

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

Contributors

Bexley (London, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

[1962?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vjb24nkv>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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



BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Annual Report

of the

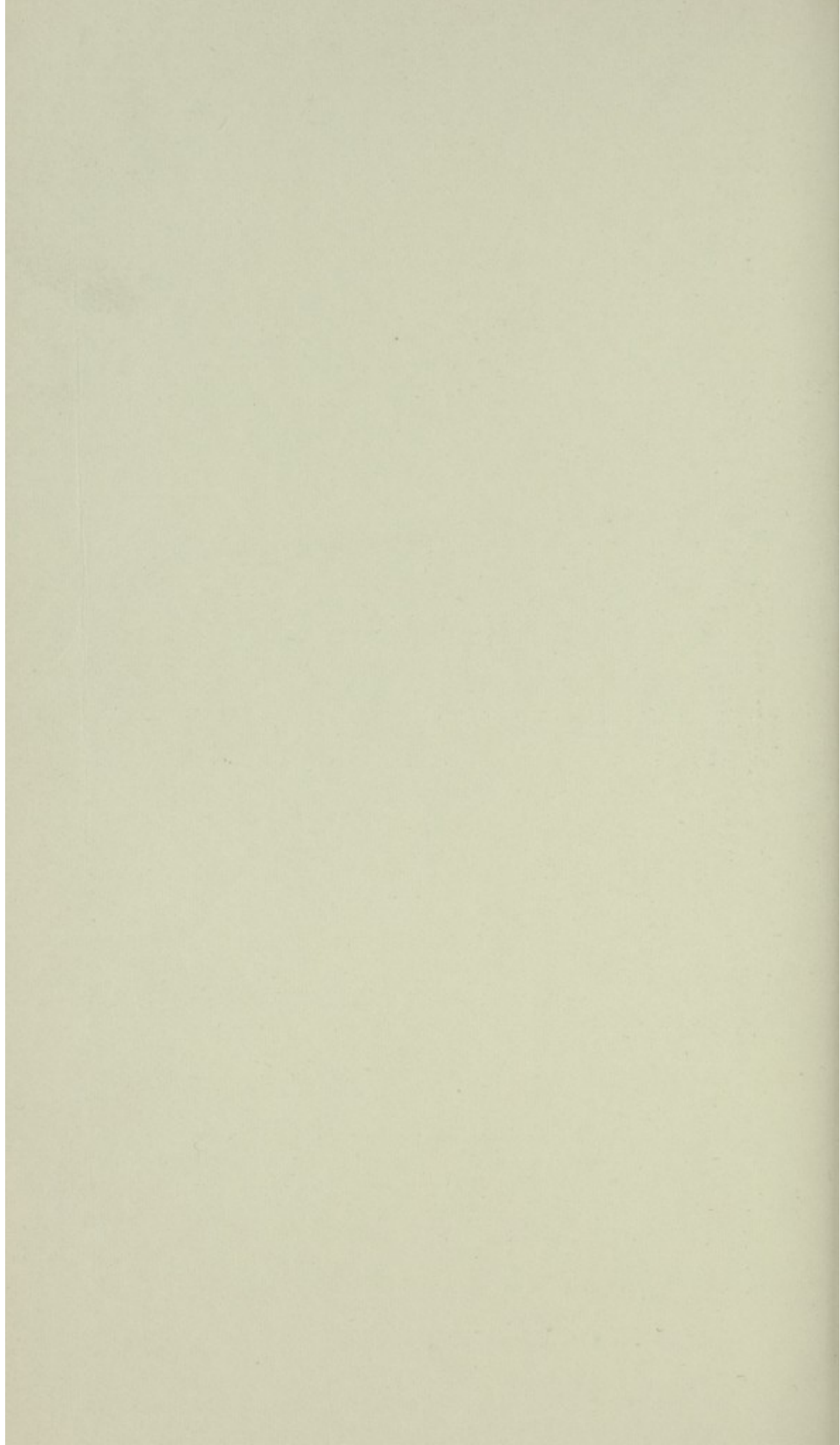
Medical Officer of Health

and

**Report on the
School Health Service**

For the Year 1961

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health





BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1961

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

Borough of Bexley.

Mayor : Councillor N. J. H. Williams, T.D., J.P.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor S. A. Cover.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor S. H. Philpot.

Alderman M. J. Corr.

Councillor C. Jamieson Harvey,
M.B.E., J.P.

Alderman Mrs. E. M. Sheppard.

Councillor Mrs. J. T. Barker.

Councillor E. C. C. Gillman.

Councillor F. G. Donovan.

Councillor W. P. Webster.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

1961

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.

*† D. T. Rees.

*† K. E. Doubleday.

Administrative Assistant ... G. A. Pearson.

Senior Clerk E. M. Pearmine (Miss).

Clerks A. Frostick (Miss)

E. F. Terry (Miss) (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.
W.Early. (Appointed 1.11.61).

* 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 1961 which has been prepared on the lines set out in Circular 1/61 of the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population is 89,670 (91,000 in 1960).

The vital statistics supplied annually by the General Register Office indicate that the general trend of the health of the Borough remained satisfactory. The standardised death rate was 11.7 per 1,000 of the home population (10.7 in 1960) compared with 12.0 per 1,000 for England and Wales. The standardised birth rate was 15.1 per 1,000 home population (14.8 in 1960) compared with a rate of 17.4 per 1,000 for the country as a whole. The number of infants who died during the first year of life was 18 (17 in 1960) giving an infant mortality rate of 13.7 per 1,000 live births (12.9 in 1960) compared with 21.6 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

For the fifth successive year there was no maternal death associated with childbirth. Considering that during the past five years there were 6,495 total births in the Borough it may be said that the antenatal and obstetrical services in the area have worked to a high standard of efficiency.

The number of illegitimate births rose to 45 during the year compared with 34 during the previous year. It may well be felt that this is a matter for serious concern in that it lends support to the often-made allegation that sexual promiscuity among young people is on the increase.

For the twelfth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough. There is no evidence, however, from the fatality rate of cases occurring in other parts of the country that there has been any waning of the virulence of this disease and, despite the good record of the Borough, immunisation against this disease remains a matter of great importance. One case of poliomyelitis (the first for three years) occurred in the Borough during 1961. The availability of the Sabin oral vaccine and the full co-operation of the public in accepting vaccination for all priority groups could well ensure a high degree of freedom from this disease in the years to come.

In May and June, 1961, an outbreak of Sonne dysentery occurred in an infants school in the Borough. An occurrence of this kind is always a troublesome matter but, with the whole-hearted co-operation of the teaching staff and the Public Health Laboratory Service the outbreak was brought under control. A brief account of the measures which were taken is given on page 45.

During 1961 there were 46 deaths from cancer of the lung in the Borough (50 in 1960). It has become a duty to re-iterate the proven association between this disease and heavy cigarette smoking and, indeed, with atmospheric pollution in general. The recent report of the Royal College of Physicians on Smoking and Health has brought this matter to the forefront as one of the outstanding public health problems of the day and some beneficial results may already be discerned. One example of this is the agreement which has been reached between the Independent Television Authority and the tobacco industry to secure modifications that will include the avoidance of those aspects of advertising which make a special appeal to young people. The smoking

habit is so deeply ingrained as to appear almost ineradicable but, nevertheless, the issue must be kept alive by all who are responsible for the education and health of the younger generation.

During the year 182 deaths were attributed to disease of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris, this being the largest number ever recorded in the Borough in any one year. This disease has increased in all western countries since World War I and, despite an enormous amount of research into the causes of this phenomenon, very little new information has emerged. It is likely, however, that a number of factors associated with our modern civilisation operate together to form a pattern of living which tends towards the production of this disease. Overeating generally and, particularly, a diet with a high animal fat content, sedentary habits with lack of regular exercise, oversmoking and hereditary factors have all been blamed, probably with good cause, but the exact mechanism that brings about the coronary accident remains hidden. Can there be much doubt, however, that coronary thrombosis is part of the price we pay for the high standard of living which we now enjoy?

The Home Safety Act, 1961 empowers the councils of county districts to promote home safety by giving information and advice on the prevention of accidents in the home but county councils have, for many years, had this power under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. Since 1959, the Kent County Council have made a grant to the Bexley, Erith and Crayford Home Safety Committee through the councils concerned which has facilitated this work in recent years. The new Act will enable the three authorities to determine more fully the future development of this important aspect of health education and the decision to appoint a part-time Home Safety Organiser to work under the Medical Officer of Health will, it is hoped, result in a more sustained and effective campaign against accidents in the home than has been possible heretofore. A Speakers Training Day was held on May 5th, 1961 during a fortnight of intensive home safety propaganda.

The time is rapidly approaching when the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Local Government in the Greater London Area will bring about a major change in the local administration of the health and welfare services. Much thought and energy will be required to meet both the challenge and the opportunity which lie ahead.

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, Administrative Assistant, and all members of the Health Department for the good work which has been done 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, 89,670.

New Dwellings Erected.

Houses 246

Relative figures for previous years.

Population—Mid-Year.

New Houses Erected.

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
1957	...	90,020	1957	...	384
1958	...	90,330	1958	...	313
1959	...	90,500	1959	...	287
1960	...	91,000	1960	...	367

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1961
(according to Rate Books) approximately 28,857

Rateable Value £1,346,240

Sum represented by a penny rate £5,508

Unemployment.

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
December 31st, 1960	178	43	19	10	250
December 31st, 1961	161	60	5	14	240

Social Conditions and Amenities.

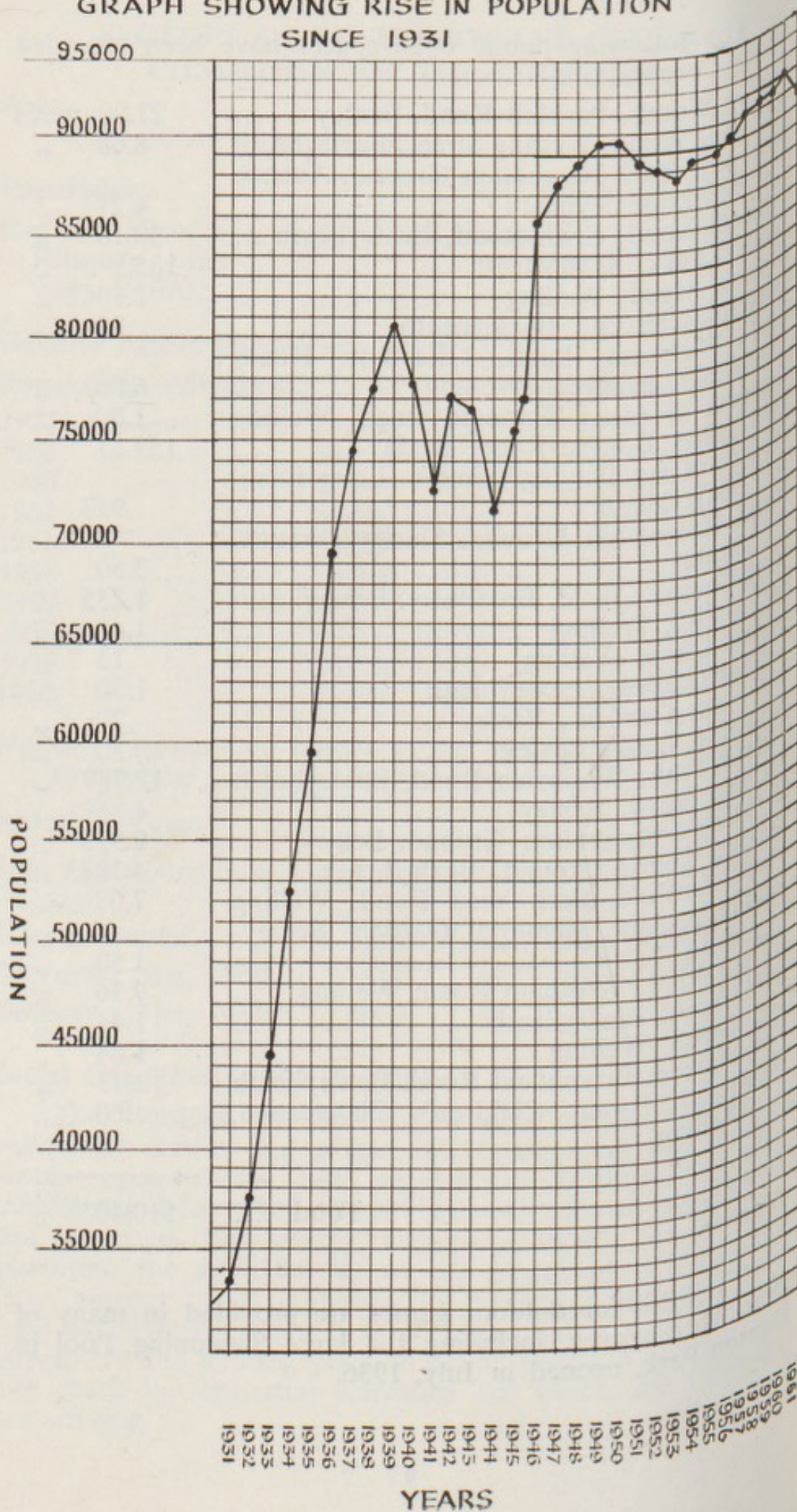
The Borough of Bexley continues to be a healthy residential district and is specially favoured in that it has ample open spaces and recreational facilities for its inhabitants. Like other districts, however, whose population has increased considerably, housing shortages, at present, constitute the main 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	...	...	...	...	...	17.4	14.7
Still	...	...	...	...	...	0.34	0.2
						19.1(a)	14.9(a)
Deaths—							
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	12.0	9.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.07	0.04
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.15	0.09
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.65	0.47
Notifications (corrected)							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.43	0.41
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.53	0.41
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.06
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	16.54	16.21
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.40	0.13
Acute Poliomyelitis (Including Polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.01
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	0.06
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	10.17(a)	12.76(a)
						Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
Deaths							
All causes under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	21.6	13.7
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	...	...	...	...	0.6	0.76

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

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

Maternal Mortality

	England and Wales	Borough of Bexley
	Rates per 1,000 total live and still births	
Maternal causes, excluding abortion	0.27	Nil
Due to abortion	0.07	Nil
Total maternal mortality ...	0.33	Nil

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE Year 1961

The Registrar General's Estimate of home population for the mid-year is 89,670 and this figure is assigned for the purpose of calculation of all rates.

Births.	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Total	672	642	1,314
Legitimate	649	620	1,269
Illegitimate	23	22	45

Birth Rate.

Rate per 1,000 estimated home population	14.7
--	------

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

1951 Birth Rate	12.79	per thousand
1952 " "	12.00	" "
1953 " "	12.70	" "
1954 " "	11.80	" "
1955 " "	12.60	" "
1956 " "	13.2	" "
1957 " "	13.6	" "
1958 " "	13.6	" "
1959 " "	14.4	" "
1960 " "	14.5	" "
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	17.4	

The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1961. The standardised birth rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 15.1.

45 illegitimate live births were registered against 34 in 1960 giving a percentage of 3.4 of total live births.

Stillbirths.				Males	Females	Total
Total	...	...	...	9	9	18
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						14.9

18 Stillbirths were registered during the year. This represents a rate of 0.2 per 1,000 population against 0.22 per 1,000 population in 1960.

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

				Rate per Thousand	
Year				Total Live and Still Births	Population
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
1957	...	...	...	19.2	0.37
1958	...	...	...	19.9	0.28
1959	...	...	...	15.2	0.22
1960	...	...	...	14.9	0.22

Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales 1961 ... 0.33

There were two Stillbirths registered as illegitimate.

				Males	Females	Total
Total Live and Stillbirths	...	...	...	681	651	1332

Infant Deaths.				Males	Females	Total
Deaths of Infants under one year						
of age	...	...	...	8	10	18
Legitimate	...	...	...	8	9	17
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:						
Total per 1,000 live births						13.7
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births						13.4
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births						22.2
Neo-natal Deaths per 1,000 live births						8.3
Early Neo-natal Deaths						6.8
Perinatal Deaths						20.3

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

1951	...	...	24.76	per 1,000 live births.			
1952	...	...	11.34	„	„	„	„
1953	...	...	14.36	„	„	„	„
1954	...	...	22.1	„	„	„	„
1955	...	...	17.0	„	„	„	„
1956	...	...	24.6	„	„	„	„
1957	...	...	22.9	„	„	„	„
1958	...	...	13.0	„	„	„	„
1959	...	...	13.1	„	„	„	„
1960	...	...	12.9	„	„	„	„

INFANT MORTALITY, 1961

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

These relate to deaths occurring in 1961 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	4	1																						
Atelectasis	1																							
Gastro-Enteritis																					1			
Broncho Pneumonia																1								
Meningitis																1	1							
Bilateral Suprarenal Hæmorrhages																								
Septicæmia								1																
Intracranial Hæmorrhage																								
Birth Injury	1																							
Toxoplasmosis									1															
Primary Pneumococcal Peritonitis...														1										
Totals	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—		

The number of infants under one year of age who died during the year 1961 as shown by the table is 17. 11 of these deaths, that is 65 per cent. occurred in the neonatal period (within one month of birth). In 1960 the corresponding figure was 50 per cent.

Maternal Deaths.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :

From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	Nil.
---	------

From other Puerperal causes	Nil.
-----------------------------	------

Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	Nil.
--	------

Rates over previous years have been:—

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	Nil	0.93	2.63	Nil	0.88	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Deaths All Causes.

	Males	Females	Total
All causes ...	472	390	862
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated home population ...			9.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age ...	1	—	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages) ...	111	69	180
Death rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1961.			12.0

Death Rate of Area during last ten years:—

1951	...	...	9.6 per thousand
1952	...	...	9.14 „ „
1953	...	...	8.8 „ „
1954	...	...	8.1 „ „
1955	...	...	9.1 „ „
1956	...	...	9.4 „ „
1957	...	...	9.2 „ „
1958	...	...	9.48 „ „
1959	...	...	8.76 „ „
1960	...	...	8.7 „ „

The rate for Bexley compares favourably with that for England and Wales. The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1961. The standardised death rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 11.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1961

Causes of Death.				M.	F.	Total
	All Causes	...	...	472	390	862
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	—	3
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	1	1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	1	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	..	...	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	3	3
				—	9	22
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	13	—	46
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	40	6	13
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	13	6
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	6	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	58	35	93
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	2	3	5
16	Diabetes	...	...	3	4	7
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	39	58	97
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	121	61	182
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	13	17	30
20	Other heart disease	...	...	41	52	93
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	20	10	30
22	Influenza	...	...	3	5	8
23	Pneumonia	...	...	17	25	42
24	Bronchitis	...	...	46	14	60
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	5	4	9
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	7	6	13
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	2	—	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	4	—	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	5	—	5
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	3	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	—	4
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	16	41	57
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	7	10
34	All other accidents	...	...	6	3	9
35	Suicide	...	...	4	—	7
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—

DEATHS REGISTERED (IN AGE GROUPS) IN 1961

	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	2	...	1	...	3	...
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	...	...	...	...	1
4. Diphtheria
5. Whooping Cough
6. Meningococcal infections
7. Acute poliomyelitis
8. Measles
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	4	5	2	1	3	15	9	...
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	27	4	9	...	4	2	40	6	...
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	...	7	...	3	...	...	13	...	...
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	...	2	...	3	...	6	...
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	...	...	...	...	6	3	17	11	15	7	19	14	58	35	...
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	3	...
16. Diabetes	1	2	1	1	2	3	4	...
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	2	12	7	11	12	13	37	39	58	...
18. Coronary disease, angina	5	...	49	9	35	15	32	37	121	61	...
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	...	5	6	7	11	13	17	...	...
20. Other heart disease	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	10	9	6	4	24	37	41	52	...	...
21. Other circulatory disease	2	...	11	1	2	2	5	7	20	10	...
22. Influenza	2	2	1	3	5	...	...
23. Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	2	2	5	9	16	17	25	...
24. Bronchitis	12	2	10	3	21	9	46	15	...	...
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	1	...	...	1	3	5	4	...	...
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	1	...	3	4	7	6	...	...
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	...
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	...	1	...	3	...	5	...	...
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion
31. Congenital malformations	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	1	9	6	18	16	41	...
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	...	1	3	7	...
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	1	...	1	1	2	1	1	...	1	6	5	...
34. All other accidents	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	...
35. Suicide	1	...	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36. Homicide and operations of war
Total	8	10	1	2	1	3	4	4	19	12	170	71	111	77	158	211	472	390

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 rests 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. It was not necessary for action to be taken under the Act.

Action taken under Section 50.

It was necessary to arrange one burial 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.

Owing to the non-availability of technical assistance for the pathologists it was decided by H.M. Coroner to direct bodies in April, 1960 to the West Hill Hospital and this arrangement continued until July 1st, 1961 when the Bexley Mortuary returned to normal operation. During the period 1st July to 31st December, 1961, 94 bodies were admitted and 94 post-mortem examinations were made; 9 inquests were held.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION SERVICE

The joint scheme with the Erith and Crayford Councils for the disinfection of bedding following cases of Infectious Diseases, T.B. and Cancer, and for the disinfestation of bedding of verminous persons was discontinued during the year on account of the need to replace the vertical boiler at Bexley, and the fact that the Bexley Council had plans for the demolition of the Cleansing Station.

The joint application by Bexley, Erith and Crayford Councils was successfully made to the Woolwich Borough Council for the use of their facilities until further notice.

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 3

No. of patients provided for:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	52

Total	...	52
-------	-----	----

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

No. of patients provided for:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Total	...	—
-------	-----	---

No. of Homes on the Register at end of year ... 2

No. of patients provided for:—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

Total	...	28
-------	-----	----

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

List of Adoptive Acts, etc., in force.

Acts.	Date Adopted
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	Apr. 1891
Parts 1, 2, 3 and 5	Apr. 1891
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	Apr. 1896
Public Libraries Act, 1892-1919	Oct. 1899
Private Street Works Act, 1892	Jan.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,	
Parts 8 and 9	Apr. 1909
Part 2—the whole	} May 1909
„ 6—the whole	
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 2	Jan. 1926
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	Jan. 1934
Byelaws.	
Wireless Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc. ...	Mar. 1939
Baths, Wash-houses, Swimming Baths and	
Bathing Places	Aug. 1938
Parks and Pleasure Grounds	May 1939
	and 1959
	Nov. 1939
Defacing of Pavements	
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	June 1940
Nursing Homes	Dec. 1949
Sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines ...	
Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and	May 1950
Sale of Food in the Open Air	May 1951
Improper Behaviour on School Premises ...	Nov. 1951
The Flying of Model Aircraft	Jan. 1953
Public Libraries	Apr. 1954
Building	and 1961
	May 1960
Parking Places for Vehicles	Oct. 1960
Fouling by Dogs of Footways	July 1961
Unruly Behaviour in Places of Entertainment	

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

The water to the district is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board and is derived from several sources namely Bexley, Crayford, Darenth and Wilmington wells together with River Thames derived filtered water.

The water supply to this area has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during the year.

Bacteriological analyses are made at least five times a week from all supplies and in the case of the wells the water is sampled before and after chlorination. The water derived from the River Thames is sampled at each stage of the purification process and all the water is chlorinated before it leaves the works. All new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to use and samples of water from them are tested bacteriologically.

There have been no specific cases of contamination and the waters are not liable to have a plumbo-solvent action.

No new source of public water supply was instituted in the Borough of Bexley during 1961. There were no important extensions of trunk mains and no change in the general scheme of supply to the area. New service mains laid extended to 1,332 yards.

During the year 9 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.**

During the year a start was made on the surface water drainage of Lion, Freta, Izane and Heathfield Roads and up to the end of 1961 the work was completed in Lion Road from Upton Road to Izane Road.

An enlargement of the sewer in Bellegrove Road, also to places westwards of the railway bridge was made.

In conjunction with the development of the hutment site on the east side of Upper Wickham Lane, surface water sewers were laid in the highways.

Number of cesspools emptied, 9.

The total number of emptyings, 35.

Number of cesspools abolished, 1.

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 1961.

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.

	Inspection tions	Re-in- spections
Houses inspected (all particulars recorded)...	50	238
Houses inspected (defects only recorded) ...	50	295
Houses inspected (certificates of disrepair) ...	22	23
Houses inspected (improvement grants) ...	71	5
Houses inspected (Housing Act, 1936, Over- crowding)	11	15
Houses inspected <i>re</i> Infectious Disease (including scabies)	751	249
Factories with mechanical power	96	14
Factories without mechanical power	8	2
Outworkers' premises	26	9
Other premises under the Act	—	—
Bakehouses	33	13
Water Samples	22	1
Food and Drugs Act Samples	250	14
Dairies and distributors	14	4
Ice Cream premises	98	8
Restaurants, etc.	129	48
Fish premises	83	11
Meat Shops	236	78
Public Houses	59	30
Shops <i>re</i> unsound food	306	49
Other premises where food is prepared	597	190
Offensive accumulations	87	103
Stables	10	2
Keeping of Animals	17	12
Rats	124	56
Drains inspected	644	530
Drains tested (water, smoke or colour)	79	10
Dustbins	18	1
Verminous premises	69	40
Smoke observations	64	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	47	58
Refuse Tips	138	—
Refuse Removal and Salvage	1,138	2
Conveniences	193	4
Pet Animals Act, 1951	11	—
Council House applicants	181	34
Shops Act, 1950	557	26
National Assistance Act, 1948—Sec. 47	8	10
Miscellaneous inspections	879	109
Clean Air Act, 1956	145	96

TABLE No. 2.

Improvements effected and defective sanitary conditions remedied.

	No.
Houses—	
Provided with sufficient w.c. accommodation	13
Provided with sufficient ashplace accommodation	7
Provided with sufficient water supply	4
Houses Improved Internally—	
Walls and ceilings repaired	70
Dampness in rooms remedied	48
Defective floors repaired	10
Ventilation of Rooms improved	45
Windows repaired	53
Stoves, fireplaces, etc. provided or repaired	3
Houses Improved Externally—	
Roofs repaired	17
Eaves gutters and down spouts fixed or repaired	26
Yards paved or repaired	1
Chimney stacks repaired	3
Walls repointed or repaired	30
Miscellaneous repairs	—
Drainage—	
Drains cleansed or repaired	701
New drains constructed	—
New gullies provided	2
Ventilation of drainage system improved	1
Inspection chambers built or repaired	7
Waste pipes provided or repaired	7
New sinks provided	1
Offensive accumulations removed	4
Nuisances from animals abated	1
Other nuisances abated	1

TABLE No. 3.

Infectious Diseases.

Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals	23
Houses visited including revisits	800
Rooms disinfected	3
Notices delivered to Education Authorities, etc.	90

TABLE No. 4.

Food Inspection.

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

Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	lbs.	789 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	"	563 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	"	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beef	...	...	...	...	"	1,136
Pork	...	...	...	...	"	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lamb	...	...	...	...	"	612
Chicken	...	...	...	...	"	760
Offal	...	...	...	...	"	1,276
Bacon	...	...	...	...	"	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	"	141 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	...	...	...	...	"	253
Ground Nuts	...	...	...	...	"	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter	...	...	...	...	"	28
Cooking Fats	...	...	...	...	"	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit and Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	tins	2,287
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	"	1,311
Meat	...	...	...	...	"	1,507
Fish	...	...	...	...	"	444
Milk	...	...	...	...	"	936
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	"	12
Preserves	...	...	...	...	jars	183
Pastes	...	...	...	...	"	137
Cheese	...	...	...	...	pkts	10
Frozen Foods	...	...	...	...	"	3,979
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	"	1,092
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	"	27

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	45	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	156	4	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering con- struction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total	201	4	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions. 5
	Found. 2	Reme- died. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—
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	12	12	—	—

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 house 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. A charge is made for this service, based on the average quantity to be removed each week.

In the early part of the year difficulty was experienced in maintaining a weekly collection, and considerable overtime had to be worked to keep up to schedule. The introduction of an incentive bonus scheme on September 1st changed the picture completely and it was possible from this date to maintain a weekly collection with the minimum amount of overtime.

The improvement in the collection of refuse was reflected in the falling off of the number of complaints received at the office from September to the end of the year. The labour position also became more stabilised and it was found possible to recruit a better type of labour than previously. It is pleasant to be able to record that the workmen contributed admirably to the effective working of the new bonus scheme.

There has been a marked increase in the amount of special refuse collected, e.g. old furniture, pianos, etc., and it would seem that the Refuse Department is regarded by many as a haulage contractor. People are finding it impossible to dispose of abnormal house discards except through the refuse service.

The Council operate a Salvage Scheme, and waste paper, textiles, scrap metals, etc., are collected by means of trailers attached to the refuse vehicles.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at Stone. Disposal of the refuse and covering of the tip has been more effectively carried out by the purchase of a second Bristol Duplex tractor. Now that the Department has the two tractors and the Muirhill Dumper, one tractor is used on the tip head, the other vehicles being used for digging and carrying of covering materials.

Salvage.

Details of salvage sales for the financial year ended 31st March, 1962 are set out below.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	365	12	—	2,807	19	4
Textiles	9	14	—	102	0	11
Ferrous Metals	2	8	—	17	7	6
Non-Ferrous Metals		1	—	2	17	8
Miscellaneous		16	—	4	8	2
	378	11	—	£2,934	13	7

Kitchen Waste.

There are some 250 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. (4 mens', 4 womens').

Library Building, Bellegrove 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.

Wrotham Road, Welling.

Falconwood Parade, The Green, Welling.

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 1961.

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
January	2.17	5.22	0.13	3.83	1.26	4.50	0.63	1.01	1.49
February	1.95	5.98	0.13	4.15	1.70	6.98	1.14	0.84	3.41
March	0.49	6.94	0.11	5.28	1.55	4.14	1.00	0.50	2.31
April	1.28	7.80	0.10	6.09	1.62	8.66	2.08	0.64	3.32
May	1.66	5.84	0.10	4.37	1.37	3.22	0.61	0.47	1.55
June	1.31	6.25	0.12	4.54	1.59	5.20	0.76	0.47	1.78
July	1.02	4.06	0.09	2.98	0.99	2.58	0.36	0.34	1.51
August	2.03	4.10	0.09	2.88	1.13	3.59	0.36	0.54	1.47
September	2.01	5.94	0.07	4.46	1.41	14.73	2.99	0.84	6.10
October	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	2.27	5.21	0.13	4.24	0.84	11.28	1.82	1.41	5.03
December	2.61	7.30	0.12	5.44	1.73	13.69	2.54	1.88	5.20

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	100	187.8	2.0	185.8	2.12	1.91
February	95	171.8	2.0	169.8	2.19	1.97
March	100	247.0	1.1	245.9	2.48	2.23
April	100	131.6	1.0	130.6	1.66	1.49
May	100	133.8	2.9	130.9	1.45	1.31
June	95	100.8	1.3	99.5	1.12	1.01
July	95	77.2	1.1	76.1	0.95	0.86
August	95	76.6	1.6	75.0	0.87	0.78
September	100	103.4	1.6	101.8	1.13	1.02
October	95	135.2	2.2	133.0	1.60	1.44
November	100	208.8	1.3	207.5	2.37	2.13
December	95	195.4	2.2	193.2	2.25	2.03

A volumetric apparatus for the measurement of sulphur dioxide and smoke is installed at the Health Department, Brampton Road, and a summary of the results obtained is set out below.

Concentration of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide.

	Smoke Conc. mg/100 m ³			Sulphur Dioxide Conc. p.p. 100m.		
	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value
January	12	67	2	5.1	21.8	1.5
February	9	23	2	4.1	12.5	0.8
March	13	32	3	7.0	17.7	1.5
April	5	10	Nil	4.6	17.5	0.4
May	32	100	10	89.2	237.4	11.4
June	28	60	10	73	186	26
July	23	50	10	62	137	11
August	18	40	Nil	46	94	11
September	26	110	10	92	309	20
October	61	270	Nil	91	340	23
November	152	467	26	180	446	20
December	184	446	33	220	641	

Clean Air Act, 1956—Smoke Control Areas.

During 1958 the Council approved in principle the first smoke control area in the Borough, and instructed the Medical Officer of Health and myself to arrange for a pilot survey to be carried out. The proposed area comprises 1352 dwelling houses, shops, etc. The report of the survey was considered by the Council in 1959, and the proposed area was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for approval, which was received. The detailed survey has now been completed and work is going ahead on the preparation of the schedules prior to the order being made for confirmation by the Minister.

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 the sewer men under the supervision of the Department.

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

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

Number of Properties Inspected	...	...	402
Number of Inspections	...	...	2,292
Number of Infestations found:	Rats—Major		—
	Minor		255
	Mice		65
Number of Properties Treated		Rats	Mice
Local Authority's premises	...	3	1
Dwelling Houses	...	238	49
Business Premises	...	14	15

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences to keep pet shops were issued to 7 persons under the Act. No contraventions were observed during the year.

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, 583 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.

There are, in addition, two small swimming pools at two schools in the Borough. The purity of the water was well maintained during the year.

Samples of water are taken by this department monthly during the time the pools are open and the results of bacteriological examinations have been satisfactory on all occasions.

Verminous Premises.

During the year only 3 premises were found to be infested with bed bugs and these were treated with satisfactory results.

Infestations at other premises were dealt with as follows:—

Mite 1, Flies 2, Ants 5, Beetles 3, Fleas 2, Spiders 1, Moths 1.

Wasps.

The destruction of wasps nests is undertaken by the Department and during the year 57 nests were destroyed. A charge of 7s. 6d. was made for this service.

Schools.

There are 32 County Secondary and County Primary Schools, 2 Day Technical Schools 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 at 1st April, 1962 :—

			Houses	Flats
Welling—				
Welling Estate	...	...	424	
Westwood Lane Estate	...	...	126	
Carlton Road	...	...	16	
Dovedale Close	...	...	11	
John Newton Court	...	...	—	132
Marwood Estate	...	...	—	22
Lodge Hill	...	...	353	
Wickham Street	...	...	74	
East Wickham—				
Re-development Phase 1	...	...	287	
Glenmore Road No. 1	...	...	115	
Glenmore Road No. 2	...	...	84	
Bexleyheath—				
Highland Road Estate and Pickford Road Estate	...	...	303	
Cannon Road	...	...	—	28
Alers Road	...	...	84	
Halcot Estate No. 1	...	...	200	
Halcot Estate No. 2 (including Bungalows)	...	...	126	
Halcot Estate No. 3	...	...	84	
Faygate Estate	...	...	52	
Bristow Road	...	...	—	60
Upton Close	...	...	13	
Fairfield Road	...	...	—	28
Tower Road	...	...	—	48
Bexley—				
Hartford Road Estate and Albert Road Estate	...	...	53	
Royal Park Estate	...	...	114	
Midhurst Hill	...	...	16	
Newick Close	...	...	10	
Henfield Close	...	...	7	
Rye Close Extension	...	...	35	
Glenhurst Avenue	...	...	27	
Hurst Place Estate	...	...	232	
S.D.A. Houses	...	...	7	
Houses Purchased	...	...	7	
			2860	318

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)	100
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (including re-inspection) ...	633
(2) Number of dwelling houses to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	50
(3) 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 ...	50
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ...	67
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
A. Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1957	
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	4
(a) By owners	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	—
(a) By owners	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 of Housing Act, 1957—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	36
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	21
(3) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6
D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
parts of buildings closed	—

Slum Clearance.

During 1961 15 hutments in the East Wickham Clearance Areas were demolished and the occupants rehoused by the Council.

Improvement Grants.

	Discretionary	Standard
Number of applications for improvement grants ...	19	25
Number of applications approved	14	33
Total cost of approved expense of improvements	£6,019 17 0	£3,732 6 9
Total amount of grants made	£3,827 18 9	£1,717 14 9

Rent Act, 1957.

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	5
Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	--
Number of decisions to issue certificates	5
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	2
(b) in respect of all defects	3
Number of undertakings given by landlords ...	4
Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority	--
Number of Certificates issued	--
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	1
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	1
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	--
Certificates cancelled	--

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	...	4
No. of Distributors with Shop Premises	...	27
No. of Distributors from outside area	...	7

Licences granted by the Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960 :—

Dealers' Licences:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	29
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	32
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	35

20 samples of milk were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests, and all but two 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 195 samples taken during the year.

						Formal	Informal
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	—	9
Meat Pies and Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cream of Tartar, Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Condiments, Sauces, Pickles, Spices, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2	37
Butter and Fats, Cooking Oil, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	10
Soups, Meat Extracts	...	...	...	...	...	—	9
Minerals and Cordials, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	9
Bread	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Glacé Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sweets and Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Pure Coffee, Coffee Extracts, Coffee and Chicory	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Pudding or Cake Mixture, Flour, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Pastes, Spreads, Potted Meat and Fish	...	...	...	...	...	—	19
Angelica	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Flavouring and Essences	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Hamburgers	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Instant and Mashed Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	—	6
Fish and Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Condensed and Evaporated Milks	...	...	...	...	...	—	6
Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Desiccated Coconut	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Jellies, Custard Powders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	11
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Processed Peas	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Strained Foods	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Rice Puddings, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	8
						6	189

Legal Proceedings.

1. Mouldy Beef Sausages—fined £5 plus £3 9s. 0d. costs and witness expenses.
2. Foreign matter in Bread—fined £25 plus £3 3s. 0d. Advocate's fee.
3. Mouldy Pork Pies—fined £15 plus £3 3s. 0d. Advocate's fee.
4. Mouldy Steak and Kidney Pies—fined £10 plus £3 3s. 0d. Advocate's fee.
5. Mouldy Fruit Cake—fined £10 plus £3 3s. 0d. Advocate's fee.
6. Mice droppings in Ground Nuts—fined £5 0s. 0d. plus £1 1s. 0d. Advocate's fee.
7. Mouldy Chicken Vol-au-vent Pastries—Conditional discharge on payment of Advocate's fee of £7 7s. 0d.
8. Beef Sausages—Case dismissed.
9. Foreign matter in Dripping—fined £10 plus £3 3s. 0d. costs.
10. Mice droppings in Demerara Sugar—fined £15 plus £3 3s. 0d. costs.
11. Foreign matter in Bread—fined £20 plus £4 4s. 0d. Advocate's fee, plus 5s. 0d. witness expenses.
12. Foreign matter in Bread—fined £20 plus £4 4s. 0d. Advocate's fee.
13. Dirty Milk Bottle—fined £10 plus £5 5s. 0d. Advocate's fee.

(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	...	...	...	...	...	48
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	28
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	47
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	66
General Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	79
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	25
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	23
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	41

The following table is a summary of the improvements carried out as a result of action by the Department, under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

Hot water supply provided or improved	...	...	6
Floors, walls, ceilings, etc., repaired	...	...	16
Infestations dealt with	...	...	2
Rooms cleansed	...	...	28
Water Closet accommodation improved	...	...	9
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	3
Accommodation for storage of refuse improved	...	...	1
Washing accommodation improved	...	...	5
Drainage repaired or improved	...	...	2
Food storage accommodation improved	...	...	7
Yard cleansed or repaired	...	...	—
Sinks renewed	...	...	5
Other contraventions	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory equipment cleansed or renewed	...	...	3

Legal Proceedings.

Failure to keep a food room in such order and condition as to prevent so far as is reasonably practicable risk of infestation by mice. Fined £20 plus £3 3s. 0d. Advocate's fee.

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	...	...	175
Preparation of Sausages, etc.	...	...	53

35 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.
3 samples failed the prescribed test.

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

Scarlet Fever.

During the year 37 cases were notified as compared with 58 the previous year. No 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 and Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination have been supplied by the County Medical Officer:—

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation and whooping cough immunisation figures for 1961 based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in combination)		Whooping Cough Immunisation (Singly or in combination)
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary
1961	613	—	613
1960	662	10	658
1959	91	188	69
1958	40	196	28
1957	26	108	18
1952-1956	103	889	59
1947-1951	22	107	4
Total	1557	1498	1449

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table shows the number of injections given in the various priority groups during the year ended 31st December, 1961.

Priority Group	2nd Injections	3rd Injections	4th Injections
1957-1961	1230	1333	
1946-1956	262	772	
1943-1945	65	77	
1933-1942	461	456	
1921-1932	1682	2056	
Others	72	72	
School children under 12 years	—	—	6254
Total	3772	4766	6254

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The following table shows the smallpox vaccination figures for 1961 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-Vaccinated
Under 1	911	
1	76	
2 to 4	36	2
5 to 14	31	6
15 or over	9	3
Total	1063	11

Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid Fever.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

17 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.

1,454 cases were notified during the year. 3 cases were treated in hospital.

Whooping Cough.

37 cases were notified during the year. No cases were treated in hospital.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

1 case was notified during the year.

Scabies.

4 cases were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.

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

Malaria.

1 case was notified during the year.

Dysentery.

Outbreak of Dysentery at an Infants School.

On 10th May, 1961, the Head Teacher of this school reported that a number of children were away from school with vomiting and diarrhoea. An immediate visit to the school was made by the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself and a full investigation carried out.

Dysentery in infant schools is generally spread among the children by hand to mouth infection, the latter occurring, primarily, in the use of toilets and the subsequent contamination of articles used in common by the children, e.g. lavatory seats, lavatory chains, towels, door knobs, pencils, books and so on. Once dysentery takes hold of a young community of this kind it can be a matter of considerable difficulty to eradicate it.

The use of roller towels was discontinued and special attention was paid to the cleansing of toilets, floors, etc. The staff were instructed to ensure that the children washed their hands carefully after the use of the toilets—a matter of some difficulty where such young children are concerned. In addition, faecal (stool) specimens were taken from all children (250) and every member of the staff in the school and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone. All children and staff showing clinical symptoms of the disease were excluded from school and this applied, also, to all those whose specimens were found to contain dysentery germs.

In all, 104 children and two members of the staff were excluded and the investigation was carried outwards into the families concerned, specimens being taken from all members of the families concerned and any outside contacts. In all, over 1,000 faecal specimens were taken and examined and this involved a good deal of work in the distribution of outfits, collection of specimens and delivery to the laboratory. Full information was, also, supplied to general practitioners in the area and a large number of queries were dealt with from parents, doctors and others. Repeated specimens

had to be taken from all those returning positive results and liaison was maintained with other authorities to whose districts contacts of cases had proceeded. A number of cases, mostly in brothers and sisters of infants, also occurred in the Junior department of the school which was not, however, seriously affected.

The closing of the school for the Whitsun holiday was welcome and during this period the school premises were thoroughly cleaned.

By the 29th May, 1961, when the school re-opened, 60 of the affected children had been found to be 'negative' and were allowed to return to school. Not all the children had actually suffered from dysentery—many were 'symptomless excretors' or 'carriers' only.

All cases of dysentery were relatively mild but the nuisance value of such an outbreak is extremely high. This type of Sonne dysentery is widespread in the country as a whole. In 1956 the notifications in England and Wales numbered 49,009 and in 1959 the number was 35,626. As I have said, hand carriage of infection, rather than food, is the main factor in transmission. Only detailed attention to personal cleanliness and, above all, the washing of hands after attendance at the toilet, combined with adequate sanitary provision in homes, schools and similar institutions will break the cycle of infection and reduce the incidence.

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 1961.

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	37	—	1	1	4	1	21	5	3	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	10	—	17	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	9	—	2	1
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
Dysentery	43	1	2	1	2	4	20	3	3	7	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1454	29	107	150	196	195	704	35	26	12	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	37	3	1	2	—	6	20	3	—	2	—	—	—
Scabies	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1616	33	111	155	203	206	768	47	42	51	—	23	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 36 new cases were notified.

Particulars relating to the same, and also to the deaths which occurred during 1961 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 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ...	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 ...	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—64 ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 and over ...	4	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals ...	21	7	1	1	3	—	—	1

The Non-Respiratory death was an un-notified case.



BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

Annual Report

on the

School Health Service

For the Year 1961

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 S. H. Philpot.

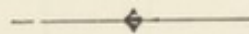
Vice-Chairman: Miss M. Woodward, L.L.A., L.G.S.M.(Eloc.)

Alderman Mrs. E. M. Sheppard.	Councillor Mrs. M. P. Monk.
Councillor J. C. Canton.	Councillor E. C. C. Gillman.
Councillor A. S. Melbourne.	Councillor C. Jamieson Harvey, M.B.E., J.P.
Councillor W. P. Webster.	

Co-opted Members:

Revd. A. E. Ramsbottom, B.D. Revd. E. Maynard Wilson.

Borough Education Officer	...	W. E. D. Stephens, M.A., Ph.D.
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	... ... ...	G. Wilson Lawrence, L.D.S. R.C.S. (Resigned 30.11.61).
		Mrs. A. B. Perkins, L.D.S. R.F.P.S. (Glas.).
		Mrs. E. A. Williams, B.D.S., L.D.S. (Appointed 16.10.61).

Health Visitors	...	...	Miss B. Hart, S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-time). (Appointed March, 1961).
			Mrs. A. E. Matthews, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N.
			Miss W. M. Humphries, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N.
			Miss L. G. Exley, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-time).
			Mrs. G. M. Blackmore, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-time).
			Mrs. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M., and Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time)
			Miss E. C. Richardson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Certificate. (Part-time).
			Mrs. V. E. Gurnett, S.R.N. (Retired 15.12.61).
Physiotherapists	...	...	Miss R. Cheeseman, M.C.S.P.
			Mrs. I. O. M. Poynder, C.S.P.
Speech Therapists	...	...	Mrs. E. Rollo, L.C.S.T. (Appointed April 1961).
			Mrs. T. Grove, L.C.S.T. (Resigned September 1961).
			Mrs. R. Goodwins, L.C.S.T. (Appointed October 1961).
Dental Attendants	...	...	Miss K. Dunkley.
			Mrs. V. Sproul.
			Miss J. A. Smith — Hygienist.
School Health Service Clerk	...	...	Miss M. C. A. Smith. (Retired 30.9.61).
			Miss O. G. Turnbull. (Appointed 1.10.61).
			Miss O. G. Turnbull. (Until 1.10.61).
General Clerks	...	...	Miss E. Turner.
			Mrs. D. Starling

REPORT ON THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE DURING THE YEAR 1961

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 for the year 1961.

During the year the School Health Service continued to provide a full range of services, details of which are set out in the body of the report. No serious problems arose out of infectious diseases but an outbreak of Sonné dysentery occurred at an Infants School of which a brief account is set out on page 45.

In the early days of the School Health Service, over half a century ago, the main problem was the detection and treatment of gross physical disease due mainly to poverty, malnutrition and overcrowding. The infectious diseases took their toll of thousands of lives every year and, what is more, left behind them a legacy of ill-health in the form of heart, lung and kidney disease, deafness, blindness and a general lack of stamina and well-being. The School Health Service was, in fact, one of the measures designed to counteract the ravages of an adverse physical environment.

The milieu of the schoolchild has, of course, improved beyond all recognition but it would be wrong to assume that environmental factors no longer play a decisive part in his health and development. What has changed, chiefly, is the nature of the environmental hazards to which he is nowadays subjected. In the field of nutrition, for example, problems of scarcity have been replaced by those of over-abundance and the heavy, over-weight child is now more of a problem than the thin, undernourished child.

Dental disease is still very prevalent but for different reasons and the Welfare and School Attendance Sub-Committee have, for some time, been very concerned at the high proportion of children found at dental inspections to require treatment. Apart from the provision of dental services, two factors are mainly involved; firstly the nutrition of the expectant mother and, later, of the child (and this includes not only an adequate mineral diet but a sufficiency of vitamins

and mineral salts which are essential to the proper development of the teeth) and, secondly, a sound standard of dental hygiene by which the onset of dental caries may be prevented.

Medical and dental authorities are convinced that the real cause of the increase in dental decay among children since the end of the war is the increased consumption of sweets, "lollies," fruit drinks, ice cream and biscuits indiscriminately throughout the day. Debris collects between the teeth and the fermentation which results produces harmful substances which attack and break down the tooth enamel and create cavities which may render extraction inevitable.

It is not suggested that children should be denied these things—they enjoy sweets which are a source of energy. What is important is that they should get them at a time when it is possible for them to clean their teeth afterwards, either by toothbrush or by eating an apple or similar fruit. Children should, of course, clean their teeth after breakfast and last thing at night (nothing more being eaten after that).

Much lip service has been paid to this matter but few authorities appear to have considered any practical steps to implement this requirement. I have discussed with the Borough Education Officer whether routine brushing of teeth and subsequent rinsing could not be made a regular practice in schools and it appears that the problems raised by this suggestion are not insuperable. Certainly it is both desirable and possible that children having dinners in school should be required to clean their teeth before resuming lessons. A start might be made, experimentally, in the primary schools and it is suggested that a circular letter be sent to parents asking, among other things, that each child be provided with a toothbrush in a plastic container for use in school. It would be an enormous step forward if the practice of dental hygiene could become a regular feature of school life.

The number of school dentists during the year was maintained at two whole-time and one part-time officer (two days per week) and it is anticipated that, in the near future, a 'dental ancillary' will for the first time be appointed to work in the School Dental Service. This new class of dental officer came into being as a result of the Dentist Act, 1956, his function being to carry out extractions and fillings etc. under the close supervision of the dental surgeon. The training of these officers entails a two years whole-time course in an approved hospital.

Finally, the long awaited report on the fluoridation of water supplies in relation to dental disease has now been published by H.M. Stationery Office. Striking confirmation is contained therein that the addition of fluoride to the public water supply to the extent of one part per million would bring about a substantial improvement in the teeth of young children. More will be heard of this matter in the future and, notwithstanding the controversial nature of the proposal, it is to be hoped that the report will result in practical measures being taken to implement its recommendations.

The report is of particular importance to this area where the water supply is practically devoid of natural fluorine.

The recently published report of the Royal College of Physicians on Smoking and Health has drawn attention to the smoking habits of schoolchildren as ascertained in numerous surveys. It is stated that, in general, 11% to 15% of boys are already smoking small numbers of cigarettes by the age of 10 years. Girls smoke less often but, by the age of 15 years, about 15% smoke regularly. There is no reason to believe from such information as is available, locally, that these figures would not apply to this area. The Committee for Education are giving much attention to methods of counteracting this disturbing trend but the issue is a very complex one, involving both short-term and long-term planning and much more is to be gained from example than from mere exhortation and the display of posters, important as these may be. A special responsibility rests not only on parents but on teachers, doctors and youth leaders generally to demonstrate, clearly, that they take the subject seriously by refraining, as far as possible, from cigarette smoking in the presence of young people. A degree of personal hardship may, therefore, be inevitable if there is to be any chance of success of impressing upon children that we really mean business.

Dr. S. M. Ring has now left the School Health Service after ten years' work in the Borough and I would like to place on record my appreciation of the outstanding services which she has rendered during this period.

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, 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 Officer 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, 1961 627

Bexley County Technical School for Girls.

Average number on Roll 781

Bexley & Erith Technical School for Boys. (Opened September, 1961).

Average number on Roll 538

Eight County Secondary Schools.

Average number on Roll 3,640

Twenty-four County Primary Schools.

Average number on Roll 6,711

Clinics.

Minor Ailments.

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 1.30-3.30 p.m.

Doctor in attendance—Wednesday.

Welling—Wrotham Road.

Tuesday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Thursday, 1.30-3.30 p.m.

Doctor in attendance—Thursday.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Tuesday, 1.30-3.30 p.m.

Monday and Friday 9-10 a.m.

Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Tuesday.

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.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9.30-11 a.m.
2-4 p.m.

Crayford—Woodside Road.

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

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

By special arrangement.

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

Specialist in attendance once per month by special
arrangement.

Speech.

Woodside Road, Crayford.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Murchison Avenue, Bexley.

Friday, 9.30-11.30 a.m., 2-4 p.m.

Child Guidance.

18, Crook Log, Bexleyheath. (Nov. 1961).

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 A.

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 is 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 69 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, 1961.

Average number of pupils in attendance:—

Primary School	...	...	...	...	...	6,711
Secondary Schools	...	...	...	...	...	5,586

Average number of dinners served to children daily:—

				<i>Paid</i>	<i>Free</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	...	...	...	2,825	38	2,863
Secondary	...	...	...	3,570	51	3,621

Milk.

Average number of pupils taking milk daily:—

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	5,777
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	3,314

School Dental Service.

In 1961 there were 3,214 children inspected in schools allotted to Danson Clinic and of these, 69% required treatment. It is encouraging to note that since 1958, the percentage of those requiring treatment is decreasing, as can be seen from the following:—

1958	86%	required treatment
1959	81%	„ „
1960	70%	„ „
1961	69%	„ „

At the end of the year a high speed air turbine engine was installed in the Surgery.

The figures for 1961 are as follows:—

Number inspected at school	...	...	...	...	3,214
„ inspected as specials	...	...	...	...	215
„ requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	2,248
„ treated	...	...	...	...	812
„ of fillings	(a) Permanent teeth	...	...	...	1,527
	(b) Temporary teeth	...	...	...	271
„ of extractions	(a) Permanent teeth	...	...	...	169
	(b) Temporary teeth	...	...	...	609
„ of attendances	...	...	...	...	2,756

Orthodontics.

Number of cases commenced	...	...	...	...	20
„ of attendances	...	...	...	...	364
„ of cases completed	...	...	...	...	12
„ of appliances	.....	...	...	...	41

Orthopaedic Clinics.

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

“The Orthopaedic Clinics have continued on Wednesday mornings at the Welling Orthopaedic Clinic as in previous years. The problems of adolescents are now making themselves felt in this department in the shape of painful feet being crammed into badly fitting shoes, and postural deformi-

ties, very often the result of a "don't care" attitude towards life. As in both these conditions the active and willing co-operation of the patient is frequently lacking, these cases are presenting a real and increasing problem as to how they should be handled. In the first instance it is very largely a matter of discipline both at home and at school. The importance of effective physical education in all secondary schools is still a matter that needs careful attention, and anything that can be done along these lines will help us in the Orthopaedic Department.

I wish to thank Miss Cheeseman and all the staff in the Clinic for their continued help during the year."

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

"There has been no marked change in the type of cases referred to the Children's Clinic at Bexley during the past year. The general health of the children has been good.

Orthopaedically one of the main problems that has concerned the Orthopaedic surgeon is the many variations from normal and the difficulty in deciding which are large enough variations to be considered deformities. Minor disturbances from normal are possible with perfectly normal function but some deformities, if left alone, will cause arthritic changes in later life. Some of these could be prevented by operative treatment but the operative treatment itself carries with it a certain morbidity.

These many and variable factors make decision as to operative treatment a difficult problem."

Ophthalmic Clinic.

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

"The attendance during the year has been satisfactory and only a very few patients have defaulted repeatedly. If a second appointment is not kept, unless the patient is of school leaving age, a visit is usually made by one of the staff to try to overcome difficulties of ignorance, apathy or transport. I much appreciate these efforts.

A number of patients attending for the first time lose their way, for Little Danson Clinic is not easy to find. I am sure it would be a great help if a small map of the vicinity could be enclosed with the appointment form of all first attenders.

The use of mydrilate as a cycloplegic has been found more satisfactory in many cases of the 10-16 year age group, than oscine or homatropine and cocaine. The depth of cycloplegia being good and the duration short, results in minimal interference with school work.

A close watch is being kept on results of treatment in the United States of convergent squint in highly-strung children by the use of Chlordiazepoxide (Librium), a method of treatment that might be of great benefit in a school eye clinic."

Cases seen at Little Danson Clinic other than refractive errors during 1961.

CONGENITAL.

Ptosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nystagmus	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lens opacities	...	...	...	...	...	4
Colour Defectives : Unsafe	...	...	...	...	...	12
Safe	...	...	...	...	...	10

ACQUIRED.

Constitutional

Migraine	...	...	...	...	...	26
Retinitis Pigmentosa	...	...	...	...	...	1
Myopic Degeneration	...	...	...	...	...	1

Infective

Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...	8
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	11
Choroiditis	...	...	...	...	...	1

OTHERS.

Dermato-Lipoma	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pseudoglioma Retinae	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eclipse Scotoma	...	...	...	...	...	1
Melanosia Conjunctivae	...	...	...	...	...	1
Optic Atrophy	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinusitis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tarsal Cysts	...	...	...	...	...	1
Corneal Scars	...	...	...	...	...	3

Cases referred to hospital—22

Number of appointments kept	...	...	...	2,204
Prescriptions for Spectacles	...	...	...	743
New Cases	...	...	...	344

Child Guidance Clinic.

Number of children referred during 1961.

	1960			1961		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 5	—	—	—	2	—	2
5—7	5	3	8	9	4	13
8—10	7	5	12	11	—	11
11 and over	4	6	10	3	5	8
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 34

Speech Therapy.

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

“ Seventy-seven children, who are under the care of the Bexley Education Authority, have been dealt with within the County Speech Therapy Services during the year.

The cases of thirty-seven of these children have been closed and forty will continue to attend into 1962.

Of the thirty-seven closed cases, twenty-two have attended at the Murchison Avenue Clinic, thirteen at the Woodside Road Clinic, and two have attended at Sidcup.

The cases of the thirty-seven children have been closed for the following reasons :—

Satisfactory results following appointments at the clinic	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Treatment incomplete — considerable progress made — appointments then rejected	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Treatment continued elsewhere	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Appointments offered but never kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
							<hr/> 37

Seventeen of the forty children who will continue to attend into 1962, are on the Murchison Avenue ‘open’ list, twenty are being seen at the Woodside Road Clinic and three at the Sidcup Speech Therapy Clinic.

One hundred and eighteen Bexley children were awaiting appointments at the end of the year. Fifteen are on the waiting list at the Murchison Avenue Clinic, and one hundred and two at the Woodside Road Clinic, and one at Sidcup.

Mrs. Grove continued to visit the Murchison Avenue Speech Therapy Clinic until September 1961, when she resigned her appointment. Mrs. Goodwins took over Mrs. Grove's work in October 1961. Mrs. Rollo, who was appointed to the County Services in April 1961, was able to join Mrs. Goodwins at the Murchison Avenue Clinic on taking up her appointment.

Bexley children who attend schools which are nearer to Woodside Road than to Murchison Avenue have received and will continue to receive appointments at the former clinic."

Sweep Frequency Pure Tone Audiometry.

During 1961, 1,057 children were tested during their last year in the Infants School, i.e., during their seventh year. Of this number, 947 passed and 110 failed. The latter children were referred to the School Medical Officers for investigation and any minor conditions causing temporary deafness were treated.

In addition, 160 children of all age groups were tested as special cases referred from various sources including teachers, and of this number 87 passed and 73 failed. The 160 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 73 failed children were referred back to the School Medical Officers for further examination and treatment.

Lastly, 140 children attended for a final audiometric test and this number included children seen in 1960 who had been referred by the School Medical Officers for a final test in 6 to 12 months time. Of these 140 children, 72 passed and 68 failed. Further treatment was instituted for the latter children either at the School Clinics or at the Ear, Nose & Throat Department at the West Hill Hospital, Dartford, or other Hospitals in the metropolis.

Cleanliness Inspections.

(See Table D).

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 E. A. Osgathorp for the following report :—

“ The shortage of trained teachers is an acute national problem and Physical Education is particularly affected as it is neither desirable nor safe to allow untrained members of staff to be **responsible** for this subject, particularly at the secondary stage where much gymnastic apparatus and athletic equipment is available. It is pleasing to note that the effect of this national problem is less noticeable in the Borough of Bexley than in some other parts of the County, and on the whole a good standard of physical education has been maintained.

The schools are well equipped for physical education and a large range of apparatus is provided to stimulate the children's interest, and help them to adjust to, and manage their rapid physical development. The primary schools in particular are making excellent use of this apparatus. It is presented as a challenge to the children, to help develop their initiative, courage and self-reliance as well as physical agility and strength.

The majority of the primary children transfer to secondary schools full of enthusiasm, and with a willingness to work hard and to tackle anything presented to them, to the best of their ability. All too often with the onset of adolescence this interest in active pursuits fades, particularly with the girls, and some children who were once so alive and eager become lethargic and disinterested. Some secondary schools are overcoming this problem, to some degree, by encouraging new activities such as fencing and badminton, and developing the courage, initiative and self-reliance fostered in the primary school, by introducing the children to some of the challenges offered by their surroundings—the air, rivers, the sea, countryside and hills, etc. These activities can only be **introduced** during school life, but they may be pursued later to become worthwhile hobbies. The Youth Service is doing

much to encourage young people to use their leisure more actively, to combat the passive past-times of car riding and television. The popularity of first 'rock-and roll' and then the 'twist' is perhaps a significant sign that youth needs an outlet for its physical energy. Parents as well as teachers can all help by ensuring that unoccupied leisure time is not due to ignorance of what else is available.

These more recreational activities take a great deal of time as they are best presented to small groups in out of school hours. Much valuable help on this side is given by teachers who are not physical education specialists, and this is greatly appreciated.

Ten primary and five secondary schools received swimming instruction during the summer term, and four primary schools were able to swim throughout the year. The number of fatalities each year through drowning is tragic, and it is reassuring to note so many of the schools protect their children by teaching them to swim, but the need for a covered swimming bath in this area is still an urgent one. Without the ability to swim all the fascinating water sports will be denied to them in later life.

The constant help and co-operation of the Borough Education Officer and his staff is much appreciated by the Physical Education advisers, and also the work of those teachers who, despite difficulties, strive to maintain high standards of work, behaviour, dress and attitude, without which everything is worthless."

Swimming—1961.

The closed-in Baths at Eltham, Plumstead and Woolwich and the open-air Baths at Eltham Park, Danson Park and Martens Grove were used during the Summer Term, 1961.

The attendances were:—

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Attendances</i>	<i>No. of children</i>
10 Primary	16 classes of 30-35 children each week	504 (approx.) each week
5 Secondary	14 classes of 25-30 children each week	350 (approx.) each week

A total of 340 swimming certificates for distances between 25 yards and one mile were issued during the year 1961. 4 Primary Schools continued winter swimming during the Spring and Autumn Terms, 1961.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

Statistical Tables.

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

Table A. Periodic Medical Inspections.

„ B. Pupils found to require treatment.

„ C. Other Inspections.

„ D. Infestation with Vermin.

Part II — Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection.

Table A. Periodic Inspections.

„ B. Special Inspections.

Part III — Treatment Tables.

Table A. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

„ B. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

„ C. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

„ D. Diseases of the Skin.

„ E. Other Treatment given.

Part IV — Dental Inspection and Treatment including Orthodontics.

Part V — Handicapped Children.

PART I.

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

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections.

Age Groups Inspected (By years of birth)	Number of Pupils Inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. (2)	No.	% of Col. (2)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1957 & later	22	22	100	—	—
1956	373	371	99.5	2	.5
1955	432	432	100	—	—
1954	266	264	99.2	2	.8
1953	529	528	99.8	1	.2
1952	449	449	100	—	—
1951	176	176	100	—	—
1950	28	28	100	—	—
1949	239	238	99.6	1	.4
1948	132	132	100	—	—
1947	55	54	98.2	1	1.8
1946 & earlier	1300	1294	99.5	6	.5
Total ...	4001	3988	99.6	13	.4

B.—Pupils Found to Require Treatment at Periodical Medical Inspections.

Age Groups Inspected (by year of birth)	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Part II	Total individual pupils
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1957 & later	—	—	—
1956	20	55	49
1955	32	64	78
1954	26	42	59
1953	74	79	122
1952	60	65	92
1951	37	12	43
1950	11	6	14
1949	26	29	44
1948	12	11	20
1947	12	9	16
1946 & earlier	279	198	426
Total	589	570	963

C.—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	1,496
Number of re-Inspections	...	...	1,871
Total	...	...	3,367

D.—Infestation with Vermin.

(a)	Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	...	3,264
(b)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	2
(c)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	—
(d)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	—

PART II.—Return of Defects Found by Medical Inspection in the Year

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	A. PERIODIC INSPECTIONS								B. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		Entrants		Leavers		Others		TOTAL		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation		
4.	Skin ... —...	14	13	72	60	38	56	124	129	42	10
5.	Eyes—										
	a. Vision ...	45	78	254	59	220	125	519	262	52	28
	b. Squint ...	12	14	15	10	35	14	62	38	8	1
	c. Other ...	7	13	25	23	38	38	70	74	19	12
6.	Ears—										
	a. Hearing ...	9	41	10	36	8	115	27	192	41	79
	b. Otis media ...	4	19	3	10	2	20	9	49	6	5
	c. Other ...	1	8	9	3	14	10	24	21	3	2
7.	Nose and Throat	25	198	23	67	35	206	83	471	41	53
8.	Speech ...	7	27	—	11	9	14	16	52	21	17
9.	Lymphatic Glands	6	83	1	25	2	83	9	191	—	5
10.	Heart ...	1	18	2	20	1	46	4	84	8	40
11.	Lungs ...	9	58	3	49	11	105	23	207	25	49
12.	Developmental—										
	a. Hernia ...	2	3	—	2	4	5	6	10	2	1
	b. Other ...	3	7	2	11	8	26	13	44	6	6
13.	Orthopaedic—										
	a. Posture ...	5	12	8	38	28	44	41	94	7	1
	b. Feet ...	8	47	10	40	21	140	39	227	11	6
	c. Other ...	5	47	13	118	18	113	36	278	16	27
14.	Nervous System—										
	a. Epilepsy ...	—	7	—	—	—	6	—	13	2	4
	b. Other ...	—	6	3	2	2	18	5	26	4	12
15.	Psychological—										
	a. Develop- ment ...	1	8	—	4	1	60	2	72	32	85
	b. Stability ...	3	69	2	33	6	166	11	268	66	93
16.	Abdomen ...	2	15	5	10	2	47	9	72	20	20
17.	Other ...	2	11	17	44	8	68	27	123	67	121

PART III.

A.—Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

Number of cases known
to have been dealt with

External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	289
Errors of refraction (including squint)	589
Total	<hr/> 1,878 <hr/>
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ...	743

B.—Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

Number of cases known
to have been dealt with

Received operative treatment	
(a) for diseases of the ear ...	4
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	129
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—
Received other forms of treatment ...	118
Total	<hr/> 251 <hr/>
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been pro- vided with hearing aids	
(a) in 1961	—
(b) in previous years	24

C.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Number of cases known
to have been treated

(a) Pupils treated at clinics or out-patients departments ...	260
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	—
Total	<hr/> 260 <hr/>

D.—Diseases of the Skin.

				Number of cases known to have been treated
Ringworm—	Scalp	...	...	—
	Body	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	1
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	37
Total				<hr/> 38 <hr/>

E.—Other Treatment Given.

				Number of cases known to have been dealt with
(a)	Pupils with minor ailments	...	...	613
(b)	Pupils who received con- valescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	...	...	—
(c)	Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccination	...	...	922
(d)	Other than (a), (b) and (c) above	...	...	—
Total (a)—(d)				<hr/> 1,535 <hr/>

PART IV—Dental Inspection and Treatment

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—		
(a) Periodic inspections	...	7,714
(b) Specials	...	590
	Total (1)	<u>8,304</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	4,629
(3) Number offered treatment	...	4,301
(4) Number actually treated	...	1,517
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment, including those recorded at heading 11(h) below	...	6,273
(6) Half days devoted to: Inspection	...	52
Treatment	...	879
	Total (6)	<u>931</u>
(7) Fillings: Permanent Teeth	...	2,610
Temporary Teeth	...	997
	Total (7)	<u>3,607</u>
(8) Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	...	2,291
Temporary Teeth	...	968
	Total (8)	<u>3,259</u>
(9) Extractions: Permanent Teeth	...	200
Temporary Teeth	...	743
	Total (9)	<u>943</u>
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	369
(11) Orthodontics:		31
(a) Cases commenced during the year	...	115
(b) Cases carried forward from previous year	...	35
(c) Cases completed during the year	...	25
(d) Cases discontinued during the year	...	64
(e) Pupils treated with appliances	...	103
(f) Removable appliances fitted	...	12
(g) Fixed appliances fitted	...	1,291
(h) Total attendances	...	
(12) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	...	11
(13) Other operations:		664
Permanent Teeth	...	1,469
Temporary Teeth	...	
	Total (13)	<u>2,133</u>

PART V

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

	(1) Blind	(2) Partially sighted	(3) Deaf	(4) Partially Deaf	(5) Physically Handicapped	(6) Delicate	(7) Mal-adjusted	(8) E S.N.	(9) Epileptic	(10) Speech Defects	Total (1) to (10)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
A. How many handicapped pupils were newly assessed as needing special educational treatment at special schools or in boarding homes ...	—	—	2	—	—	16	5	7	—	—	30
B. (i) of the children included at A. how many were newly placed in special schools (other than hospital special schools) or boarding homes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	6
(ii) of the children assessed prior to 1-1-1961, how many were newly placed in special schools (other than hospital special schools) or boarding homes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5
Total (B) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	11
On or about 20-1-1962, how many handicapped pupils from Authority's area:											
C. (i) were requiring places in special schools:— TOTAL											
(a) day ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
(b) boarding... ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	6
(ii) included at (i) had not reached the age of 5 and were awaiting:											
(a) day places ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(b) boarding places... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) included at (i) who had reached the age of 5, but whose parents had refused consent to their admission to a special school, were awaiting:											
(a) day places ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) boarding places... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	(1) Blind	(2) Partially sighted	(3) Deaf	(4) Partially Deaf	(5) Physically Handicapped	(6) Delicate	(7) Mal-adjusted	(8) E.S.N.	(9) Epileptic	(10) Speech Defects	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
D. (i) were on the registers of:											
1. maintained special schools as:											
(a) day pupils ...	—	5	3	2	6	1	1	37	—	—	55
(b) boarding pupils ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. non-maintained special schools as:											
(a) day pupils ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
(b) boarding pupils ...	3	—	3	2	2	7	6	—	—	—	—
(ii) were on the registers of independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
(iii) were boarded in homes and not already included under (i) or (ii)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (D) ...	18	5	6	4	8	8	7	37	—	—	95
E. On or about 20-1-1962, how many handicapped pupils (irrespective of the areas to which they belong) were being educated under arrangements made by the Authority in accordance with Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944:											
(i) In hospitals ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) In other groups (e.g. units for spastics, convalescent homes) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(iii) At home ...	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	6

During the calendar year ended 31-12-61:

- (i) how many children were the subject of new decisions recorded under Section 57 (4) of the Education Act, 1944 ...
- (ii) how many decisions were cancelled under Section 57A (2) of the Education Act, 1944 ...

INDEX.

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

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Acreage	8
Population	8
New Houses Erected	8
Unemployment	8
Social Conditions and Amenities	8—9
Population Graph	10
Summary of Vital Statistics	11—12
Extracts from Vital Statistics—	
Births and Birth Rates	12—13
Stillbirths and Stillbirth Rates	13
Total Live and Still Births	13
Infant Deaths and Death Rates	14—15
Maternal Deaths	16
Death All causes	16—18
Causes of Death in Age Groups	19

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation	20
General Hospitals	20
Ambulance Facilities	20
National Assistance Act, 1948	20
Public Mortuary	20
Disinfection and Disinfestation Service	21
Laboratory Facilities	21
Registration of Nursing Homes	21

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Adoptive Acts and Byelaws	22
Water Supply	23
Drainage and Sewerage	23
Rivers and Streams	23
Chief Public Health Inspector's Report—	
Tables of Inspections and Improvements, etc.	25—26
Food Inspection	27
Tables—Factories Act, 1937 and 1948	28
Public Cleansing Service	29
Refuse Collection and Disposal	29
Salvage	30
Kitchen Waste	30
Public Conveniences	30
Atmospheric Pollution	31—32
Clean Air Act, 1956 Smoke Control Area	32
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	32—33
Pet Animals Act, 1951	33
Shops Act, 1950	33
Swimming Pool	34
Verminous Premises	34
Wasp Destruction	34
Schools	34

ITEM	PAGE
HOUSING.	
Council Estates	35
Inspection of Dwelling Houses	36
Remedy of Defects without formal notice	36
Action under Statutory Powers	37
Clearance Schemes	37
Improvement Grants	37
Rent Act, 1957	37
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.	
Milk Supply	38
Slaughterhouses	38
Adulteration of Food—Food & Drugs Act, 1955	39—40
Food Shops and Food Manufacturing Premises	40
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960	41
Registration of Premises	41
PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.	
Scarlet Fever	42
Diphtheria	42
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation,	43—44
Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination	44
Typhoid Fever and Para Typhoid Fever	44
Puerperal Pyrexia	44
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	44
Measles	44
Whooping Cough	44
Acute Poliomyelitis	44
Scabies	45
Food Poisoning	45
Malaria	45—46
Dysentery	47
Tables of Infectious Diseases Notified	48
Tuberculosis	48
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT, 1961.	
Welfare and School Attendance Sub-Committee	50
Staff	50—51
Foreword	52—55
Schools	56
Clinics	56—57
Co-ordination—	58
Periodic Medical Inspections	58
School Meals and Milk	59
School Dental Service	59—60
Orthopædic Clinic	60—61
Ophthalmic Clinic	62
Child Guidance Clinic	62—63
Speech Therapy	63
Sweep Frequency Pure Tone Audiometry	63—64
Cleanliness Inspections	64—65
Physical Education	65
Swimming	66—74
Statistical Tables	66



BEX 027

1962

