New Houses Erected.

1931 (Census)	...	33,150	1946	...	82 + 64 rebuilt
1935	...	59,970	1947	...	199 + 216 rebuilt
1940	...	77,670	1948	...	334 + 286 rebuilt
1945	...	75,040	1949	...	138 + 73 rebuilt
1950	...	89,410	1950	...	102 + 15 rebuilt
1951 (Census)	...	88,420	1951	...	319
1952	...	88,160	1952	...	355
1953	...	87,990	1953	...	265
1954	...	88,180	1954	...	503
1955	...	88,780	1955	...	529
1956	...	89,300	1956	...	423

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1957

(according to Rate Books) approximately 27,842

Rateable Value £1,219,267

Sum represented by a penny rate £4,975

Unemployment.

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
December, 31st 1956	172	85	10	7	274
December 31st, 1957	192	68	10	6	276

Social Conditions and Amenities.

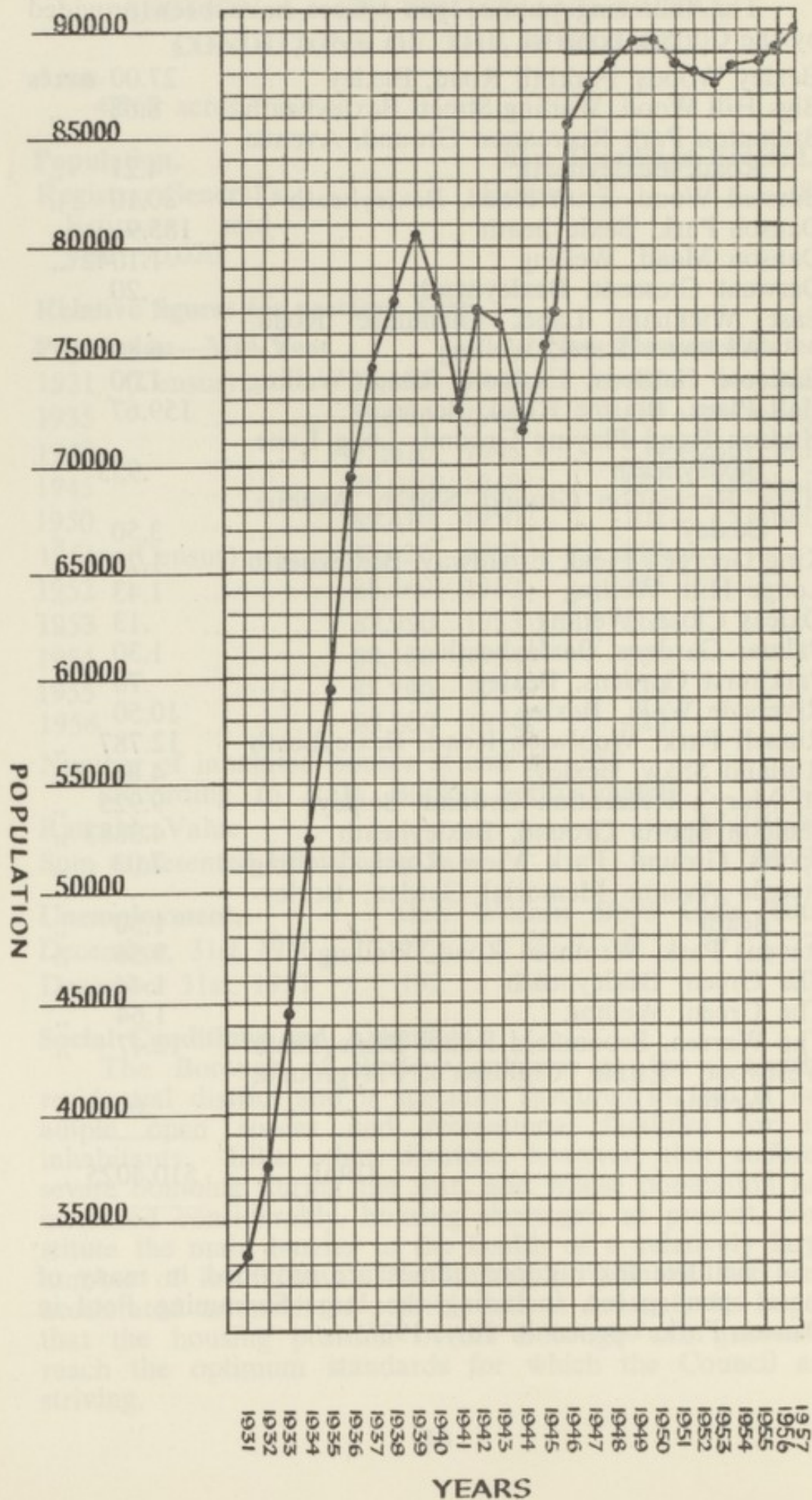
The Borough of Bexley continues to be a healthy residential district and is specially favoured in that it has ample open spaces and recreational facilities for its inhabitants. Like other districts, however, that suffered severe bombing during the war, and whose population has increased considerably, housing shortages, at present, constitute the main barrier to the health of a 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 following public open spaces have been provided by the Corporation:—

Bexley Woods, Parkhill Road, Bexley ...	27.00	acres
Bigs Hill Wood, Watling Street, Bexleyheath	8.68	„
Brampton Park Recreation Ground, Avenue Road, Bexleyheath	4.21	„
Bursted Wood, Erith Road, Bexleyheath ...	30.10	„
Danson Park, Bexleyheath	185.9	„
Danson Mead, Welling	1.1042	„
Derwent Crescent, Bexleyheath ... ..	.20	„
East Wickham Land, Glenmore Road/Wickham Street, Welling	6.80	„
Eastcote Gardens, Eastcote Road, Welling	1.00	„
Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley	159.67	„
Hudson Road Playing Ground, Long Lane, Bexleyheath ... ..	.953	„
Hurst Recreation Ground, Shirley Avenue, Bexley	3.50	„
King George's Field, Broadway, Bexleyheath	1.235	„
Lodge Hill, Welling	1.43	„
Oxleas Close, Welling ... ..	.13	„
Palmar Gardens, Bexleyheath	1.30	„
Parkhurst Gardens, Bexley ... ..	.70	„
Riverside Walk, Bexley	10.50	„
Russell Park, Woolwich Road, Bexleyheath	12.787	„
Rutland Shaw, Bexley	4.85	„
St. Mary's Recreation Ground, Bexley ...	9.925	„
Sheldon Sports Ground, Bexleyheath ...	4.3883	„
Sports Ground, Park View Road, Welling	7.03	„
Steeple Avenue Memorial Garden, Bexleyheath	1.50	„
Stevens Park, Wrotham Road, Welling ...	9.36	„
The Green, Bexleyheath	1.44	„
The Green, Welling	1.64	„
The Warren, Broomfield Road, Bexleyheath	12.47	„
Westwood Estate Children's Playground, Welling ... ..	.60	„
Total ...	510.4025	„

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	...	...	...	...	...	16.1	13.6
Still	...	...	...	...	...	0.37	0.27
						22.4(a)	19.2(a)
Deaths—							
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	11.5	9.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.11	0.03
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.16	0.04
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.56	0.53
Notifications (corrected)							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.66	0.76
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1.89	1.98
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	14.11	13.84
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.73	0.34
Acute Poliomyelitis (Including Polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.07	0.08
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	0.20	0.09
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	16.00(a)	12.81(a)
						Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
Deaths							
All causes under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	23.0	22.9
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	...	...	...	...	.5	Nil

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) 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	0.39	Nil
Due to abortion	0.08	Nil
Total maternal mortality ...	0.47	Nil

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE Year 1957.

The Registrar General's Estimate of home population for the mid-year is 90,020 and this figure is assigned for the purpose of calculation of all rates.

Births.	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Total	612	613	1,225
Legitimate	595	597	1,192
Illgitimate	17	16	33

Birth Rate.

Rate per 1,000 estimated home population	13.6
----------------------------------------------------	------

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

1947 Birth Rate	18.72 per thousand
1948 " "	15.36 " "
1949 " "	14.02 " "
1950 " "	13.13 " "
1951 " "	12.79 " "
1952 " "	12.00 " "
1953 " "	12.70 " "
1954 " "	11.80 " "
1955 " "	12.60 " "
1956 " "	13.2 " "
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ...	16.1

33 illegitimate live births were registered against 34 in 1956.

The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1957. The standardised birth rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 13.9.

Stillbirths.					Males	Females	Total
Total	...	...	...	...	11	13	24
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)							
births	...	...	...	...			19.2

24 Stillbirths were registered during the year. This represents a rate of 0.27 per 1,000 population against 0.28 per 1,000 population in 1956.

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

Year					Rate per Thousand	
					Total Live and Still Births	Population
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
1954	...	...	...	...	13.26	0.16
1955	...	...	...	...	16.7	0.21
1956	...	...	...	...	20.8	0.28

Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales 1957	...	0.37
-------------------------------------------	-----	------

There was one Stillbirth registered as illegitimate.

Deaths.	Males	Females	Total
All causes	418	410	828
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated home population			9.2
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	13	15	28
Legitimate	13	15	28
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:			
Total per 1,000 live births ...			22.9
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births			23.5
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—	—	—
" " Cancer (all ages)	93	85	178
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1957			11.5

Death Rate of Area during last ten years:—

1947	...	...	9.17	per thousand.
1948	...	...	7.53	„ „
1949	...	...	8.15	„ „
1950	...	...	8.56	„ „
1951	...	...	9.6	„ „
1952	...	...	9.14	„ „
1953	...	...	8.8	„ „
1954	...	...	8.1	„ „
1955	...	...	9.1	„ „
1956	...	...	9.4	„ „

The rate for Bexley compares favourably with that for England and Wales. The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1957. The standardised death rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 11.3.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1957.

Causes of Death.		M.	F.	Total
	All Causes	418	410	828
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	1
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—	2
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12	11	23
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	36	4	40
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	25	26
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	9	9
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	44	36	80
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
16	Diabetes	1	3	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	43	53	96
18	Coronary disease, angina	90	48	138
19	Hypertension with heart disease	10	10	20
20	Other heart disease	26	46	72
21	Other circulatory disease	12	23	35
22	Influenza	—	4	4
23	Pneumonia	20	28	48
24	Bronchitis	33	23	56
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	2	6
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	8	3	11
27	Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	4	3	7
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	4	4	8
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	34	57	91
33	Motor vehicle accidents	15	2	17
34	All other accidents	3	7	10
35	Suicide	4	5	9
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

DEATHS REGISTERED (IN AGE GROUPS) IN 1957.

	Under 1 year		1-4 years		5-14 years		15-24 years		25-44 years		45-64 years		65-74 years		75 years and over		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other
3. Syphilitic disease	1	...	...	...	...	1
4. Diphtheria
5. Whooping Cough
6. Meningococcal infections
7. Acute poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
8. Measles
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	...	3	5	4	1	3	5	12	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	22	...	10	2	2	1	36	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	...	15	...	6	1	2	1	25	...
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	9	...
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	...	...	...	3	20	13	16	8	8	11	44	36	...
15. Leukaemia, aleukeamia	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
16. Diabetes	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	...	10	12	16	14	16	27	43	53
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	1	36	...	29	14	18	33	90	48
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	...	2	1	3	3	4	6	10	10
20. Other heart disease	1	1	5	6	7	9	13	30	26	46
21. Other circulatory disease	1	3	2	4	3	5	17	12	23	...
22. Influenza	4	...	4
23. Pneumonia	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	5	3	10	22	20	28
24. Bronchitis	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	8	3	14	18	33	23
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	1	2	1	4	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	4	1	2	1	8	3	...
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	1	...	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	1	4	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	5	...
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	8	7	7	9	10	26	34	57
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	...	3	...	4	...	4	...	1	...	2	2	15	2
34. All other accidents	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	3	3	7
35. Suicide	1	...	2	1	1	2	...	...	1	1	4	5
36. Homicide and operations of war
Total ...	13	15	...	2	2	2	7	2	25	18	132	72	120	84	119	215	418	410

INFANT MORTALITY, 1957

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

These relate to deaths occurring in 1957 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		1			1		1																	
Premature Birth	3	1			1	1																		
Atelectasis, Prematurity		2																						
Atelectasis	1		2																					
Pneumonia, Prematurity							1																	
Broncho Pneumonia													1				1							
Acute Tracheo Bronchitis											1													
Umbilical Haemorrhage			1																					
Atelectasis, Congenital abnormalities of fingers, toes, trachea and frontal bones ...	1																							
Tentorial tear and subtentorial haematoma																								
Difficult breach extraction, Dystocia	1																							
Atelectasis, Caesarian section for concealed ante partum haemorrhage, Severe pre-eclampsia of mother	1																							
Diarrhoea, Pancreatic dysfunction, retro-pharyngeal abscess, Pneumonia											1													
Pulmonary atelectasis, Pneumonia Prematurity, Severe preclamptic toxæmia of mother	1																							
Prematurity, Congenital heart disease (Inter-ventricular septal defect)	1																							
Hydro-cephalus, Sub-arachnoid haemorrhage													1											
Haemorrhagic disease of the new born ...																								
Hyaline membrane disease, Erythroblastosis			1																					
Totals	9	4	3	1	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—			

The number of infants under one year of age who died during the year 1957 as shown by the table is 27. 22 of these deaths, that is 81 per cent. occurred in the neonatal period (within one month of birth). In 1956, the corresponding figure was 73 per cent.

28 were registered during the year giving an infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 22.9.

Rates over previous years have been:—

1947	...	...	28.6	per 1,000 live births.
1948	...	...	19.03	" " " "
1949	...	...	24.0	" " " "
1950	...	...	14.48	" " " "
1951	...	...	24.76	" " " "
1952	...	...	11.34	" " " "
1953	...	...	14.36	" " " "
1954	...	...	22.1	" " " "
1955	...	...	17.0	" " " "
1956	...	...	24.6	" " " "

Maternal Deaths.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Rates over previous years have been:—

1947	...	...	1.19	per 1,000 live and stillbirths
1948	...	...	Nil	" " " "
1949	...	...	0.78	" " " "
1950	...	...	0.84	" " " "
1951	...	...	Nil	" " " "
1952	...	...	0.93	" " " "
1953	...	...	2.63	" " " "
1954	...	...	Nil	" " " "
1955	...	...	Nil	" " " "
1956	...	...	Nil	" " " "

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are 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.

During the year a number of cases of elderly persons not receiving proper care and attention (reported to the department) were visited but no statutory action was found to be necessary.

Action taken under Section 50.

It was not necessary to arrange any burials under this Section during the year.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

In 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 142 occasions and 142 post-mortem examinations were made; 19 inquests were held.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone. This service ceased to be the responsibility of the County Council as from

the 1st October, 1955, when it was taken over by the Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

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 4

No. of patients provided for:—

Maternity	5
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Others	64
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Total	...	69
-------	-----	----

No. of Homes first registered during year ... —

No. of patients provided for:—

Maternity	—
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Others	—
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Total	...	—
-------	-----	---

No. of Homes on the Register at end of year ... 4

No. of patients provided for:—

Maternity	5
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Others	64
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Total	...	69
-------	-----	----

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. 1896
Private Street Works Act, 1892	Jan. 1899
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,	
Parts 8 and 9	Apr. 1909
Part 2—the whole	} May 1909
„ 6—the whole	
„ 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
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	„
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
Improper Behaviour on School Premises ...	May 1951
The Flying of Model Aircraft	Nov. 1951
Public Libraries	Jan. 1953
Building	Apr. 1954

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 filtered water. All the water is chlorinated as it leaves the works. There have been no important extensions of trunk mains and there have been no changes in the general scheme of supply to the Borough during 1957.

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

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

During the year 10 samples of water from piped supplies were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Sewers have been constructed on the following estates:—

S.W. Sewers	269 lin. yards.	Highbanks Close.
S.W. Sewers	290 lin. yards.	Tower Road.
S.W. Sewers	160 lin. yards.	Yew Tree Close.
S.W. Sewers	373 lin. yards.	Broom Mead.
Foul Sewers	63 lin. yards.	Broom Mead.
Foul Sewers	43 lin. yards.	Latham Road.
S.W. Sewers	170 lin. yards.	Rokesby Close.
S.W. Sewers	1,044 lin. yards.	East Wickham Hutments.

In addition to the above developing owners have constructed private sewers on the following estates:—

Highbanks Close.	Hurst Road.
Otford Close.	Grangewood.
Rokesby Close.	Broom Mead.
Tower Road.	Kemsing Close.

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

2. **Rivers and Streams.**

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

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Health Department,

8, 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 Public Health Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer to your Council for the year 1957.

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

TABLE No. 1.

Details of Inspection Work Carried Out.

	Inspections	Re-inspections
Houses inspected (all particulars recorded)...	12	195
Houses inspected (defects only recorded) ...	124	642
Houses inspected (certificates of disrepair) ...	148	139
Houses inspected (improvement grants) ...	30	—
Houses inspected (Housing Act, 1936, Over-crowding)	42	7
Houses inspected <i>re</i> Infectious Disease (including scabies)	134	79
Factories with mechanical power	192	23
Factories without mechanical power	31	2
Outworkers' premises	56	—
Other premises under the Act	19	13
Bakehouses	81	59
Water Samples	18	4
Food and Drugs Act Samples	287	2
Dairies and distributors	43	12
Ice Cream premises	257	16
Restaurants, etc.	235	137
Fish premises	122	42
Meat Shops	373	124
Public Houses	23	15
Shops <i>re</i> unsound food	392	40
Other premises where food is prepared ...	802	279
Offensive accumulations	79	51
Stables	27	38
Keeping of Animals	35	18
Rats	369	522
Drains inspected	728	761
Drains tested (water, smoke or colour) ...	119	25
Dustbins	42	40
Verminous premises	37	55
Smoke observations	112	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4	—
Refuse Tips	491	—
Refuse Removal and Salvage	503	3
Conveniences	208	2
Pet Animals Act, 1951	33	7
Council House applicants	217	75
Shops Act, 1950	1,042	12
National Assistance Act, 1948—Sec. 47 ...	9	2
Miscellaneous inspections	1,041	84

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

Houses—	No.
Provided with sufficient w.c. accommodation	14
Provided with sufficient ashplace accommodation	8
Provided with sufficient water supply	3
Houses Improved Internally—	
Walls and ceilings repaired	3
Dampness in rooms remedied	46
Defective floors repaired	22
Ventilation of Rooms improved	11
Windows repaired	23
Stoves, fireplaces, etc. provided or repaired	13
Houses Improved Externally—	
Roofs repaired	17
Eaves gutters and down spouts fixed or repaired	25
Yards paved or repaired	3
Chimney stacks repaired	7
Walls repointed or repaired	17
Miscellaneous repairs	14
Drainage—	
Drains cleansed or repaired	634
New drains constructed	6
New Gullies provided	7
Ventilation of drainage system improved	3
Inspection chambers built or repaired	18
Waste pipes provided or repaired	9
New sinks provided	1
Offensive accumulation removed	8
Nuisances from animals abated	2
Other nuisances abated	6

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

Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals	41
Houses visited including revisits	213
Rooms disinfected	14
Notices delivered to Education Authorities, etc.	172

TABLE No. 4.

Food Inspection.

The following is a summary of unsound food surrendered and destroyed:

Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	lbs.	1,215 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beef Sausages	...	...	...	...	"	10
Ham	...	...	...	...	"	32 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	"	407 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chicken	...	...	...	...	"	120
Beef	...	...	...	...	"	1,197
Pork	...	...	...	...	"	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheese	...	...	...	...	"	219
Cereals	...	...	...	...	"	40
Veal	...	...	...	...	"	137
Bacon	...	...	...	...	"	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	"	38
Pigs Kidneys	...	...	...	...	"	97
Ox Kidneys	...	...	...	...	"	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Liver	...	...	...	...	"	163 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sweetbreads	...	...	...	...	"	15
Pigs Spleens	...	...	...	...	"	84
Fish	...	...	...	...	"	865
Flour	...	...	...	...	"	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	"	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	"	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dripping	...	...	...	...	"	57
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	"	616
Meat	...	...	...	...	tins	393
Fish	...	...	...	...	"	62
Soup	...	...	...	...	"	23
Milk	...	...	...	...	"	547
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	"	1,353
Fruit and Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	"	883
Preserves	...	...	...	...	"	32
Puddings	...	...	...	...	"	4
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	...	jars	17
Paste	...	...	...	...	"	5
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	"	88
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	"	61

TABLE No. 5.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

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

Premises. 1	Number of:—		
	Inspec- tions. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prose- cutions. 4
Factories without mechanical power	75	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	313	3	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	32	3	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total	420	6	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient	5	5	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (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.)	3	3	—	—
Total	13	13	—	—

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 collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by direct labour, and a weekly collection is made. Trade refuse is cleared from shops and factories by arrangement with the occupiers at an appropriate charge, based on the average quantity to be removed each week.

Refuse is collected from over 29,000 premises, and whilst no actual weights are available, the estimated tonnage collected yearly is 21,500 tons. The Council also operate a salvage scheme, and waste paper, textiles, scrap metal, etc. is collected by means of trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicles.

The following transport is used on collection work:—

- 2 Karrier Loadmasters (20-25 cu. yds. capacity).
- 4 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers (16-18 cu. yds. capacity).
- 8 Shelvoke and Drewry Side Loading Freighters (11 cu. yds. capacity).
- 1 Commer lorry, 4 cu. yds. capacity.
- 1 Ford Van (used by General Foreman).
- 12 Trailers.

One additional fore and aft tipper was purchased during the year, and one freighter withdrawn from service.

The number of men employed in this service is 48, made up as follows:—

- 1 General Foreman.
- 14 Drivers.
- 28 Ashbinmen.
- 5 Salvage Sorters.

All refuse collected was disposed of by controlled tipping at East Wickham, the average haul to the disposal point being $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. A muledozer is used for levelling and consolidating the refuse, and covering material is obtained partly from the tip site and partly from outside sources.

Salvage.

Details of salvage sales for the financial year ended 31st March, 1958, are set out below.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	497	4	2	3,906	5	1
Textiles	15	10	0	302	17	5
Ferrous Metals	32	1	1	130	9	11
Non-Ferrous Metals		18	3	45	6	9
Miscellaneous Items	4	8	0	26	16	0
	550	2	2	4,411	15	2

Kitchen Waste.

There are some 300 waste food bins in various roads in the Borough for the reception of kitchen waste, and these are cleared 2-3 times weekly by a contractor.

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, Bellegrave Road, Welling.

High Street, Bexley.

St. Mary's Recreation Ground, Bexley.

Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley.

Riverside Walk, Bexley

Russell Park, Bexleyheath.

Avenue Road, Bexleyheath.

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

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 is installed on the roof of the Education Office in Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, and the following table gives the results obtained during 1957.

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	0.84	4.93	0.14	3.77	1.03	4.09	0.37	0.74	1.42	9.03
February	2.51	5.36	0.08	3.81	1.47	6.44	0.94	1.01	2.65	11.80
March	0.72	5.13	0.08	4.10	0.95	5.92	1.07	0.52	2.49	11.05
April	0.23	10.52	0.13	8.37	2.01	7.69	1.64	0.65	3.35	18.20
May	0.99	8.15	0.10	6.17	1.88	5.24	0.81	0.67	1.89	13.39
June	0.79	9.90	0.12	6.97	2.81	6.38	1.11	0.67	2.07	16.28
July	3.98	10.62	0.15	7.54	2.93	19.46	1.61	0.94	4.64	30.08
August	2.02	8.10	0.10	6.03	1.97	7.79	1.34	0.81	2.40	15.89
September	2.32	6.63	0.08	5.39	1.17	7.85	1.14	1.01	2.62	14.49
October	1.51	7.50	0.15	5.24	2.12	5.64	0.94	0.67	2.69	13.14
November	2.31	8.94	0.12	6.60	2.22	8.66	1.21	1.75	2.62	17.60
December	1.54	5.39	0.13	3.70	1.56	6.18	0.60	1.07	2.51	11.57

A Lead Peroxide instrument for estimating atmospheric sulphur-dioxide is situate near the deposit gauge and the results for the year are set out below.—

MONTH	Area Exposed	Weight of Ba SO ₄			Wt. of SO ₃ Collected	Mg. of SO ₃ /day Collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A Pb O ₂ (Louvered Cover)
		In Sample	In Control	Due to Exposure		
	Sq. Cm.	Mg.	Mg	Mg.	Mg /100 sq. Cm./day	
January	95	164.6	2.9	161.7	1.88	1.69
February	95	172.0	3.1	168.9	2.18	1.96
March	105	175.4	3.8	171.6	1.81	1.63
April	100	136.4	3.2	133.2	1.52	1.37
May	95	103.2	1.9	101.3	1.18	1.06
June	95	87.2	1.6	85.6	1.03	0.93
July	95	110.4	3.8	106.6	1.24	1.12
August	95	121.6	1.8	119.8	1.35	1.21
September	100	104.4	3.2	101.2	1.20	1.08
October	95	159.6	1.5	158.1	1.84	1.66
November	100	239.6	3.2	236.4	2.62	2.36
December	90	237.0	5.0	232.0	2.95	2.65

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 disinfestation 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	812
Number of Inspections	2,651
Number of Infestations found: Rats — Major	—
Minor	235
Mice	21
Number of Properties Treated	Rats Mice
Local Authority's premises	3 —
Dwelling Houses	214 17
Business Premises	18 4

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences to keep pet shops were issued to 6 persons under the Act.

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 800 shops on the Council's Register at the end of the year.

During the year 1,054 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1950, and no legal proceedings were instituted

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. HIND,

Chief Public Health 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 are taken by this department monthly during the time the pool is open and the results of bacteriological examinations have been satisfactory on each occasion.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 7 premises found to be infested with bed bugs were treated with satisfactory results.

Infestations at other premises were dealt with as follows:—

Cockroaches 1, Flies 2, Moths 1, Mites 3, Fleas 3, Earwigs 1, Woodworm 1, Beetles 2.

Wasps.

The destruction of wasps nests is undertaken by the Department and during the year 17 nests were destroyed. A charge of 6s. 0d. is made for this service.

Schools.

There are 33 County Modern and County Primary Schools, a Day Technical School for Girls and a Grammar School in the Borough

SECTION D — HOUSING.

The following particulars relate to the houses owned by the Council on the various Estates:—

			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	...	...	348	
Merlin Road	...	...	1	
Wickham Street	...	...	74	
East Wickham—				
Glenmore Road No. 1	...	...	116	
Glenmore Road No. 2	...	...	85	
Bexleyheath—				
Highland Road Estate and Pickford Road Estate	...	...	304	
Cannon Road	...	...	—	28
Alers Road	...	...	84	
Halcot Estate No. 1	...	...	200	
Halcot Estate No. 2 (including Bungalows)	...	...	126	
Halcot Estate No. 3.	...	...	28	
Faygate Estate	...	...	56	
Bristow Road	...	...	—	60
Upton Close	...	...	14	
Fairfield	...	...	—	8
Bexley—				
Hartford Road Estate and Victoria Road Estate	...	...	54	
Royal Park Estate No. 1	...	...	43	
Royal Park Estate No. 2	...	...	74	
Midhurst Hill	...	...	18	
Newick Close	...	...	2	
Henfield Close	...	...	7	
Rye Close Extension	...	...	35	
Glenhurst Avenue	...	...	30	
S.D.A. Houses	...	...	8	
Hurst Place Estate	...	...	143	
Rochester Way	...	...	9	
			2,443	250

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)	136
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (including re-inspection) ...	973
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (including re-inspections) ...	207
(3) Number of dwelling houses to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(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 ...	124

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	138
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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	1
(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	8
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	7
(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	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	23
(3) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
parts of buildings closed	1

Slum Clearance.

During 1957, 12 hutments in the East Wickham Clearance Areas were demolished and the occupants rehoused by the Council in preparation for the redevelopment of the estate.

Improvement Grants.

Number of applications for improvement grants	71
Number of applications approved ...	27
Total cost of approved expense of improvements in 27 approved cases ...	£7,244 11 6
Total costs on which grants actually made in 22 of these cases	£6,056 11 6
Total amount of grants in the 22 cases ...	£3,028 6 6

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Only four applications were received for certificates of disrepair under the above Act during the year, and three certificates were issued. 3 certificates were revoked on the application of the owners.

Rent Act, 1957

This Act came into operation on the 6th July, 1957 and the following Table gives particulars of applications for Certificates of Disrepair and subsequent action taken.

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	87
Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	1
Number of decisions to issue certificates ...	75
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	47
(b) in respect of all defects ...	28
Number of undertakings given by landlords ...	31
Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority ...	Nil
Number of Certificates issued ...	39
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates ...	1
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection ...	Nil
Certificates cancelled ...	1

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	...	7

Licences granted by the Council under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.—

Dealers' Licences:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	30
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	29
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	38

Supplementary Licences:—

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

13 samples of school milk were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests, and all were satisfactory.

(b) Slaughterhouses.

There are no slaughterhouses in the area, and the majority of the butchers obtain their supplies through Smithfield Market.

(c) **Adulteration of Food. Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**

The following table summarises the 231 samples taken during the year.

	Formal	Informal
Milk	6	2
Soup, Meat Extracts	4	8
Pastes, Potted Meat	2	2
Pudding or Cake Mixture, Flour, etc.	5	6
Jellies, Custard Powders, etc.	4	9
Patent Medicines	1	2
Sausages, Sausage Meat, etc.	15	1
Creamed Rice	—	3
Condiments, Sauces, Pickles, Spices, etc.	1	19
Pure Coffee, Coffee Extracts, Coffee and Chicory	6	2
Meat Pies and Puddings	2	4
Sweets and Confectionery	13	15
Essences	—	4
Butter and Fats	11	2
Ice Cream	1	—
Minerals	3	6
Beer	3	—
Wines and Spirits	5	—
Fruit and Fruit Juices	—	7
Fruit Pies and Puddings	—	1
Preserves	2	7
Condensed Milk	—	2
Ground Almonds	2	—
Cream	1	3
Dried Fruit	1	1
Cakes	3	1
Fish	—	3
Tinned Meat	1	6
Desiccated Coconut	—	1
Fish Cakes	1	2
Cheese Food	—	2
Garden Peas	1	—
Pease Pudding	—	1
Ready-Mix Ice Cream	—	1
Bread	1	1
Icing Sugar	1	2
Dandelion Coffee	1	—
Nut Oil	—	1
Mousse	1	—
Biscuits	—	5
Salted Pea Nuts	—	1
	<u>98</u>	<u>133</u>

Legal Proceedings.

The following legal proceedings were instituted during the year:—

- (1) Sausage Roll—Mouldy. Fined £5 plus £2 2s. 0d. costs.
- (2) Arrowroot—Not genuine arrowroot. Fined £10 plus £5 5s. 0d. costs.
- (3) Currant bun—Nail in bun. Fined £5 plus 2s. 0d. witness expenses.

(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	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
General Provision	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
							<hr/>
							367
							<hr/>

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. All food traders were sent a summary of the main provisions of the Regulations and as a result a large number of improvements were carried out voluntarily.

The Regulations necessitated an inspection being made of all food premises. The following table is a summary of the improvements carried out as a result of action by the Department.

Hot water supply provided or improved	...	...	44
Floors, walls, ceilings, etc., repaired	...	...	14
Cockroach infestation dealt with	...	...	1
Rooms cleansed	...	...	60
Water Closet accommodation improved	...	...	14
Additional protection provided for foodstuffs	...	...	4
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	5
Accommodation for storage of refuse improved	...	...	1
Food preparing room improved	...	...	4
Washing accommodation improved	...	...	28
Drainage repaired or improved	...	...	8
Food storage accommodation improved	...	...	6
Yard cleansed	...	...	3
Accommodation for clothing provided or improved	...	...	6
Sinks renewed	...	...	10
Other contraventions	...	...	19
Unsatisfactory equipment renewed	...	...	4
Cautions re smoking	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	4

Registration of Premises under Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of premises registered for:—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	1
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	154
Preparation of Sausages, etc.	...	...	47

43 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 68 cases were notified as compared with 81 the previous year. 2 cases were treated in hospital.

No. of deaths ... Nil

Return cases from Hospital cases ... Nil

Return cases from home nursed cases ... Nil

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 Diphtheria Immunisation, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination have been supplied by the County Medical Officer:—

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1957.

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, 1957:—

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Year of Birth ...	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	Total
Primary Inoculations ...	175	727	104	27	11	19	13	7	3	6	—	2	—	1	—	1095
Re-inforcing Inoculations ...	—	—	—	3	34	449	235	43	70	409	55	11	19	1	1	1330

(B) Vaccination.

Year of Birth ...	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	Before 1943	Total
Primary Vaccination ...	488	285	17	12	10	7	2	3	4	3	4	4	6	2	1	75	923
Re-vaccination ..	—	—	2	1	4	1	1	2	3	3	2	4	2	2	3	135	165

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1957.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1943).

Year of Birth ...	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1953—1957 ...	82	201	200	294	687	1231	974	928	909	1063	1011	893	929	897	175	10474
1952 or earlier ...	757	954	750	882	826	276	679	421	380	73	—	—	—	—	—	5998

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1957.

The following table gives the numbers of children resident in the Borough of Bexley who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957:—

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
712	647	592	497	231	191	169	129	3	1	—	3 172

Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid Fever.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

16 cases were notified during the year, all of which were from Bexleyheath Maternity Hospital, where they were isolated and treated.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year,

Measles.

1,246 cases were notified during the year. 6 cases were treated in hospital.

Whooping Cough.

178 cases were notified, 1 of which was treated in hospital.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

7 Paralytic cases were notified and all were treated in hospital. There was 1 death. No non-paralytic cases were notified.

Scabies.

5 cases notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.

8 cases were notified during the year, all were treated at home.

Malaria.

There were no cases notified during the year.

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

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1957.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age unknown	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	68	—	1	3	4	6	43	8	1	2	—	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	12	—	16	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	7	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	7	1
Acute Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	31	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	24	—	4	1
Erysipelas	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1
Measles	1246	24	84	120	141	182	667	19	5	4	—	6	—
Whooping Cough	178	16	11	26	17	24	66	11	1	6	—	1	—
Scabies	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Encephalitis	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Totals	1571	41	97	151	163	214	779	40	17	69	—	41	4

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 50 new cases were notified.

Particulars relating to the same, and also to the deaths which occurred during 1957 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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ...	5	4	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—44 ...	13	8	—	1	—	1	—	—
45—64 ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	27	16	2	2	2	1	—	—

Rehousing.

4 cases were referred to me by the Chest Physician for rehousing and during the year, two cases were rehoused by the Housing Committee.



BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

Annual Report

on the

School Health Services

For the Year 1957

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: Councillor J. C. Canton.

Vice-Chairman: Miss M. Woodward, L.L.A., L.G.S.M.

Alderman M. J. Corr	Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott
Councillor W. P. Webster	Councillor Mrs. E. M. Sheppard
Councillor N. S. Harrild	Councillor N. H. Antenbring.
Councillor Mrs. B. Bursill	

Co-opted Members:

Revd. E. Maynard Wilson	Revd. A. E. Ramsbottom, B.D.
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.
	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 ...	P. G. Arnold, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.). (Part-time).
	G. Wilson Lawrence, L.D.S., R.C.S.
	Mrs. A. B. Perkins, L.D.S., R.S.P.S. (Glas.), (Appointed 1.6.57).

Health Visitors	Miss K. P. Hart, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Retired 31.7.57).
	Mrs. A. E. Matthews, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N. (Temporary).
	Miss W. M. Humphries, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N. (Appointed 1.8.57).
	Miss L. G. Exley, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-time).
	Mrs. Flatman, S.R.N. (Part-time) (Appointed September, 1957).
	Mrs. M. Ayers, S.R.N. (Part-time).
	Mrs. G. M. Blackmore, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-time).
	Mrs. C. R. C. Cullimore, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-time).
	Mrs. P. Webb, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time) (Resigned 27.11.57).
	Mrs. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate.
	Miss E. C. Richardson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Certifi- cate. (Appointed 2.12.57) (Part- time).
Physiotherapist	Miss R. Cheeseman, M.C.S.P. Mrs. I. O. M. Poynder, C.S.P.
Speech Therapists	Mrs. D. Rant, L.C.S.T. Mrs. A. Pyett, L.C.S.T.
Dental Attendants	Miss K. Dunkley. Mrs. V. Sproul. Miss S. Whiting. Miss J. A. Smith — Hygienist.
School Health Service Clerk ...	Miss M. C. A. Smith.
General Clerks	Miss O. G. Turnbull. Miss R. Thomas. Miss E. Turner.

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE DURING THE YEAR 1957.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year 1957, the eleventh which it has been my privilege to present.

In spite of the great advances in curative medicine during the first half of the 20th century and, particularly, the great extension of medical services resulting from the National Health Service Act, 1948, the School Health Service has maintained its unique position in the prevention and promotion of the health of the schoolchildren. As a result of the virtual disappearance of many of the acute infections of childhood the discovery of the chemotherapeutic and antibiotic drugs and improvement in nutrition and in environmental conditions generally, the gross defects which were so common among schoolchildren in the past are now rarely met with in an area such as this and, in the main, our schoolchildren reflect the improved economic and social background in their nutritional state, clothing and parental care. As in any community, there are exceptions to this general rule and such children require a degree of special attention out of all proportion to their numbers.

The School Health Service has had to adapt itself to these changed conditions and the service, designed 50 years ago to discover defects such as faulty vision and hearing, uncleanliness, skin diseases, malnutrition and the like, is now concerned more and more with the discovery of early departures from normality, and before serious symptoms have arisen. The service in this respect is, therefore, truly preventive and the good link which exists with the general practitioner ensures that any treatment which may be necessary is promptly and effectively given. The fact, also, that the School Health Service involves a partnership between doctor, health visitors, parents, teachers, youth employment officers and many other agencies, does in fact, make it an instrument of social medicine which has no counterpart in the Health Services of the country and is quite indispensable.

The periodic medical inspection has, during recent years, come in for some criticism, often by people with the

best interests of the School Health Service at heart, on the grounds that it is not the best or most economical means of supervising the health of the schoolchildren. Indeed, under Regulation 10(1)a of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, the Minister may approve arrangements which do not provide for as many as three general medical inspections during the period of compulsory schoolage. This provision has been included to enable authorities, who wish to do so, to experiment with other arrangements not based on periodic medical inspection. Our own experience continues to be that the periodic medical inspection not only reveals a large number of defects not previously ascertained, but provides, also, a most valuable link with parents and teachers by means of which the physical, mental and emotional needs of the child can be reviewed at regular intervals during his school life. In regard to emotional defects a question raised at periodic medical inspection is often followed up at a consultative clinic when the medical officer can give more detailed attention to the problems involved. It is felt that these periodic "health audits" of the child should remain the spearhead of the School Health Service. They have undergone a re-orientation in recent years to meet the changing psychological needs of the child and the parents in a complex society in which the welfare state, a high standard of living, technological advances generally and an altered scale of priorities and values, have brought new problems of adjustment.

The School Dental Service reached a greater stability than in previous years by the appointment of a further whole-time dental officer. This has meant that more attention has been possible during the year to preventive dentistry, although much remains to be done in this respect. We are still not in sight of the ideal expressed in the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, that "the objective should be to inspect the teeth of every pupil at least once a year—preferably more frequently and to offer treatment to such children as are found to need it."

Certain procedures have now become a matter of routine in the School Health Service in this area. These include poliomyelitis vaccination, B.C.G. inoculation and pure tone audiometry, the latter being applied as an individual hearing test to all schoolchildren as soon as possible after their seventh birthday.

Extension of the clinic premises at 315, Broadway and the new dental unit installed at the Little Danson Clinic are both contributing to an increased efficiency of the service in general.

As in previous years, I wish to acknowledge the excellent co-operation that exists between head teachers, parents, School medical officers and health visitors and to refer to the work of the education welfare officers whose reports on families and individual children are instrumental in bringing to our notice many departures from health as early as possible.

I wish 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 I wish, also, 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 from the Borough Education Officers and his Department.

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 Grammar School.

Average number on Roll at 31st December, 1957 371
Bexley County Technical School for Girls.

Average number on Roll.

Bexley	...	...	...	...	...	...	855
Wilmington Annex	...	...	...	...	...	...	191

Eight County Secondary Schools.

Average number on Roll 3,681

Twenty-five County Primary Schools.

Average number on Roll 7,087

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 and Friday 9-10 a.m.

Wednesday and Saturday 9-11.30 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.

Daily—9.30-11 a.m., 2-4 p.m.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 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.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

Monday and Thursday, 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.

Tuesday and Thursday morning 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 Saturday in month,
10-12.30 p.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 p.m.

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.

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 70 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—1957.

Average number of pupils in attendance:—

Primary School	...	...	...	...	7,087
Secondary School	...	...	...	...	5,098

Average number of dinners served to children daily:—

		<i>Paid</i>	<i>Free</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	...	2,865	50	2,915
Secondary	...	2,756	71	2,827

Milk.

Average number of pupils taking milk daily:—

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	5,789
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	3,181
Total						<hr/> 8,970 <hr/>

School Dental Service.

I am indebted to Mr. P. G. Arnold, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.) for the following report:—

As you know this Dental Clinic has only been operating since June and then only on two days a week. Despite this we have been able to inspect and treat three schools already. At these inspections I have noticed that many children are receiving conservation treatment of a very high standard from private practitioners (mainly in Bexleyheath and Sidcup). On the other hand many of these children have orthodontic deformities for which they do not seem to be receiving treatment, possibly because many private practitioners feel they cannot provide this more specialised treatment and there are long waiting lists at many of the hospitals.

I hope to have inspected and treated all the schools allotted to me by about midsummer. Thereafter, for the majority of the patients in these schools, treatment will be for the maintenance of a mouth made dentally healthy, assuming of course, that the patient is seen at sufficiently short intervals. I think, therefore, that provided circumstances remain the same the outlook for 1958 is good.

And to Mrs. A. B. Perkins L.D.S., R.S.P.S., (Glas.) for the following:—

The dental surgery at Little Danson Clinic has been operating full time since June 1957. Since then, 1,090 children have been inspected at school which is 28% of the school population allotted to this surgery. Of these, it was found that 88% required treatment. The number actually treated was 541.

The following is a table of work done during the period June to December.

Number inspected at School	1,090
Number requiring treatment	961
Number treated	541
Number of sessions	(a) Inspection 7
	(b) Treatment 277
Number of fillings	(a) Permanent teeth 1,377
	(b) Temporary teeth 277

Number of teeth conserved	
(a) Permanent teeth	1,093
(b) Temporary teeth	241
Number of extractions	
(a) Permanent teeth	151
(b) Temporary teeth	631
Number of attendances for treatment (including attendances for orthodontics)	2,209
Number of general anaesthetics	294
Orthodontics	
Cases commenced during year	7
Number completed	6
Number of attendances	163
Number of appliances	13

Orthopædic Clinic.

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

The Welling Orthopædic Clinic has continued on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning throughout the year in spite of the handicaps of accommodation which are now acute. There has been no change in the kind of cases attending, which are still very largely postural, back and foot deformities. These could be much more easily handled with better co-operation from the Physical Education Department of the schools and this would save a lot of time taken off for attending for special exercises.

Miss Cheeseman has continued her service as Physiotherapist and we are greatly indebted to her for all that she has done.

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

I see approximately between thirty to forty children at the Bexley Orthopædic Clinic once a month on a Saturday morning. Of these about one third are below school age. In recent months it has become noticeable that local doctors are referring their cases directly to the Clinic. There will be several reasons for this but I think it is due particularly to the fact that the doctors have become aware that their cases can be seen by me at the Clinic as well as at the hospital; but in a large measure it is due to the splendid co-operation by Mrs. Poynder, the Physiotherapist, who is largely responsible for the success and the running of the Clinic. Her quiet efficiency and indulgence makes the Clinic a pleasant place for the staff to work in, as well as for the patients to come to.

The most successful type of operation seems to be, in my opinion, the flexor extensor transplantation for clawed toes (Curly toes). The toes are always straight after the operation and symptoms are relieved and further deformity is prevented.

However, as least one very attentive mother was able to prove to me that clawed toes, even at the age of twelve years, could be improved without operation by the use of Lambrinudi splints. Some at least of those who are not helped by splintage, was due to insufficient attention and perseverance.

Finally, the rooms at Murchison Avenue are ideal to work in.

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 the Eye Clinic for the year showed no significant difference from former years.

The total number of examinations was 2,411, of which 537 were new cases.

A co-operative spirit was shown by the vast majority of parents, so permitting the restoration of normal sight in very many cases.

Occlusion by the direct skin-patch was employed wherever possible, as it was both comfortable and effective.

An essential condition of this treatment of amblyopia is the active mental effort to see more, each day, with the weak eye a point stressed by me at the start of occlusion in all cases.

Though school work may suffer a little, this is the most essential part of the treatment of amblyopia and must be followed rigidly.

Occasionally I have come across children who have been excused some their lessons because they can't see. This well-intentioned practice is in fact a disservice to the child, who should be given every encouragement to try to use the weak eye, allowances, of course, being made for a temporary drop in academic achievement. The treatment may take many months before the maximum restoration of sight is effected. Children's hour of T.V. is a most potent advantage so long as the patch is not removed.

36 cases were referred to hospital for surgery and/or orthoptic training.

The difficulties involved in weekly visits to orthoptic centres, (Dartford and London) place a great burden on many parents, some of whom stop attending before they should. As a result of this, I have seen a number of cases deteriorate after initial improvement, the final state being only slightly better than when first seen.

I feel that if an orthoptist were able to attend this and other clinics in the district, say once a week, in which to instruct and supervise those (supposed to be) doing home exercises, still better results would be achieved.

The following tables illustrate some of the special cases seen at the clinic during the year:—

INFECTIVE.

Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...	8
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	14
Styes	...	...	...	...	...	7
Meibomian Cysts	...	...	...	...	...	6

NON-INFECTIVE.

Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	...	...	4
Colour Defective						
Safe	...	...	...	...	...	21
Unsafe	...	...	...	...	...	7
Melanosia Conjunctivae	...	...	...	...	...	1

CONGENITAL

Len Opacities	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pseudoglioma	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coloboma of disc	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ptosis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nerve Palsy	...	...	...	...	...	3
Epicanthus	...	...	...	...	...	18

OTHERS.

Migraine	...	...	...	...	...	28
Contusion of eye	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sinusitis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Voluntary nystagmus	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Choronditis	...	...	...	...	...	1

Referred to hospital: 36

Speech Therapy.

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

The cases of forty-eight children who are under the care of the Bexley Authority have been closed during 1957.

Forty-six of these children have attended at the Bexley clinic and two have attended at the Sidcup clinic.

The cases of these forty-eight children have been closed for the following reasons:—

Satisfactory results following appointments at the clinic	38
Little, if any, change following treatment	1
Treatment incomplete owing to patient leaving district, or for other reason	6
Found to have improved when first seen at clinic	3
	—
	48
	—

Sixty children, under the care of the Bexley authority, who were attending at the clinics during 1957, will continue to attend into 1958. Fifty-one of these children are attending at the Bexley Clinic and nine at the Sidcup Clinic.

Ten children under the care of the Bexley Authority were waiting appointments at the end of 1957. These children were on the waiting list at the Bexley Clinic.

Sweep Frequency Pure Tone Audiometry.

During 1957, 1,093 children were tested during their last year in the Infants' school, i.e., during their seventh year. Of this number 971 passed and 122 failed. The latter children were referred to the School Medical Officers for investigation and any minor conditions causing temporary deafness were treated.

In addition, 315 children of all age groups were tested as special cases referred from various sources including teachers, and of this number 176 passed and 139 failed. The 315 children mentioned above included those children in the main survey who had been examined by the School Medical Officers and found to require a re-test following treatment or otherwise.

The 139 failed children were referred back to the School Medical Officers who, after further examination and treatment where necessary, referred 68 children back for a final audiometric test. Of this number 35 passed and 33 failed. Further treatment was instituted for the latter children either at the School Clinics or at the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the West Hill Hospital, Dartford, or other hospitals in the metropolis.

It has been our experience that the regular use of the Pure Tone Audiometer is a great help in the health supervision of the children and has now become a regular part of the work carried out by the School Health Service.

Cleanliness Inspections.

(See Table II).

A feature of the health of schoolchildren in the Borough for many years has been the exceptionally low rate of infestation of schoolchildren with vermin. This is now being recognised by a substantial reduction in the number of school inspections by Health Visitors for this purpose. Cleanliness inspections are now carried out in secondary schools only when they are requested by head teachers. In primary schools regular cleanliness inspections have been discontinued where, at three consecutive inspections, no cases of uncleanness have been found but further inspections are made if requested by the head teacher or it appears that special circumstances warrant an intensification of this work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

I am indebted to the Physical Education Advisers, Mr. J. Hopkins and Miss J. Hulton for the following report:—

Physical Education in the Borough Schools has continued to develop during 1957, and on the whole, further progress towards a good standard of performance and physical development has been made.

In many Primary Schools the greater understanding of modern work by the teachers, has resulted in a steady development of the normal physical education lesson. It is hoped that, in the future it may be possible to foster a wider application of similar principles in both games and dancing, where at present the standard is far more variable. In July, a class from one School was chosen to give a demonstration of Educational Dance in the Junior School, at the International Congress of Physical Education held in London. This selection was a very great honour for the school.

Physical Education in the Secondary Schools has shown a gradual improvement in all directions, although in most schools the limited changing accommodation available and the lack of facilities for showers after lessons, make the wider training envisaged in the term "physical education," rather more difficult to develop. The provision of suitable clothing and footwear, especially for games, has been better than in previous years, but a really good general standard has still to be reached.

Swimming

The Baths at Plumstead, Eltham, Eltham Park and Danson Park were used by four Secondary and twelve Primary Schools during the summer term.

Attendances were:—

Schools.	Attendances.	No. of Children.
4 secondary	10 classes of 25-30 children each week.	268 (approx) per week.
12 primary	26 classes of 30-35 children each week.	900 (approx) per week.

A total of 357 swimming certificates for distances between 25 yards and one mile, were issued during the year 1957. Two Primary schools and one Secondary school continued swimming during the spring and autumn terms.

Further Training of Teachers.

During the year, teachers have had the opportunity of attending the following courses:—

1. Educational Dance Movement—for teachers in Junior Schools. Demonstration evening held in summer term. Course of six sessions in Autumn Term.
2. Netball—for Primary and Secondary teachers. One evening in the autumn term for explanation and demonstration of the new rules.
3. Swimming—for Primary and Secondary teachers. Spring Term—series of theory lectures based on the syllabus for the A.S.A. Teachers' Certificate. Summer term—practical work, concluded with the opportunity of taking the A.S.A. examination.

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.
- D. Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the year in the Age Groups.

Table II — Infestation with Vermin.

Table III — Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection.

- A. Periodic Inspections.
- B. Special Inspections.

Table IV — Treatment Tables.

- Group 1. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.
- Group 2. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.
- Group 3. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.
- Group 4. Diseases of the Skin.
- Group 5. 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, 1950-1954	790
Second Age Group, 1946	866
Third Age Group, 1942	940
Total	2,596

Additional Periodic Inspections,

1943-4-5-7-8-9 1,598

Grand Total ... 4,194

B. — Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	1,793
Number of Re-inspections	2,948
Total	4,741

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 IIIA (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	45	99	124
Second Age Group	82	129	191
Third Age Group	80	120	185
Total (prescribed groups)	207	348	500
Other Periodic Inspections	192	193	338
Grand Total	399	541	838

**D.—Classification of the Physical Condition of Pupils
Inspected during the Year in the Age Groups.**

Age Groups Inspected	Number of Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. (2)	No.	% of Col. (2)
Entrants (1)	(2) 790	(3) 781	(4) 98.9	(5) 9	(6) 1.1
Second Age Group ...	866	850	98.2	16	1.8
Third Age Group ...	940	935	99.5	5	.5
Additional Periodic Inspections	1598	1579	98.8	19	1.2
Total	4194	4145	98.8	49	1.2

TABLE II.

Infestation with Vermin.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	4,891
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	11
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	2
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—

TABLE III.—Return of Defects Found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1957.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	A. PERIODIC INSPECTIONS						B. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		Entrants		Leavers		TOTAL (Including all other age groups)		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation		
4.	Skin ...	18	23	58	36	159	131	47	8
5.	Eyes—								
	a. Vision ...	45	101	80	121	399	487	62	28
	b. Squint ...	18	16	3	2	54	49	12	—
	c. Other ...	8	7	11	6	58	55	26	15
6.	Ears—								
	a. Hearing ...	9	89	4	53	24	269	19	66
	b. Otitis media ...	2	23	2	9	5	51	9	10
	c. Other ...	1	6	5	4	19	28	1	4
7.	Nose and Throat	26	188	9	26	74	385	44	63
8.	Speech ...	4	35	—	3	13	57	12	5
9.	Lymphatic Glands	3	72	—	11	4	156	1	5
10.	Heart ...	2	20	—	15	3	79	1	26
11.	Lungs ...	7	63	2	28	17	205	29	89
12.	Developmental—								
	a. Hernia ...	1	8	—	1	3	20	—	—
	b. Other ...	—	13	1	21	2	79	—	3
13.	Orthopaedic—								
	a. Posture ...	5	11	3	29	34	159	2	3
	b. Feet ...	8	38	13	36	70	238	18	9
	c. Other ...	3	58	11	42	33	290	17	34
14.	Nervous System—								
	a. Epilepsy ...	—	2	1	1	3	8	1	7
	b. Other ...	—	3	6	1	9	11	5	12
15.	Psychological—								
	a. Development ...	—	14	1	5	1	57	24	117
	b. Stability ...	1	57	—	14	11	235	104	100
16.	Abdomen ...	3	14	—	4	6	58	8	23
17.	Other ...	4	9	5	22	17	78	84	133

TABLE IV.—Treatment Tables.

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

	No. of Cases dealt with by the Authority otherwise	
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	136	—
Errors of refraction (including squint)	2,275	36
Total	2,411	36
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ...	933	—

Group II.—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 ...	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	—	18
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	8
Received other forms of treatment	70	14
Total	70	40
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been pro- vided with hearing aids		
(a) in 1957	—	—
(b) in previous years	—	16

Number of children found, during periodic school medical inspections during 1957 to have undergone tonsillectomy at any time previously:—

Boys ... 275; Girls ... 468; Total ... 743.

Group III.—Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

	by the Authority	otherwise
Number treated at clinics or out- patients departments ...	232	28

Group IV.—Diseases of the Skin.

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Author- ity.
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	—
—(ii) Body	1
Scabies	—
Impetigo	3
Other skin diseases	69
Total	73

Group V.—Other Treatment Given.

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Author- ity.
(a) Number of cases of miscel- laneous minor ailments treated by the Authority	706
(b) Other than above	
Minor Eye Defects	69
Minor Injuries	4

TABLE V—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—					
(a) Periodic age groups					3,365
(b) Specials					1,208
Total (1)					4,573
(2) Number found to require treatment					3,288
(3) Number offered treatment					3,288
(4) Number actually treated					1,758
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment, Including those recorded at heading 11(h) below					7,117
(6) Half days devoted to: Inspection					25
Treatment					860
Total (6)					885
(7) Fillings: Permanent Teeth					2,920
Temporary Teeth					1,237
Total (7)					4,157
(8) Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth					2,505
Temporary Teeth					1,181
Total (8)					3686
(9) Extractions: Permanent Teeth					339
Temporary Teeth					1,224
Total (9)					1,563
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction					575
(11) Orthodontics:					
(a) Cases commenced during the year					70
(b) Cases carried forward from previous year					118
(c) Cases completed during the year					42
(d) Cases discontinued during the year					2
(e) Pupils treated with appliances					78
(f) Removable appliances fitted					78
(g) Fixed appliances fitted					—
(h) Total attendances					1,175
(12) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures					14
(13) Other operations:					
Permanent Teeth					1,908
Temporary Teeth					174
Total (13)					2,082

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)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
During the year ending 31-12-57										
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Day Special Schools or Boarding Homes	—	—	—	2	—	6	4	4	—	16
B. Handicapped Pupils newly ascertained as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes	1	1	—	1	43	5	7	6	—	64
On or about 31st January, 1958 :—										
C. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area :—										
(i) attending Special Schools as :										
(a) Day Pupils	—	2	—	5	—	12	23	—	—	42
(b) Boarding Pupils	3	—	3	3	24	1	3	10	—	47
(ii) Attending independent schools under arrangement made by the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Boarded in Homes and not already included under (i) or (ii)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (C)	3	2	3	8	24	13	26	10	—	89
D. Were being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944 :—										
(i) In hospitals	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
(ii) In other groups (e.g. units for spastics)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) At home	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
E. Were requiring places in special schools :—										
(i) TOTAL (a) day... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
(b) Boarding	1	—	—	1	2	3	—	1	—	8
Pupils included in the totals above :—										
(ii) who had not reached the age of 5 :										
(a) awaiting day places	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(b) awaiting boarding places...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(iii) who had reached the age of 5, but whose parents had not consented to their admission to a special school :										
(a) awaiting day places	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
(b) awaiting boarding places...	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	6
F. Were on the Registers of Hospital Special Schools										2
Number of children reported during the year :—										
(a) Under Section 57(3) (excluding any returned under (b))										5
(b) " " " relying on Section 57(4)										—
(c) " " 57(5)										5
of the Education Act, 1944.										

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