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**BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**



# **Annual Report**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Report on the  
School Health Service**

**For the Year 1963**

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





**BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

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# **Annual Report**

**of the**

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year 1963**

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

*Medical Officer of Health*



# Borough of Bexley.

Mayor: Councillor F. W. Archer, J.P.

Deputy Mayor: Alderman E. S. Newton, M.B.E.

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman Mrs. E. M. Sheppard.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. P. Webster.

Alderman M. J. Corr.

Councillor S. H. Philpot.

Alderman Mrs. H. F. Piggott.

Councillor M. F. Townsend.

Councillor R. B. Burke.

Councillor A. Scutt.

Councillor F. G. Donovan.

# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

1963

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.  
(Retired 30.11.63).  
R. C. Spaldine, M.A., F.R.I.C.  
(Appointed 30.11.63).

Smoke Control Assistant ... J. F. Castle (Appointed 1.1.63).

Home Safety Organiser ... L. S. Brooke, S.R.N., R.M.N.,  
S.T.D. (London), M.R.I.P.H.H.  
(Appointed 1.4.63).

Refuse Foreman ... G. E. Packman.

Public Health General Assistants A. C. Ward.  
W. Early.

\* 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 1963, my eighteenth and probably the last to be submitted to the Authority as at present constituted in view of the creation of the London Borough of Bexley under the London Government Act, 1963.

Eighteen years is not a long time in the life of a local authority (although it does represent a substantial slice of the working life of an individual) but it is long enough to warrant a comparison of the health circumstances of the Borough at the beginning and end of this period.

The year 1946 witnessed the beginning of the transition from war to peace. The strain of bombardment of the civilian population was lifted and the re-integration of family life was assisted by the return of evacuated children and by an acceleration of the rate of demobilisation of the Armed Forces. Housing circumstances had been seriously affected by bombing and the suspension of new building, and represented the most serious of the problems facing the Borough at that time. Difficulties in the process of resettlement in civilian life inevitably occurred as a result of the enforced separation, over a number of years, of husbands and wives, children and parents; food shortages remained and in many ways the discipline of the wartime years continued.



Strangely enough, in spite of these vicissitudes the general health of the community, as evidenced by the vital statistics of the area remained good. The infant mortality rate (i.e. the number of children dying in the first year of life per 1,000 live births), a very sensitive index of social conditions, was 29.5 per 1,000 live births in 1946, a very favourable rate compared with previous years. At the outbreak of the war the rate was 40.1 per 1,000. This rate has continued to fall and in 1963 was 17.89 per 1,000 and, even allowing for the inevitable fluctuations which are expected when dealing with small numbers, it may be said with some justification that there has been a downward trend since the end of the war which is statistically significant. This has, undoubtedly, been due to improved environmental conditions including housing, an advance in child health services including health education and the discovery of the chemotherapeutic drugs as well as penicillin and the other antibiotics which have greatly simplified the control of the childhood infections.

The maternal mortality rate (the number of deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 total births) had shown a similar decline. The rate in 1946 was 1.73 per 1,000 live and still births (3 maternal deaths). It is pleasant to report that there have been no maternal deaths due to childbirth, in the Borough, for the past eight years. This improvement can be related to improved obstetric services, better housing conditions and, again, better chemical and antibiotic control of the puerperal infections.

The birth rate in 1946 was 19.75 per 1,000 of the population (18.81 and 21.06 in the previous two years) and fell steadily until about 1956 when an upward trend became noticeable. The rate for 1963 was 16.18 compared with 12.0 per 1,000 in 1952. The Department for Education and Sciences, "Statistics of Education", 1963 (H.M.S.O.) show that the post-war "bulge" now passing out of the secondary schools is but the forerunner of bigger bulges to come which are bound to have important social, industrial and educational implications for the future.

The death rate, on the other hand, has remained almost unchanged over the past 18 years and more. The fall in the death rate in the country as a whole began around 1875 and was due to improvements in the adverse environmental conditions which the process of urbanisation had brought to bear on the community—not merely in regard to sanitation but housing, overcrowding, nutrition, hours of work and



factory conditions. The tuberculosis death rate also began to fall about the same time and the fall has continued unabated to the present day. Improved standards of living and medical discoveries have combined to bring this about and to raise the general expectation of life of the population.

Why then has the death rate not continued to fall? The answer is twofold. Firstly with an ageing population more people may be expected to die for there is a limit to which life can be prolonged and, secondly, deaths from certain causes have increased over the past quarter of a century, notably, cancer of the lung, cardio-vascular disease, including coronary disease and accidents both on the roads and in the home. The causes of these epidemics, for this is what they really are, are so complex and interwoven in the fabric of our Society that there can be no easy way to their prevention. The highly competitive nature of life today, the pursuit of ever-increasing standards of living, automation, and the advances of science and technology, good in many respects, unfortunately bring with them new hazards to human health and happiness, e.g. radio active contamination, atmospheric pollution, noise, sophistication of our food supplies, speed and a materialistic outlook which is not conducive to the mental health of the population.

In 1950, the first year in which separate figures became available for cancer of the lung, the number of deaths from this cause was 21 compared with 53 in 1962 and 47 in 1963. The number of deaths ascribed to coronary disease similarly rose from 102 in 1950 to 205 in 1962 and 178 in 1963.

During the period 28th October to 1st November, 1963, a Smoking and Health Campaign was held in conjunction with Erith and Crayford. The spearhead of this was a five day visit to the area of the Central Council for Health Education mobile unit which visited a number of secondary schools and a Youth organisation. Films were shown at those schools not actually visited by the Unit. Ten thousand copies of a personal letter addressed to parents by the Medical Officer of Health were distributed throughout the schools and a large number of leaflets and posters were made available in the area.

The Campaign made a good impact on the public at the time but I fear that it will take much more than this to shake the public generally out of their apathy in regard to this problem. Section 32 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1963 substantially increases the penalty for the sale of tobacco to persons under 16 years of age but it would appear that the problem of enforcement will remain.



The picture is much brighter in regard to the older epidemics. In 1946 eight cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough with one death (21 cases with one death in 1945, 67 cases with 3 deaths in 1930). There has not been a single notified case of diphtheria in the Borough for the past 14 years. In the late summer of 1947, suddenly and unaccountably, poliomyelitis struck the country after many years of relative quiescence. Sixteen cases occurred in the Borough with three deaths. Immunisation against this disease began in 1956 and it is significant that, since that time, there has been a remarkable decline in poliomyelitis. The number of cases in Bexley in the five year period 1959 to 1963 was one compared with 36 in the previous five years. Few would deny that this decrease is closely related to the immunisation of children and young adults in the Borough first by the Salk vaccine and now by the oral vaccine which has almost replaced the former.

Over the relatively short period under review there has been a marked improvement in food hygiene in the Borough as a result of the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations and of internal developments of the Catering trades as a whole. Refrigeration of foodstuffs is, now, almost universal and the wrapping of foodstuffs has gone to considerable lengths. The opportunities for the occurrence of food poisoning are certainly fewer nowadays (there were no notified cases in 1963) but constant vigilance is still necessary as human sources of error can still defeat the most elaborate equipment. A further hazard arises from the growing tendency for people to take their holidays abroad and the importation of typhoid fever appears to be a growing risk.

In regard to housing the Council have pursued a steady slum clearance programme both by clearance orders and by the demolition of individual unfit houses. Their greatest single achievement during this period has been the final clearance of the Lodge Hill and East Wickham hutments (erected in 1916 for the housing of munition workers employed at the Royal Arsenal) and their replacement by modern housing estates. The Borough now has no slums in the accepted sense of the word but there are still quite a number of individual houses which will need to be dealt with in the next five years. The obsolescence factor is, indeed, low and, with the increase in the number of owner-occupiers and the provision of new houses by the Council and private enterprise and the improvement of some of the older houses by improvement grant procedure this favourable position



could be maintained. The housing needs of the elderly and of young families living in cramped conditions either in furnished accommodation or with "in-laws" present an urgent problem throughout the country and are recognised by the Council as a major obstacle to health and happiness which should be removed as soon as possible.

Atmospheric pollution is nowadays the most important hazard to the health of the community. It is comparable in its magnitude to the pollution of public water supplies in the 19th century before the provision of water-carriage sewerage schemes and, the problems involved in its abolition are probably even more complex. The atmosphere is becoming, more and more, a new kind of public sewer into which every kind of gaseous filth is discharged—from the domestic fire, the factory chimney and of course the ever growing number of motor vehicles, both diesel and petrol, which threaten to bring chaos to our roads. The Clean Air Act of 1956 has enabled local authorities to take the first step to control black smoke emissions from the domestic hearth and factory and much has already been achieved in some of the worst "black areas" of the country. Despite its many shortcomings the Act remains one of the most important and far-reaching pieces of legislation on the Statute Book and the many frustrations arising from its operation should be seen as the teething troubles inherent in such a great task as the removal of one of the main causes of chronic respiratory disease, one of the great killing diseases, and of cancer of the lung, of which it is no doubt a contributory cause.

The loss of the Child Welfare Services by Bexley to the Kent County Council in 1948 under the National Health Service Act, 1946 was, to some extent, offset by the delegation to the Borough of the School Health Service by virtue of its Excepted District status under the Education Act, 1944. This has enabled us to keep in close touch with the personal health services generally and with the Welfare and Children's departments of the Kent County Council. Now, the wheel has turned full circle and, as a result of the London Government Act, 1963 the new London Borough of Bexley will, on 1st April, 1965 become responsible for the Health and Welfare and Children's services. It is difficult not to feel some regret at the passing of the old order but one cannot but welcome the great opportunities and challenge which face the new Borough and which will, surely, in years to come, bring about a fully integrated Health service, close to the

people it is designed to serve and providing opportunities for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health greater than ever before particularly in the field of mental health and the welfare of the elderly and the handicapped.

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 excellent 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, 89,790

### New Dwellings Erected.

Houses ... .. 145

### Relative figures for previous years.

Population—Mid-Year.				New Houses Erected.		
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
1961 (Census)	...	...	89,670	1961	...	246
1962	...	...	89,910	1962	...	173

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1963  
(according to Rate Books) approximately 29,219

Rateable Value ... .. £3,657,971

Sum represented by a penny rate ... .. £15,060

### Unemployment.

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
December 31st, 1962	228	49	27	7	311
December 31st, 1963	234	68	17	9	328

### 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, housing shortages constitute a 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.

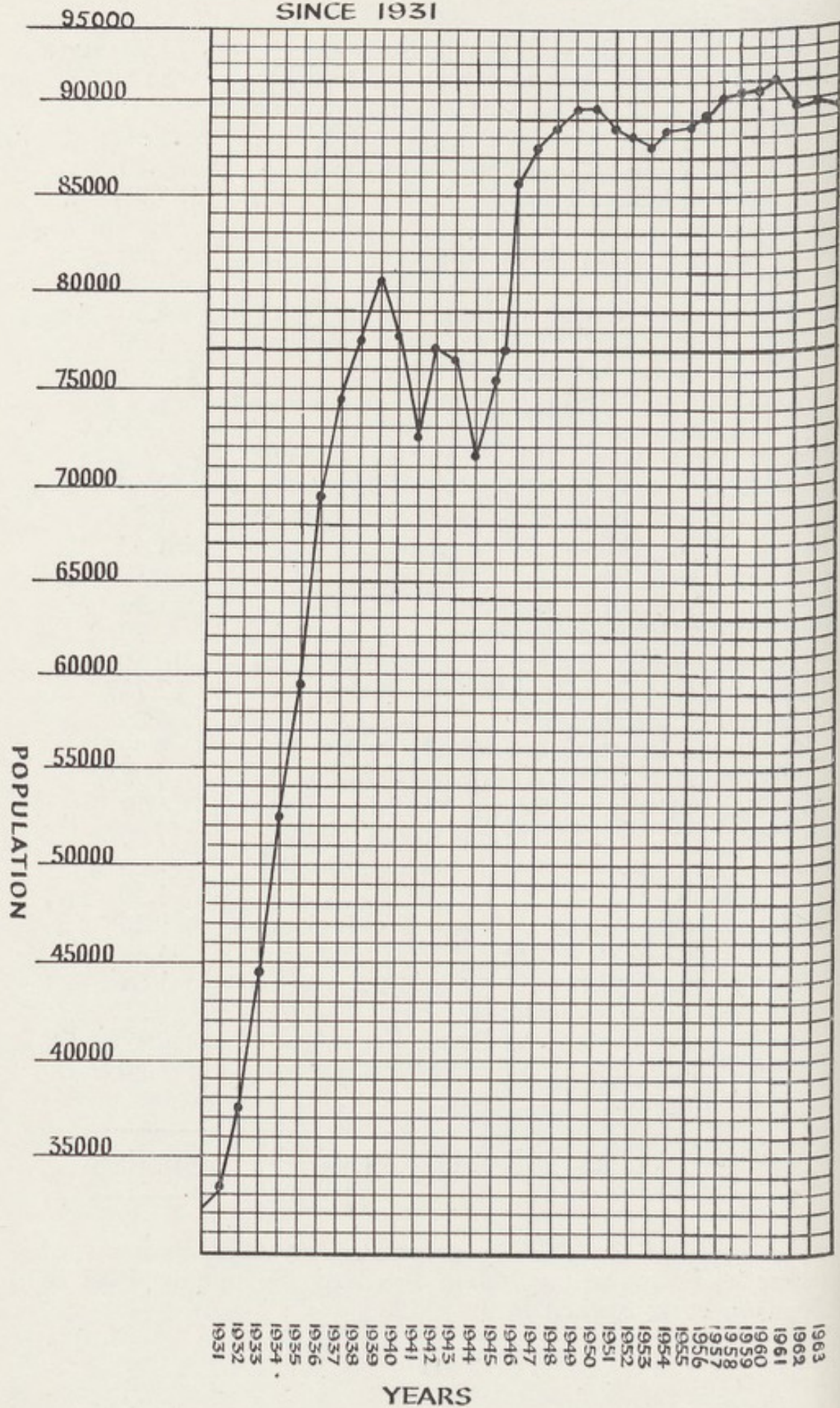
The following public open spaces have been provided by the Corporation:—

Bexley Woods, Parkhill Road, Bexley ...	27.00	acres
Bigs Hill Wood, Watling Street, Bexleyheath	8.68	„
Brampton Park Recreation Ground, Avenue Road, Bexleyheath ... ..	1.66	„
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	„
Shoulder of Mutton Green, Welling ...	4.00	„
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 Grove, Bexleyheath ... ..	.25	„
The Warren, Broomfield Road, Bexleyheath	12.47	„
Westwood Estate Children's Playground, Welling ... ..	.60	„
Total ...		<u>512.1025</u> „

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.	
<b>Births—</b>							
Live	...	...	...	...	...	18.2	16.18
Still	...	...	...	...	...	{ 0.32 17.2(a)	0.23 14.2(a)
<b>Deaths—</b>							
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	12.2	9.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.06	0.07
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.06	0.01
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.99	0.75
<b>Notifications (corrected)</b>							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.37	0.77
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.74	0.37
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.08
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	12.78	12.93
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.30	0.03
Acute Poliomyelitis (Including Polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...		
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	0.12	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	7.44(a)	8.14(a)
						Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
<b>Deaths</b>							
All causes under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	21.1	17.89
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	...	...	...	...	0.53	0.69

(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	0.22	Nil
Due to abortion ... ..	0.06	Nil
Total maternal mortality ...	0.28	Nil

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE Year 1963

The Registrar General's Estimate of home population for the mid-year is 89,790 and this figure is assigned for the purpose of calculation of all rates.

<b>Births.</b>	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Total ... ..	716	737	1,453
Legitimate ... ..	687	712	1,399
Illegitimate ... ..	29	25	54

#### Birth Rate.

Rate per 1,000 estimated home  
population ... .. 16.18

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

1953 Birth Rate	12.70	per thousand	
1954 „ „	11.80	„ „	
1955 „ „	12.60	„ „	
1956 „ „	13.2	„ „	
1957 „ „	13.6	„ „	
1958 „ „	13.6	„ „	
1959 „ „	14.4	„ „	
1960 „ „	14.5	„ „	
1961 „ „	14.7	„ „	
1962 „ „	14.97	„ „	
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ... ..			18.2

The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1963. The standardised birth rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 16.7.

54 illegitimate live births were registered against 51 in 1962 giving a percentage of 3.7 of total live births.

<b>Stillbirths.</b>				Males	Females	Total
Total	...	...	...	12	9	21
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)						
births	...	...	...			14.2

21 Stillbirths were registered during the year. This represents a rate of 0.23 per 1,000 population against 0.31 per 1,000 population in 1962.

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

Year					Rate per Thousand	
					Total Live and Still Births	Population
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
1961	...	...	...	...	14.9	0.2
1962	...	...	...	...	20.4	0.31

Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales 1963 ... 0.32

There were three Stillbirths registered as illegitimate.

				Males	Females	Total
Total Live and Stillbirths	...			728	746	1,474



Infant Deaths.	Males	Females	Total
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Deaths of Infants under one year			
of age ... ..	14	12	26
Legitimate ... ..	13	12	25
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:			
Total per 1,000 live births ...			17.89
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..			17.86
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..			18.52
Neo-natal Deaths per 1,000 live births ... ..			13.76
Early Neo-natal Deaths ... ..			11.7
Perinatal Deaths ... ..			25.7

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

1953	...	...	14.36	per 1,000 live births.
1954	...	...	22.1	„ „ „ „
1955	...	...	17.0	„ „ „ „
1956	...	...	24.6	„ „ „ „
1957	...	...	22.9	„ „ „ „
1958	...	...	13.0	„ „ „ „
1959	...	...	13.1	„ „ „ „
1960	...	...	12.9	„ „ „ „
1961	...	...	13.7	„ „ „ „
1962	...	...	14.86	„ „ „ „



# INFANT MORTALITY, 1963

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

These relate to deaths occurring in 1963 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				2						1						
Prematurity ... ..	6	1	1	2																				
Atelectasis ... ..		1																						
Broncho Pneumonia...									1						1									
Cerebral oedema Convulsion ... ..			1																					
Hydrocephalus Meningomyelocele ... ..																						1		
Anencephaly ... ..	1																							
Cerebral haemorrhage Renal vein thrombosis						1																		
Trisomy 17-18 ... ..									1															
Hydrops foetalis ... ..	1																							
Meningitis ... ..														1										
Totals ... ..	8	3	2	3	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1		

The number of infants under one year of age who died during the year 1963 as shown by the table is 26. 20 of these deaths, that is 77 per cent, occurred in the neonatal period (within one month of birth). In 1962 the corresponding figure was 65 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:—

1953	...	...	2.63	per 1,000 live and stillbirths
1954	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1955	...	...	0.88	„ „ „ „ „
1956	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1957	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1958	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1959	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1960	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1961	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „
1962	...	...	Nil	„ „ „ „ „

## Deaths All Causes.

	Males	Females	Total
All causes ...	418	446	864
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated home population ...			9.6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—	—	—
„ „ Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ...	1	—	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages) ...	94	89	183
Death rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1963			12.2

Death Rate of Area during last ten years:—

1953	...	...	8.8	per thousand
1954	...	...	8.1	„ „
1955	...	...	9.1	„ „
1956	...	...	9.4	„ „
1957	...	...	9.2	„ „
1958	...	...	9.48	„ „
1959	...	...	8.76	„ „
1960	...	...	8.7	„ „
1961	...	...	9.6	„ „
1962	...	...	9.5	„ „

The rate for Bexley compares favourably with that for England and Wales. The Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for 1963. The standardised death rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the country is 11.06.



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1963.

Causes of Death.				M.	F.	Total
	All Causes	...	...	418	446	864
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	1	4
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	1	1	2
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	2	3
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	16	10	26
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	40	7	47
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	23	23
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	6	6
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	38	43	81
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	2	3	5
16	Diabetes	...	...	1	3	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	43	63	106
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	112	66	178
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	5	11	16
20	Other heart disease	...	...	24	60	84
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	18	23	41
22	Influenza	...	...	—	1	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	20	47	67
24	Bronchitis	...	...	32	25	57
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	2	1	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	5	3	8
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	3	2	5
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	2	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	3	—	3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	4	6	10
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	25	29	54
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	8	2	10
34	All other accidents	...	...	9	2	11
35	Suicide	...	...	2	3	5
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—

# DEATHS REGISTERED (IN AGE GROUPS) IN 1963

	Total		Under 1 year		1-4 years		5-14 years		15-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-54 years		55-64 years		65-74 years		75 years and over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3	1																1	3		1	
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	1	1																			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	2												1	1							1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	16	10											1		1	5	2	6	3	4	4	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	40	7												1	4		14	2	13	2	9	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..		23												3		4		9		4		3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..		6												1				1		3		1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	38	43							1		3	2	1	6	3	9	13	10	11	11	11	
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	2	3					1				1				1	1		1				
16. Diabetes ... ..	1	3														1			1	1	2	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	43	63											1		3	2	7	14	13	18	41	
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	112	66											3	2	10	2	31	7	44	23	24	32
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	5	11															3	3	1	2	7	
20. Other heart disease ... ..	24	60												1	1	2	6	4	5	9	12	44
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	18	23												1	2	1	4	3	4	5	8	13
22. Influenza ... ..		1																				1
23. Pneumonia ... ..	20	47		2	1	1												7	4	5	15	32
24. Bronchitis ... ..	32	25											1		3		8		7	9	13	16
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system ... ..	2	1																	2	1		
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	5	3																	2	2	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	3	2		1															1			2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1	2		1												1	1					
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3																		2		1	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..																						
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	4	6	2	4		2							1				1					
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases ... ..	25	29	12	5			1	1			2	1	1	1		2	3	2	6	6	11	
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	8	2					1		1				1		1			1			2	1
34. All other accidents ... ..	9	2			1						2		1		1				3		1	2
35. Suicide ... ..	2	3							1						1	1						2
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..																						
Total ... ..	418	446	14	12	3	3	2	2	2	1	4	6	12	11	34	19	90	63	126	99	131	230



## **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 for removal of any persons to hospital.

#### **Action taken under Section 50.**

It was not necessary to arrange for any 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.

During the year 236 bodies were admitted and 234 post-mortem examinations were made; 24 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 and Cancer, and for the disinfestation of bedding of verminous persons was discontinued during 1961 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.

A joint application by Bexley, Erith and Crayford Councils was successfully made to the Woolwich Borough Council for the use of their facilities and these arrangements have continued.

## 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	2
No. of patients provided for:—	
Maternity ... ..	—
Others ... ..	36
Total ...	36
No. of Homes first registered during year ...	—
No. of patients provided for:—	
Maternity ... ..	—
Others ... ..	—
Total ...	—
No. of Homes on the Register at end of year ...	2
No. of patients provided for:—	
Maternity ... ..	—
Others ... ..	36
Total ...	36



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

#### List of Adoptive Acts, etc., in force.

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

## 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.

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

No new sources of piped water supply were instituted in the Borough of Bexley during 1963 but 1,000 yards of 18 in. main were laid from Bexley pumping station to Park Hill Road. Furthermore, new service mains were laid to the extent of 4,212 yards.

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

## (ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

New drainage and sewerage works were carried out during the year as follows:—

Surface Water Sewer, Victoria Cottage. 170 yds. 48 in.  
Surface Water Sewer, East Wickham House. 240 yds.  
24 in.

There has been, in addition, considerable amount of sewers laid in connection with private housing development.

Number of cesspools emptied, 7.

The total number of emptyings, 22.

## 2. **Rivers and Streams.**

One serious case of pollution of the River Shuttle by sewage occurred during the year, due to a blocked 15 in. foul sewer in Upton Road, Bexleyheath. This was dealt with by treating the watercourse with chloride of lime at various points, followed by a thorough flushing with water from Danson Park Lake.



## 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 1963.

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.**

	Inspec- tions	Re-in- spections
Houses inspected (all particulars recorded)...	18	134
Houses inspected (defects only recorded) ...	127	788
Houses inspected (certificates of disrepair) ...	37	36
Houses inspected (improvement grants) ...	46	—
Houses inspected (Housing Act, 1936, Over- crowding) ... ..	18	12
Houses inspected <i>re</i> Infectious Disease (including scabies) ... ..	175	105
Factories with mechanical power ...	199	16
Factories without mechanical power ...	35	6
Outworkers' premises ... ..	104	29
Other premises under the Act ... ..	3	—
Bakehouses ... ..	91	21
Water Samples ... ..	19	2
Food and Drugs Act Samples ... ..	225	3
Dairies and distributors ... ..	34	—
Ice Cream premises ... ..	289	114
Restaurants, etc. ... ..	268	85
Fish premises ... ..	158	89
Meat Shops ... ..	304	107
Public Houses ... ..	65	10
Shops <i>re</i> unsound food ... ..	359	104
Other premises where food is prepared ...	1,545	143
Offensive accumulations ... ..	189	190
Stables ... ..	24	9
Keeping of Animals ... ..	38	27
Rats ... ..	242	96
Drains inspected ... ..	881	551
Drains tested (water, smoke or colour) ...	96	2
Dustbins ... ..	4	1
Verminous premises ... ..	22	54
Smoke observations ... ..	11	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	5	8
Refuse Tips ... ..	130	24
Refuse Removal and Salvage ... ..	442	4
Conveniences ... ..	145	17
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	37	10
Council House applicants ... ..	231	37
Shops Act, 1950 ... ..	1,195	26
Employment of Young Persons Act, 1938 ...	19	2
National Assistance Act, 1948—Sec. 47 ...	4	6
Miscellaneous inspections ... ..	595	154
Clean Air Act, 1956 ... ..	777	1,007



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

Houses—	No.
Provided with sufficient w.c. accommodation	18
Provided with sufficient ashplace accommodation ... ..	2
Provided with sufficient water supply ...	14
Houses Improved Internally—	
Walls and ceilings repaired ... ..	49
Dampness in rooms remedied ... ..	45
Defective floors repaired ... ..	18
Ventilation of Rooms improved ... ..	28
Windows repaired ... ..	36
Stoves, fireplaces, etc. provided or repaired	12
Houses Improved Externally—	
Roofs repaired ... ..	21
Eaves gutters and down spouts fixed or repaired ... ..	32
Yards paved or repaired ... ..	3
Chimney stacks repaired ... ..	4
Walls repointed or repaired ... ..	7
Miscellaneous repairs ... ..	18
Drainage—	
Drains cleansed or repaired ... ..	808
New drains constructed ... ..	1
New gullies provided ... ..	3
Ventilation of drainage system improved ...	6
Inspection chambers built or repaired ...	9
Waste pipes provided or repaired ... ..	7
New sinks provided ... ..	3
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	9
Nuisances from animals abated ... ..	—
Other nuisances abated ... ..	3

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

Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals ... ..	18
Houses visited including revisits ... ..	280
Rooms disinfected ... ..	—
Notices delivered to Education Authorities, etc.	171

**TABLE No. 4.**

**Food Inspection.**

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

Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	lbs.	328
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	"	763
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	"	529½
Beef	...	...	...	...	"	2,880½
Pork	...	...	...	...	"	350
Lamb	...	...	...	...	"	47½
Poultry	...	...	...	...	"	38
Offal	...	...	...	...	"	787½
Bacon	...	...	...	...	"	136½
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	"	131¼
Fish	...	...	...	...	"	126
Cheese	...	...	...	...	"	64½
Macaroni	...	...	...	...	"	11
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	"	672
Fruit	...	...	...	...	"	5,180
Fruit and Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	tins	171
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	"	71
Meat	...	...	...	...	"	98
Fish	...	...	...	...	"	17
Milk	...	...	...	...	"	8
Soups	...	...	...	...	"	7
Preserves	...	...	...	...	"	1
Cream	...	...	...	...	"	2
Fruit	...	...	...	...	trays	148
Frozen Foods	...	...	...	...	pkts.	1,855
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...		48



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 :		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories without mechanical power ... ..	35	—	—
Factories with mechanical power ... ..	290	1	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	3	—	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total ... ..	328	1	—

## 2. Defects Found.

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

## 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.

During the year a weekly collection was well maintained, and the bonus scheme continued to give good results in ensuring a regular 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, involving an average haul of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the disposal point.

### Salvage.

Details of salvage sales for the financial year ended 31st March, 1964 are set out below.

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	385	3	1	2,940	4	6
Textiles	...	5	0	2	62	8	0
Ferrous Metals	...	3	15	0	7	10	0
Miscellaneous	...			3		12	0
		393	19	2	3,010	14	6



### **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. A number of bins were either withdrawn or resited during the year as a result of complaints.

At the September meeting, the Health Committee decided as a matter of policy to withdraw all waste food bins from the streets, and the contractor was given notice to terminate his agreement with the Council. All street bins were finally removed on the 31st March, 1964.

### **Public Conveniences.**

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

Market Place, Bexleyheath (closed December, 1963).

Townley Road, Bexleyheath.

Brampton Road, Bexleyheath.

Danson Park, Welling. (4 men's, 4 women's).

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 1963.

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	0.45	7.56	0.07	5.72	1.77	10.27	1.68	1.78	4.26
February	0.41	12.30	0.19	9.35	2.75	9.90	2.14	0.87	3.59
March	2.23	9.30	0.20	7.11	1.99	6.71	1.30	1.07	2.85
April	1.84	4.48	0.11	3.29	1.09	9.20	1.43	0.87	2.74
May	1.82	6.15	0.07	4.46	1.63	5.50	0.77	0.67	1.74
June	1.92	5.02	0.08	3.75	1.19	5.30	0.81	0.47	1.88
July	1.27	3.06	0.04	2.36	0.66	2.55	0.41	0.30	1.04
August	2.38	5.36	0.09	3.52	1.75	7.65	1.23	0.81	2.79
September	1.91	6.17	0.08	3.98	2.11	7.79	1.73	0.60	3.39
October	1.47	4.15	0.10	2.86	1.19	4.70	0.90	0.60	1.91
November	3.35	4.03	0.09	3.12	0.81	7.78	1.08	1.88	2.54
December	0.51	7.90	0.15	5.62	2.14	7.99	1.54	0.94	3.33

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 <sub>4</sub>			Wt. of SO <sub>3</sub> Collected	Mg. of SO <sub>3</sub> /day Collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A Pb O <sub>2</sub> (Louvered Cover)
		In Sample	In Control	Due to Exposure		
	Sq. Cm.	Mg.	Mg.	Mg.	Mg./100 sq. Cm./day	
January	95	347.6	3.0	344.6	4.01	3.61
February	95	288.4	3.2	285.2	3.68	3.31
March	95	67.6	1.2	66.4	0.77	0.69
April	95	144.0	0.5	143.5	1.73	1.56
May	95	127.4	0.6	126.8	1.35	1.22
June	95	63.6	0.6	63.0	0.84	0.76
July	95	76.6	1.1	75.5	0.88	0.79
August	95	68.4	1.0	67.4	0.76	0.68
September	100	103.0	1.0	102.0	1.21	1.09
October	100	112.4	3.8	108.6	1.20	1.08
November	95	99.2	1.0	98.2	1.14	1.03
December	100	221.2	1.2	220.0	2.52	2.27



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 <sup>3</sup>			Sulphur Dioxide Conc. p.p. 100m.		
	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average Value	Highest Value	Lowest Value
January	85	250	14	230	669	77
February	34	91	10	260	560	127
March	70	236	10	123	443	34
April	73	188	12	143	499	28
May	42	106	12	90	223	31
June	22	65	4	73	312	13
July	17	38	6	63	197	13
August	17	62	4	56	195	15
September	49	136	12	98	301	25
October	72	155	22	95	272	21
November	103	383	20	112	517	18
December	177	488	27	264	648	25

### Clean Air Act, 1956—Smoke Control Areas.

The Borough of Bexley (No. 1) Smoke Control Order, 1962 came into operation on the 1st October, 1963. A few contraventions of the Order were observed during the first few weeks, but a visit and talk with the occupiers concerned had the desired result.

During the year a survey of the second area was commenced.

### 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 sewermen 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 disinfection work.

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

Number of Properties Inspected	...	...	525
Number of Inspections	...	...	2,219
Number of Infestations found:	Rats—Major		—
	Minor		221
	Mice		42
Number of Properties Treated	Rats		Mice
Local Authority's premises	...	4	—
Dwelling Houses	...	223	29
Business Premises	...	14	14

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licences to keep pet shops were issued to 9 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, 1,221 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 1 house was found to be infested with bed bugs and this was treated with satisfactory results.

Infestations at other premises were dealt with as follows:—

Ants 3, Fleas 4, Woodworm 1.

## **Wasps.**

The destruction of wasps nests is undertaken by the Department and during the year 44 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, 1964:—

				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	...	...	...	492	
Glenmore Road No. 1	...	...	...	115	
Glenmore Road No. 2	...	...	...	84	
Bexleyheath—					
Highland Road Estate and Pickford Road Estate	...	...	...	302	
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	...	...	...	51	
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	...	...	...	234	
S.D.A. Houses	...	...	...	7	
Houses Purchased	...	...	...	13	
				3,071	318



<b>1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.</b>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	145
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (including re-inspection) ...	1,067
(2) Number of dwelling houses to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	18
(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 ...	127
<b>2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.</b>	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ...	88
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</b>	
A. Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1957	
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	2
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners ... ..	1
(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	15
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	38
(3) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	2
D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
parts of buildings closed ... ..	1

**Improvement Grants.**

	Discretionary	Standard
Number of applications for improvement grants ...	23	53
Total amount of grants made	£1,925 0 10	£3,599 17 7

**Rent Act, 1957.**

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	6
Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	2
Number of decisions to issue certificates ...	4
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	3
(b) in respect of all defects ...	1
Number of undertakings given by landlords ...	3
Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority ...	—
Number of Certificates issued ...	1
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates ...	—
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	—
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	...	29
No. of Distributors from outside area	...	7

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

#### Dealers' Licences:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	32
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	35
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	37

24 samples of milk were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests. All were satisfactory.

### (b) **Slaughterhouses.**

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

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

The following table summarises the 173 samples taken during the year.

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Meat Pies and Puddings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Patent Medicines	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Condiments, Sauces, Pickles, Spices, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Butter and Fats, Cooking Oil, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Soups	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Minerals and Cordials, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bread, Flour, Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Glacé Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweets and Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Pure Coffee, Coffee Extracts, Coffee and Chicory	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pastes, Spreads, Potted Meat and Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Flavouring and Essences	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fruit, Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Condensed and Evaporated Milks	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Jellies, Custard Powders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hamburgers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rice Puddings, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malt Drink	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



## Legal Proceedings.

Metal Screw in Bread—Fined £25 plus £5 5s. 0d. Advocate's fee.

Glass in Bread—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	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
General Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
							—
							355
							—

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	...	...	4
Floors, walls, ceilings, etc., repaired	...	...	27
Infestations dealt with	...	...	1
Rooms cleansed	...	...	29
Water Closet accommodation improved	...	...	7
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	4
Accommodation for storage of refuse improved	...	...	3
Washing accommodation improved	...	...	3
Drainage repaired or improved	...	...	5
Food storage accommodation improved	...	...	11
Yard cleansed or repaired	...	...	3
Sinks renewed	...	...	—
Other contraventions	...	...	3
Unsatisfactory equipment cleansed or renewed	...	...	1

#### **Registration of Premises under Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**

No. of premises registered for:—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	2
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	167
Preparation of Sausages, etc.	...	...	50

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



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

### Scarlet Fever.

During the year 69 cases were notified as compared with 23 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 ...	1

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

### Diphtheria.

No cases were notified during the year.

The following figures on 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 figure for 1963 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
1963	702	Nil	689
1962	626	16	624
1961	23	542	22
1960	5	191	4
1959	5	118	5
1954-1958	9	741	6
1949-1953	2	9	Nil
Total	1,372	1,617	1,350

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table shows the number of injections given in the various groups during the year ended 31st December, 1963.

Year of Birth	2nd Injections (Salk)	3rd Dose (Salk and Oral)	4th Dose (Salk and Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
1963	4	1	—	267
1962	11	50	—	911
1961	2	94	—	99
1957-1960	1	60	—	61
1943-1956	—	53	—	38
1933-1942	1	27	—	35
School Children under 12 years	—	—	1,107	—
Others	—	70	—	42
Total	19	355	1,107	1,453



## SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The following table shows the smallpox vaccination figures for 1963 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Primary Vaccination 1 Year	Re-Vaccination School Age but Under 8 Years
286	4

### **Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid Fever.**

There were no cases notified during the year.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

12 cases were notified during the year, all of which were treated in hospital.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Measles.**

1,161 cases were notified during the year. 3 cases were treated in hospital.

### **Whooping Cough.**

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

### **Acute Poliomyelitis.**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Scabies.**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Food Poisoning.**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Malaria.**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Dysentery.**

14 cases were notified during the year. 2 cases were treated in hospital.

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 1963**

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 ... ..	69	—	1	3	1	7	53	2	2	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	—	12	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	14	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	1	7	—	2	—
Typhoid Fever... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	1161	34	112	114	146	165	561	16	8	5	—	3	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	33	3	4	2	6	3	13	1	—	1	—	—	—
Scabies ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	1302	37	117	120	153	176	630	21	18	30	—	18	—



## TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 23 new cases were notified.

Particulars relating to the same, and also to the deaths which occurred during 1963 are contained in the following table:—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—44 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65—74 ...	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
75 and over ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	15	6	1	1	3	1	1	1

There was 1 death from an un-notified case.



**BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

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**COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION**

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# **Annual Report**

**on the**

## **School Health Service**

**For the Year 1963**

**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: Alderman Mrs. E. Sheppard.

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

Alderman John Cronin.	Councillor S. H. Philpot.
Councillor F. Brearley.	Councillor M. F. Townsend.
Councillor B. E. Francis.	Councillor W. P. Webster.
Councillor Mrs. M. P. Monk.	

#### *Co-opted Members:*

Revd. E. Maynard Wilson.	Rev. Canon C. E. Youngman, M.A.
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). (Resigned 10.7.63).
	Sybil R. Yeates, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
	Dorothy F. Bate, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.(obs.) R.C.O.G.
	May B. Edge, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
	Josephine C. Parker, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Appointed 9.9.63).
Ophthalmic Surgeon ...	Roland M. Chambers, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.
Dental Officers ...	Mrs. A. B. Perkins, L.D.S., R.F.P.S. (Glas.).
	Mrs. E. A. Williams, B.D.S., L.D.S. (Four sessions weekly). (Resigned 9.4.63).
	Mr. K. H. Friend, L.D.S. (Appointed 17.6.63).

Dental Officers (continued):

Dr. W. G. S. Neely, L.D.S.  
(Five sessions weekly).

Mr. E. Seal, B.D.S., L.D.S., R.C.S.  
(Four sessions weekly).

Miss C. Croome, Dental Ancillary.

Health Visitors ... Miss B. Hart, S.R.N., S.C.M., and  
Health Visitor's Certificate (Part-  
time).

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 Certifi-  
cate. (Part-time).

Physiotherapists ... Miss R. Cheeseman, M.C.S.P.  
(Resigned 31.12.63).

Mrs. Tyler, M.C.S.P.  
(Appointed 31.12.63).

Mrs. I. O. M. Poynder, C.S.P.

Speech Therapists ... Mrs. E. Rollo, L.C.S.T.

Mrs. R. Goodwins, L.C.S.T.

Dental Attendants ... Miss K. Dunkley.

Mrs. V. Sproul.

Miss J. A. Smith — Hygienist.

School Health Service Clerk ... Miss O. G. Turnbull.

General Clerks ... Miss E. Turner.

Mrs. D. Starling

Miss P. M. Phillips.  
(Resigned 22.11.63).



# REPORT ON THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

## DURING THE YEAR 1963

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

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The health of the schoolchildren has, generally speaking, been satisfactory and there were no serious epidemics during the year. Children of all ages are, nowadays, bigger than they were at the beginning of the century and are maturing physically and psychologically at a faster rate. Better nutrition is, probably, the main factor in this change as well as the greater opportunities for social development afforded by the "affluent society"; but there may also be more subtle genetic influences at work of which less is known. This earlier maturation and altered pattern of society bring with them their own problems of adjustment so that, perhaps more than ever, the period of adolescence is proving itself, for many, a time of special difficulty requiring sympathetic help and understanding.

The School Health Service continued, during 1963, to provide a full range of services and reference to the statistical tables at the end of this report gives an indication of the work which has been carried out. Statistics can, however, be rather impersonal especially when concerned with the needs of human beings and one must read between the lines, as it were, to appreciate what the figures represent in terms of care and solicitude as applied to the school population by many agencies.

Especially is this true in the case of handicapped children. Everything possible is done to ensure that these children get the kind of education or training which will develop their actual or latent capabilities and which will, as far as possible, fit them for life among "normal" people. The whole trend in the health and welfare services, at the present time, is towards the acceptance by the community



of greater responsibility for the care of the handicapped and the School Health Service has a particularly important part to play in this process in that decisions taken during the early formative years profoundly influence the future lives of these children. Although day and residential special schools will always be necessary for some handicapped children the emphasis is changing in favour of special units integrated into ordinary schools. In this way children with handicaps will mix more with other children and their adaptation to normal community life will be made much easier later on.

Although it is natural to stress the work done for handicapped children the "bread and butter" jobs must not be taken too much for granted. Part I of the Tables provides interesting information in regard to the general health supervision of the 12,000 schoolchildren in the Borough. It will be noted that not less than 6,083 were examined by school medical officers during the year. In addition 1,910 re-inspections were made of children previously seen. Part II gives an account of the defects found at these inspections and provides the justification for the considerable amount of time devoted to periodic medical inspections. Many of these defects would not have been discovered were it not for these examinations, particularly those relating to vision, hearing and orthopaedic defects, and could well have interfered materially with educational progress. Early psychological defects can be discussed with parents and teachers at a stage when simple adjustments of attitudes and environment is all that is necessary to restore stability. Although the School Health Service is very interested in manifest disease (and here it works in close collaboration with the family doctors) its aim has always been to watch for early deviations from health and by correcting them prevent the onset of more serious illness. It is this preventive outlook which gives it its special place among the health services.

It is appropriate, at this stage, to recall that it is 17 years since the Borough of Bexley assumed responsibility for the local administration of the School Health Service in view of the fact that the Bexley Education (Divisional Administration) Scheme, 1945, under which the delegation from the Kent Education Committee was made, will come to an end on April 1st, 1965 when the new London Borough of Bexley will become an autonomous Education authority. From the point of view of the School Health Service this has proved



a pleasant and happy arrangement and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the help which we have received in such large measure from Dr. Elliott, the Principal School Medical Officer, and members of his Staff. The extension of the School Health Service to cover whole of the area of the London Borough of Bexley on a self-governing basis will be made all the easier by this long and valuable association.

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 Turnbull, the Senior Clerk, and from the Borough Education Officer and his Department.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## EXCEPTED DISTRICT OF BEXLEY

### Schools.

(Average number on Roll at 31st December, 1963)

Bexley Grammar School	...	...	...	...	637
Bexley County Technical School for Girls	...	...	...	...	759
Bexley & Erith Technical School for Boys	...	...	...	...	552
Seven County Secondary Schools	...	...	...	...	3,402
Twenty-four County Primary Schools	...	...	...	...	6,874

### 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, 9.30-11 a.m. Friday, 1.30-3.30 p.m.

Doctor in attendance—Friday.



### *Dental.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Daily—9.30-11 a.m., 2-4 p.m.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Monday and Thursday, 9.30-11 a.m.

Daily—2-4 p.m.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

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

### **Specialist's Clinics.**

#### *Ophthalmic.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Monday 9.30-11.30 a.m. Thursday 1.30-3 p.m.

Friday 9.30-11.30 a.m., 1.30-3.30 p.m.

#### *Orthopaedic (Physiotherapist Clinic).*

Welling—Station Approach.

Tuesday morning 9.30-12.30 a.m.

Friday afternoon 1.30-4.30 p.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.

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 67 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 Service

Average number of pupils taking meals daily:—

		<i>Primary Schools</i>	<i>Secondary Schools</i>
Payment ...	...	2,915	3,605
Free ...	...	52	61
		<hr/> 2,967	<hr/> 3,666

### Milk.

Average number of pupils taking milk daily:—

Primary ...	...	...	...	...	6,068
Secondary ...	...	...	...	...	3,425
					<hr/> 9,493



### **School Dental Service.**

The following reports have been received from the School Dental Surgeons:—

#### **Mrs. A. Perkins, L.D.S., Danson Clinic, Welling.**

During 1963 the clinic ran smoothly. We now have in addition to a full time Dental Officer, a Dental Ancillary for one day per week, a Dental Hygienist for one day a week and an Orthodontist once per month.

All the schools were inspected during the year and those children requiring treatment offered same. The number inspected in schools was 5,004 and those requiring treatment numbered 3,337, i.e., 66%.

Much useful work in dental health education has been carried out during the year.

#### **Orthopaedic Clinics.**

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

The Orthopaedic Clinics have continued throughout the year, but the fall in numbers that has been noticed now for several years has continued. It has, therefore, now been decided to continue the physiotherapy at the Welling Clinic, but to transfer the Surgeon's sessions to the Out Patient Department at West Hill Hospital, Dartford, where there are all the necessary facilities for x-ray and other investigations.

During the past year Miss Cheeseman left us after fourteen years' service as physiotherapist and Mrs. Tyler has taken her place. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Cheeseman for all the care she has taken of the many children who have passed through her hands in these years.

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

There has been no great change in the general pattern of patients seen at the Murchison Avenue Clinic during 1963. Generally about 150 children of school age were seen and about an equal proportion of children below this age were referred from the Health Clinic or by the home doctors; a rather larger number were referred by the home doctors than previously.

Of the school age children there were 32 new cases; 17 were referred for x-rays, 20 had minor shoe adjustments, 9 were operated on and 25 were discharged during the year.

The smooth running of the Clinic is largely due to the co-operation of the Physiotherapist, Mrs. Poynder and the other associated workers.

## Ophthalmic Clinic

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

Cases seen at Little Danson Clinic other than refractive errors during 1963.

### CONGENITAL.

Ptosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nystagmus	...	...	...	...	...	3
Lens opacities	...	...	...	...	...	4
Albinism	...	...	...	...	...	1

### ACQUIRED.

#### *Constitutional*

Migraine	...	...	...	...	...	20
Retinitis Pigmentosa	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retinal Detachment	...	...	...	...	...	1

#### *Infective*

Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...	8
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sty	...	...	...	...	...	7

### OTHERS.

Optic Atrophy	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinusitis	...	...	...	...	...	6

Cases referred to hospital	...	...	...	...	...	30
Number of appointments kept	...	...	...	...	...	2,171
Prescriptions for Spectacles	...	...	...	...	...	760
New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	389

## Child Guidance Clinic

Number of children referred during 1963.

	1962			1963		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 5	—	1	1	1	—	1
5—7	7	3	10	3	—	3
8—10	7	4	11	5	—	5
11 and over	4	11	15	5	2	7
	18	19	37	14	2	16



## Speech Therapy.

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

Sixty-six children attending Bexley Schools have been dealt with within the County Speech Therapy Clinics during the year.

The cases of thirty-four of these children have been closed during the year, and thirty-two will continue to attend into 1964.

Of the thirty-four closed cases, twenty-one have been dealt with at the Murchison Avenue Clinic, twelve at the Woodside Road Clinic, and one at the Sidcup Clinic.

### *Reasons for Closure:*

Satisfactory progress	...	...	...	...	20
Treatment incomplete—family left district or treatment incomplete for other reasons	...	...	...	...	7
Found to be improved when first seen	...	...	...	...	5
Reported improved	...	...	...	...	1
Appointments offered but never kept	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					34
					—

Twenty of the thirty-two children attending Bexley Schools who will continue to attend in 1964 are being seen at the Murchison Avenue Clinic, ten are being seen at the Woodside Road Clinic, and two are being seen at the Sidcup Clinic.

Fifty-nine children attending Bexley Schools were on the waiting lists at the end of 1963, forty-one await appointments at Woodside Road, and eight await appointments at the Murchison Avenue Clinic.

Mrs. Rollo has continued to work at the Murchison Avenue and Woodside Road Clinics; Miss Formby sees children at the Woodside Road Clinic and Mrs. Goodwins at the Murchison Avenue and Sidcup Clinics.

Children who do NOT attend Bexley Schools are in contact with the Murchison Avenue and Woodside Road clinics as follows:—

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Closed during 1963</i>	<i>Continuing to attend into 1964</i>	<i>On waiting lists</i>
Woodside Road ...	39	38	127
Murchison Avenue ...	1	10	11



## **Sweep Frequency Pure Tone Audiometry.**

During 1963, 1,096 children were tested during their last year in the Infants' School, i.e., during their seventh year. Of this number 977 passed and 119 failed. The latter children were referred to the School Medical Officers for investigation and any minor conditions causing temporary deafness were treated. Others were referred to Hospital.

In addition 116 children of all age groups were tested as special cases referred from various sources including teachers, and of this number 62 passed and 54 failed. The 116 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 173 failed children were referred back to the School Medical Officers for further examination and treatment.

Lastly, 222 children attended for a final audiometric test and this number included children seen in 1962 who had been referred by the School Medical Officers for a final test in 6 to 12 months time. Of these 222 children, 87 passed and 135 failed. Further treatment was instituted for the latter children either at the School Clinics or at the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the West Hill Hospital, Dartford, or other Hospitals in the metropolis.

## **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 selection tests, G.C.E., College of Preceptors and R.S.A. examinations have, in recent years, been given so much publicity that some school timetables in the County have become overweighted with examination subjects. Fortunately most of the Headteachers in the Borough of Bexley believe that to educate a child in the widest sense, time must be found for artistic, creative, and physical activities.

In spite of having very limited time at their disposal, the teachers concerned have worked to develop skill in gymnastics, dance, games, athletics and swimming. At infant, junior and secondary school levels a good standard has been maintained, and Upton Primary School was one of six schools who contributed to a film on Junior Gymnastics in Kent schools.

Most of the infant, primary and secondary girls' schools realise the importance of creative physical activity and modern educational dance forms an important part of the physical education programme. Some interesting work takes place in the Borough and many schools are helped by the services of a gifted accompanist.

Many schools are attempting to offer the older secondary children a bridge from school to adult clubs by introducing recreative club activities into the curriculum. The choice ranges widely from sailing and canoeing, to fencing, archery, badminton and table tennis. This policy is commendable. It involves a great deal of extra work on behalf of the staff particularly out of school hours. The willingness of some of the Borough's teachers to undertake this voluntary work is appreciated. In particular Westwood Secondary School and Bexley Technical High School for Girls should be congratulated on the liberal programme they offer to their pupils.

All these activities require apparatus and equipment and the Borough has been very generous in its provision. Suitable dress for the children taking part is essential—clothing in which the body can breathe freely and move without restriction, and most parents are co-operative and

sensible in what they provide. Where conditions are suitable many schools encourage the children to work in bare feet. The freedom of movement develops strong muscles and may help in some measure to enable the feet of the young to resist the misshapening effects of fashionable shoes.

The physical education advisers have continued to visit the schools to give help to teachers. Within easy reach of the Borough, courses have been run in swimming, junior gymnastics, trampolining, keep fit, infant dance, netball and junior netball. Notices of courses run by the C.C.P.R. and other organisations have been circulated.

In conclusion the constant encouragement and help received by the advisers from the Borough Education Officer and his staff is much appreciated and valued.



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

### Statistical Tables.

Part 1 — 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)
1959 & later	16	15	93.75	1	6.25
1958	372	372	100	—	—
1957	583	583	100	—	—
1956	325	325	100	—	—
1955	463	461	99.568	2	.432
1954	277	276	99.639	1	.361
1953	118	118	100	—	—
1952	545	545	100	—	—
1951	382	382	100	—	—
1950	117	115	98.29	2	1.71
1949	180	180	100	—	—
1948 & earlier	1216	1216	100	—	—
Total ...	4594	4588	99.87	6	.13



## B.—Pupils Found to Require Treatment at Periodic 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)
1959 & later	1	1	1
1958	22	43	53
1957	39	76	103
1956	25	40	58
1955	59	68	109
1954	43	43	69
1953	15	16	27
1952	86	70	133
1951	71	79	126
1950	17	23	32
1949	55	28	71
1948 & earlier	236	227	386
Total ... ..	669	714	1168

## C.—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	1,489
Number of re-Inspections	...	...	1,910
Total	...	...	3,399

## D.—Infestation with Vermin.

- (a) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons ... .. 6,638
- (b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested ... .. 39
- (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 ...	20	48	105	103	84	118	209	269	45	12
5.	Eyes—										
	a. Vision ...	59	97	228	49	329	150	616	296	33	21
	b. Squint ...	15	15	5	8	32	26	52	49	1	2
	c. Other ...	3	11	8	13	42	19	53	43	6	4
6.	Ears—										
	a. Hearing ...	9	77	8	25	20	108	37	210	23	87
	b. Otitis media ...	4	40	4	30	7	56	15	126	3	2
	c. Other ...	12	13	21	10	32	32	65	55	9	2
7.	Nose and Throat	18	227	17	123	24	337	59	687	48	52
8.	Speech ...	4	30	—	14	4	53	8	97	13	11
9.	Lymphatic Glands	4	159	—	30	2	214	6	403	—	—
10.	Heart ...	1	24	1	21	1	55	3	100	2	25
11.	Lungs ...	4	97	7	65	14	128	25	290	8	36
12.	Developmental—										
	a. Hernia ...	5	17	—	—	3	28	8	45	3	1
	b. Other ...	1	35	1	11	10	56	12	102	5	15
13.	Orthopaedic—										
	a. Posture ...	1	30	11	73	29	133	41	236	—	4
	b. Feet ...	11	60	2	46	30	169	43	275	3	6
	c. Other ...	7	80	28	172	29	207	64	459	6	22
14.	Nervous System—										
	a. Epilepsy ...	—	6	1	3	3	16	4	25	1	9
	b. Other ...	—	2	3	3	1	20	4	25	3	5
15.	Psychological—										
	a. Develop- ment ...	—	10	—	14	1	90	1	114	21	87
	b. Stability ...	1	70	—	49	8	233	9	352	30	95
16.	Abdomen ...	—	11	5	14	5	57	10	82	5	13
17.	Other ...	3	24	8	75	28	101	39	200	45	118



### 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 ... ..	250
Errors of refraction (including squint) ... ..	1,921
	<hr/>
Total	2,171
	<hr/>
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ...	760

#### 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 ...	3
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis ... ..	123
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ... ..	6
Received other forms of treatment ...	153
	<hr/>
Total	285
	<hr/>
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been pro- vided with hearing aids	
(a) in 1963 ... ..	6
(b) in previous years ... ..	22

#### C.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Number of cases known  
to have been treated

(a) Pupils treated at clinics or out-patients departments ...	221
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects ... ..	<hr/>
	<hr/>
Total	221
	<hr/>

**D.—Diseases of the Skin.**

				Number of cases known to have been treated
Ringworm—	Scalp	...	...	—
	Body	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	—
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	48
Total				<hr/> 48 <hr/>

**E.—Other Treatment Given.**

				Number of cases known to have been dealt with
(a)	Pupils with minor ailments	...	...	642
(b)	Pupils who received con- valescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	...	...	—
(c)	Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccination	...	...	820
(d)	Other than (a), (b) and (c) above	...	...	—
Total (a)—(d)				<hr/> 1,462 <hr/>



## PART IV—Dental Inspection and Treatment

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—			
	(a) Periodic inspections	...	...	9,003
	(b) Specials	...	...	498
			Total (1)	9,501
(2)	Number found to require treatment	...	...	5,174
(3)	Number offered treatment	...	...	4,848
(4)	Number actually treated	...	...	1,824
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment, including those recorded at heading 11(h) below	...	...	6,319
(6)	Half days devoted to:	Inspection	...	52
		Treatment	...	1,101
			Total (6)	1,153
(7)	Fillings:	Permanent Teeth	...	3,388
		Temporary Teeth	...	1,000
			Total (7)	4,388
(8)	Number of teeth filled:	Permanent Teeth	2,977	
		Temporary Teeth	932	
			Total (8)	3,909
(9)	Extractions:	Permanent Teeth	...	179
		Temporary Teeth	...	792
			Total (9)	971
(10)	Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	...	390
(11)	Orthodontics:			
	(a) Cases commenced during the year	...		33
	(b) Cases carried forward from previous year			74
	(c) Cases completed during the year	...		22
	(d) Cases discontinued during the year	...		34
	(e) Pupils treated with appliances	...	...	40
	(f) Removable appliances fitted	...	...	46
	(g) Fixed appliances fitted	...	...	1
	(h) Total attendances	...	...	435
(12)	Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	...	...	13

# 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	2	—	3	5	7	10	—	—	29
B. (i) of the children included at A. how many were newly placed in special schools (other than hospital special schools) or boarding homes ...	—	1	2	—	1	5	2	7	—	—	18
(ii) of the children assessed prior to 1-1-1963, how many were newly placed in special schools (other than hospital special schools) or boarding homes ...	—	—	1	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	8
Total (B) .. .. .	—	1	3	—	1	8	6	7	—	—	26
On or about 20-1-1964, how many handicapped pupils from Authority's area :											
C. (i) were requiring places in special schools:— TOTAL											
(a) day ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
(b) boarding... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
(ii) included at (i) had not reached the age of 5 and were awaiting :											
(a) day places ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(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) to (10)
D. (i) were on the registers of:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1. maintained special schools as:											
(a) day pupils ...	—	7	2	1	5	1	—	34	—	—	50
(b) boarding pupils...	—	—	1	—	5	8	—	6	—	—	20
2. non-maintained special schools as:											
(a) day pupils ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
(b) boarding pupils ...	2	—	—	3	1	3	2	—	—	—	—
(ii) were on the registers of independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority...	—	—	1	1	—	2	19	1	—	—	24
(iii) were boarded in homes and not already included under (i) or (ii)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (D) ... ..	2	7	4	5	11	14	21	41	—	—	105
E. On or about 20-1-1964, 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 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) In other groups (e.g. units for spastics, convalescent homes) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
(iii) At home ... ..	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—

During the calendar year ended 31-12-63:

- (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 ... ..

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